

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
HIGHTOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 23rd MAY 2022 AT THE ALT CENTRE**

Present: Cllrs: Munro (in the chair), Faulkner, Magill, Shacklady and Stobie.

2022/30. Election of Chairman.

RESOLVED that Councillor Munro be elected as Chairman of Hightown Parish Council.

2022/31. Election of Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED that Councillor Shacklady be elected as Deputy Chairman of Hightown Parish Council.

2022/32. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Dillon.

2022/33. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2022.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

2022/34. Declarations of interest - Members are requested to give notice of any interest relating to any item on the agenda.
None.

2022/35. To adjourn the meeting to receive public comments.

A resident attended to discuss the possibility of putting a defibrillator at the entrance to the beach path way.

2022/36. Defibrillator.

RESOLVED that the clerk would work with the resident attending to make enquiries as to the suitability of equipment for the location and whether it would be feasible to place a defibrillator in that location.

2022/37. Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Batten Hughes as internal auditor to complete the Annual Internal Audit Report for the financial years 2022/23 be approved at a cost of £144 (inc VAT).

2022/38. Insurance.

RESOLVED that the insurance premium quoted by Zurich be approved in the discounted sum of £660.09 in return for a commitment to remain with them for a period of 5 years.

2022/39. Working Groups.

RESOLVED that:

1. Cllrs Munro, Shacklady and Stobie be appointed to the Alt Centre working group; and

Open 2. Cllrs Faulkner, Magill and Munro be appointed to the Spaces working group.

2022/40. Approval of budget amendments.

RESOLVED that the amendments to the budget for the current financial year 2022/23 which reflect the fact that grant payments and repair costs were expected to take place in the year 2021/22 are now expected in the year 2022/23 be approved.

2022/41. Annual Governance and Accountability Returns 2021/22.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22 be received;
2. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 be approved;
3. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 be approved.

2022/42. Rates for use of Alt Centre.

RESOLVED that:

1. Rates for use of the hall at the Alt Centre be set as follows:
1 hour £15.00
2 hours £25.00
3 hours £30.00
Full day £45.00;
2. Community groups wishing to apply for a discount may submit an application for the same;
3. In respect of the use of the hall by Award Solutions the charges would begin to apply from the 1st September 2022;
4. A review of the rental paid for use of the Alt Centre by Award Solutions would take place in January 2023.

2022/43. Local amenities update.

Cllr Stobie advised that a new GP provider was now in post on a temporary basis with hopes that this will become a permanent arrangement.

The consultation in respect of the Post Office is now closed. The property is up for sale but the advertisement for a post office provider appears to have been removed from the Post Office website. The village shop is also up for sale. This is problematic now as there is no longer any provision to withdraw cash anywhere within the village and the nearest access to cash is Ince Blundell garage.

Cllr Munro advised that Rev Jan had now retired and Father David was leaving at the end of the year. It is not certain what arrangements will be made for their replacements.

2022/44. Reports of meetings.

Cllr Stobie reported on meeting with a residents working group relating to the coalyard which is now being used as a depot by Network Rail.

Cllr Stobie reported on attending the Crosby Coastal Park Forum and it was noted that there is a new consultation ongoing about the possibility of a coastal PSPO.

Cllr Munro reported on attendance at the Altcar Committee meeting where thanks were passed to everyone for the recent Gurkha day.

2022/45. Correspondence.

The clerk reported on correspondence from the Altcar Camp about their tree planting project for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also in relation to correspondence with Sefton about the repairs to the railway footbridge that have not been carried out within the dates previously provided.

2022/46. Planning applications.

RESOLVED that the applications be noted.

2022/47. Accounts paid and for payment.

RESOLVED that the amounts listed on the schedule circulated be approved.
