

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HARDEN VILLAGE COUNCIL  
HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.15PM IN HARDEN MEMORIAL HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Gerwyn Bryan (Chair)  
Cllr Alun Kitsell  
Cllr Richard Smith  
Cllr Haydn Cavanagh  
Ken Eastwood (Clerk)

**1/11/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kay Kirkham and Falak Ahmed. The reasons for absence were approved.

**2/11/23 Disclosures of Interest**

None.

**3/11/23 Minutes of Meetings**

- a) The minutes of the Village Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Smith.
- b) The outstanding issues report was discussed. The Clerk was requested to: -

Write to Bradford Council's Chief Executive re. the allotments.  
Circulate previous climate action plan.  
Remind Simon D'Vali of the highways information previously requested.

**4/11/23 Public Representation**

None.

**5/11/23 Bus Reform Consultation**

Members discussed a public consultation by the Combined Authority to inform a decision by the Mayor of West Yorkshire on whether or not to introduce a Franchising Scheme in March 2024.

**Resolved:**

To authorise Cllr Kirkham to complete the consultation following attendance at an online briefing on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Subject to the briefing, the Council supports the proposals in principle at this stage.

(More details on the proposals and the public consultation questionnaire can be accessed here <https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/busreform>).

**6/11/23 Planning Matters**

- a) 23/03792/LBC & 23/03791/FUL - Change of use and alterations to former stable block to form five dwellings; alterations to gate piers and entrance at Stable Block, Harden Grange Farm, Harden Road, Harden.

**Resolved:**

The Village Council objects to the applications on the grounds of intensification of use and concerns about highway safety.

(Planning applications can be viewed via Bradford Council's online system <https://planning.bradford.gov.uk/online-applications/>).

**7/11/23 Village Warden**

The Clerk provided an update with regard to the new Village Warden post. Following interviews, a job offer had been made and accepted and the new Warden will commence work with the Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**8/11/23 Local Councils Award Scheme**

Members discussed the Award Scheme and the value of accreditation.

**Resolved:**

That the Clerk makes an application to the National Association of Local Councils. To authorise related expenditure.

**9/11/23 Local Government Pension Scheme**

The Council noted that pension scheme regulations require the Council to publish an up-to-date employer discretions policy.

**Resolved:**

To approve the discretions policy prepared by the Clerk and circulated to members.

**10/11/23 Tittle Tattle****Resolved:**

To provide content for inclusion in the Tittle Tattle newsletter including details of the Village Council vacancy and the new Village Warden. To note the final date for submission as 12th November.

**11/11/23 Exchange of Information**

Cllr Cavanagh stated he had been asked about the absence of lamp post poppies in Harden. Members agreed these should be provided in the future.

Cllr Smith described how many of the trees along Wilsden Road appeared to be leaning. It was agreed that Cllrs Smith and Cavanagh will look at the trees with the Village Warden in due course.

Cllr Kitsell referred to a number of recent vehicle break-ins in Harden. The Clerk to contact police sergeant Terri Green for advice and to make enquiries about Neighbourhood Watch.

**12/11/23 Correspondence**

- a) Email from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) re. the Local Councils Awards Scheme. Noted.

**13/11/23 Financial Matters****Resolved:**

- a) To note that the National Joint Council for local government services has announced that agreement has been reached on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023. An across the board increase of £1,925 is applied to each pay grade (pro rata for reduced hours worked). At Harden Village Council this equates to an additional £832.43 per annum.
- b) To agree a draft budget of £60,835 for 2024/25 and to finalise the precept at the next meeting.
- c) To authorise the following payments: -

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
Bradford Council	£2,169.15	Payroll
Ken Eastwood	£22.50	Mileage
Amazon	£9.99	Thermal camera USB leads

- d) To note the balances and bank reconciliation reports.

**14/11/23 Minor Items and Items for Next Agenda**

The Clerk has received an expression of interest in the Village Council vacancy and will invite the resident to the next meeting.

Cllr Bryan summarised a meeting with Pre School with regard to the use of the Memorial Hall. To be considered further at the next meeting.

**15/11/23 Next Meeting**

Confirmed that the next Village Council meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at 7.15pm. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.48 pm.