



The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday the 18th of November 2013 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
4. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.
5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND JULY.
5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.
6. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS.
7. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME.
8. PROGRESS ON A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY.
Community Plan.
9. WEBSITE.
10. CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT OF CLERK- COUNCIL APPROVAL
(Note it may be necessary to exclude press & public during the above item).
11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.
Banking arrangements- Update.
Accounts due for payment.
12. SETTING OF PARISH PRECEPT.
13. CORRESPONDENCE
14. NEW COUNCIL MEMBER.
Declaration of interests.
Procedures.
15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(Members are asked to note that whilst this Agenda item may be used to raise issues of concern, substantive decisions can only be taken where business has been specified on the Agenda)

Church Minshull Parish Council:

Clfrs D Wallis – Chairman, L Bannon Vice – Chairman, B Charlesworth, K Bannon, C Challoner, M Carss, K Cronin.

Clerk: Lucy Hassall, 57 Osborne Grove, Shavington, CW2 5BX. Email: parishcouncil@villagearena.org

November 2013



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 18th OF NOVEMBER 2013.

Present: Cllrs D Wallis, K Bannon, L Bannon, C Challoner, M Carss, and K Cronin
Also in attendance: J Stockdale, Cllr M Jones, and Mr Graham Russell.

- 1. Apologies for absence – None.**
- 2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – None.**

3. Public participation.

Mrs J Stockdale and Mr G Russell recognised as members of public and welcomed by the chair.

Mr Russell asked questions regarding Common land discussed in the minutes of July and November 2012. Cllr Wallis explained the history behind the issue and the association with Wulvern Housing, and why it was passed to the CM vision group. Mr Russell told the meeting of a note he has received regarding a new culvert being made, due to the drains. Cllr Wallis explained that the previous owners had tried to cultivate the land and extend its use into the community, and they were going to speak to their neighbours. Mr Russell said that he will speak to his neighbours about this issue.

4. Borough Councillors report.

Borough Councillor Jones joined the meeting and reported on the following issues:
Home Farm Park- Cllr Jones has been to visit Home Farm Park and is trying to get a bus stop in this area. He will visit again every six months.

A530- Cllr Jones reported that traffic has calmed on this road. Cllr Jones also reported that he is in talks about extending the A530 around the back from Leighton hospital to the top road through Minshull nurseries, and looking at straightening the bend by Leighton to Brookhouse Lane, to take the traffic away from Bradfield Green. Cllr Jones asked members to consider this suggestion. Cllr L Bannon asked to see the proposals for this. Cllr Jones agreed that once these discussion become proposals the Parish council will be given them.

Traffic calming- Cllr Jones reported that the traffic lights by the Canal Bridge are being tested at the moment.

Chicken Farms- Cllr Jones reported that the Government mandated that Chicken farms and egg production is now farming. So that in planning terms these cannot be refused.

Cllr K Bannon asked if Cheshire East and West would join other councils. Cllr Jones said that West could join the Wirral and Cheshire East could join Staffordshire or Manchester. Cllr K Bannon asked if this was being mooted. Cllr Jones replied that he sees no benefit in it for Cheshire East and that no decision would be made without consultation. Cllr Jones is looking at taking the non- domestic rates and merging these with Manchester's.

New jobs- Cllr Jones told members that CE is averaging 300 new jobs a month, the highest in North West. Youth unemployment down to 5% it was 8.9%. National average is 11%, and the North West average is 22%, highest in Crewe 18% was 28%.

Investment- 1.1bn investment in Bentley.

Council tax- No increase in council tax.

Use of resources- Cllr Jones told members that Street sweepers will be delivering grit as they can't sweep in the rain.

Kingsley field, Reaseheath planning- Cllr Jones told members that Kingsley field, Reaseheath will go to planning in December. Consultation to take place with



Reaseheath to expand for college use, northwards towards Worleston and take away the golf course.

Broadband- Cllr Jones stated that 97% of the county will be covered by Broadband within the next year. Cllr L Bannon stated that on the 6th of December, through Connecting Cheshire it appears that the parish will not be on the first tranche. Cllr Jones stated that this will cover the whole county.

Green waste- Cllr Jones stated that the council has got it wrong on Green waste collection. The no collection of green waste until March, that was a mistake and we are letting people use their black bins for leaves for 2-3 weeks. Cllr Cronin stated that the idea was a good idea, but as the leaves have not fallen it has not worked.

Question -Cllr L Bannon asked Cllr Jones about, the no increase in council tax and a letter to the Parish council from CE states that the authority will not be supporting the precept grant as much. Cllr Jones stated CE will reduce this by 15% this year.

Environment Cllr Jones also reported in brief on the following issues:

- CE working on idea to create power from rubbish, and if it works, the council will take waste for free, all in one bin.
- Considering bringing in a CO2 charge for everyone, electric bin wagons and buses, as they are cheaper to run.

