

**Minutes of a meeting of Heskin Parish Council held on 21st
December 2023 at Heskin Village Hall.**

**Present Cllr E Forshaw (Acting Chair) Cllrs Mather, Lloyd,
Singh.**

1 Apologies for absence .

**Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Cllr
Mrs Bamber and Cllr Elphick**

**2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October were accepted as a
true record and signed by the Chairman.**

3 Audit Report by PKF Littlejohn.

**The Clerk presented the report and confirmed that a cheque
for £319.50 had been paid.**

4 Parish Precept for 2024/2025.

**The Clerk presented details of anticipated balances at the end of
2023/24 Financial year, and anticipated costs for 2024/25
Financial year. Council noted that the Precept had not been
increased for two years. After a full discussion it was unanimously
agreed that the Precept should be increased by £1110. This will
represent a £2.63 p.a. increase on a Band D Property(higher
Bands will pay more, lower Bands will pay less.)**

5 Payments made since the last Council Meeting.

**Council noted the payments made, cheques having been signed
by three Councillors.**

6 Council Priorities for 2024/2025.

**The Clerk circulated a paper from Chorley Borough
Council asking for the Parish Council's ambitions for the next
Financial year to ascertain if Grant Funding could be obtained**

Item 6 cont'd

from the Borough Council's Neighbourhood Budget.

Councillors can determine the priorities at the February meeting but two suggestions were made a) Internet Connection for the Village Hall b) quarterly coffee mornings to address social isolation.

7 Pensioners Christmas Party 15th December.

Councillors expressed their appreciation for the very well received Party held in the Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Bamber was congratulated on organising the event which was very well received by all present. The catering and the entertainment provided were very much appreciated.

8 Council Tax Payable on Empty Properties.

The Clerk presented correspondence from Chorley BC dated 10th December 2023 suggesting changes to Council Tax discounts on empty properties in order to reduce the number of long term empty properties. Council resolved to agree the suggested changes.

9 Planting of Bulbs.

Council noted that bulbs had been planted on Town Lane The Meadows, Wood Lane , and The Warings.

10 Grass Cutting Town Lane Field, The Meadows, The Warings.

Council noted the letter from Chorley BC regarding the above and agreed to continue with the satisfactory performance of Chorley BC's contract.

11 3rd Ulnes Walton Prison Update.

Council noted that the Public Inquiry will not now be held until early in 2024.

12 Town Lane Field Inspection.

It was agreed that a date be set at the February meeting.

13 Date of Next meeting 15th February 2025.

Exclusion of Press and Public Agreed.

Personnel Matters