Cllr Wallis asked Cllr Jones about progress on the Badger public house extraction system. Cllr Jones told the meeting that the owners of Badger Public House have not responded, and the enforcement department are waiting for a legal period of at least four months. Closing them down is the next step.

5. Minutes of the last meeting.

The matter of naming members of public in the minutes of the Parish council was discussed.

RESOLVED

That attending members of the public will be asked for their consent for their names to be recorded in the minutes.

Mr Graham Russell gave his consent to be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on the 15th of July 2013 and the 30th of September 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes.

Priority signs-Cllr Challoner expressed his concern regarding the visibility of the priority sign which lights up at night, and the hedge which is growing over it.

Cllr Wallis told the meeting that this was one of the outstanding issues from the measures in place. The second issue was the 30mph signs from Minshull Vernon before the bridge. Cllr Wallis stated that Ian Whitehead was going to look at these, and put them at an angle to stop vehicles hitting them and turning them around. Cllr Jones advised that the hedge owner is responsible for cutting. Cllr Carss discussed the white lines.

Chair agreed to contact the hedge owner and Ian Whitehead regarding these matters.

7. Reports from meetings.

Canals and Rivers Trust - Cllr Wallis reported on a meeting with CRT's PR department.

- The partnership board have adopted the project of the bridge access, as one of their key projects. For the following reasons.
 - The parish have volunteered to adopt part of the canal.



- It will form a circular route.
- The work will not be done until the spring.
- CRT would like to promote the event using the 'Minch' character, and publicise the improvements in access and bench overlooking the vista.
- PR will meet with other interested parties to move things forward.
- The route will need a name and signage for the walk

RESOLVED

That the CM vision group will organise a naming for the walk.

Cllr L Bannon discussed access consents from boundary homeowners, following his contact with CRT. Cllr Wallis agreed to email CRT information on the access.

Cllr Jones reported on a HS2 meeting. Cllr Jones explained that the idea has been put forward to have the track out of Crewe and slightly elevated alleviated north of Church Minshull. Cllr Cronin asked if this meant through Minshull Vernon. Cllr Jones explained that this is at present an idea and any plans would be brought to the parish council.

8. Community speed watch scheme.

Cllr Challoner reported that the scheme will not be running again until spring, apart from a watch on the roundabout and at gateways. Cllr K Bannon asked about the road towards Winsford. Cllr Challoner explained that no watch could be done on this stretch due to the line of sight.

Cllr Wallis suggested a discussion with the Police now that the new road measures are in place.

Cllr Carss discussed the use of SID's. It was agreed that this will be reviewed at a later meeting.

9. Progress on a strategic vision for the future of the community.

Community Plan - Nothing to report.

Core Strategy- Cllr Jones reported that the Core Strategy will be released in January/February. CE council will then be calling on for sites in rural areas for housing- 'foresight allocation'. Cllr Jones advised 'that any housing demand must be supported by the vast majority of people'. Cllr K Bannon stated that the group are looking at doing an additional questionnaire on housing. Cllr Jones suggested that the group may want to consider their own special constable in conjunction with any new housing.

10. Website.

Cllr L Bannon reported that the website was launched on the 4th of November and the response has been brilliant. Cllr L Bannon stated that the site was first presented to the Parish Council for approval then launched with a new branding name Arena and strapline 'where events unfold'. Cllr L Bannon explained the many features of the site, such as Twitter and Facebook. The next item to be put on the site is the Buy and Sell, and then the Photo Galleries. Cllr Carss stated that it still needs more publicity. J Stockdale complimented Cllr L Bannon and Cllr Carss on the speed that events and news are put on the new site.

Cllr Carss explained to the members that the site has the facility to have directories for local groups, such as Youth club. The site can also have a business's directory, which would charge a nominal charge for an entry into the directory to help cover the yearly costs of maintenance of website.



Cllr Carss explained that there could be two levels of charging. The first entry on business directory for £12.00 per year/ £1.00 per month, with a possible link. The second level, a listing in the directory and a page on the site for £52.00 per year/ £1.00 per week. Cllr L Bannon provided members with a printed mock-up of what this may look like on the site. There has been some interest expressed already in using this facility.

Cllr L Bannon explained that with the website licence, maintenance hosting fees, and competition with prizes to generate interest in the site, would mean an income £450.00 to £500.00 per year would be required.

The matter was discussed.

Cllr Cronin asked about the perceived value to business users and reason for using the service. Cllr L Bannon explained that it was about community connections and raising awareness. Cllr Cronin also asked, if listing businesses on the site would be considered as to an endorsement and creates a trust issue. Cllr Carss suggested that this would mean careful use of the site and not stretching are responsibilities, in content such as advertorials, making these fair and with a close link to the community.

Cllr Carss stated that PayPal would not be used for the payment of advertising. Cllr K Bannon suggested using the Blog to promote local events and issues. Cllr Jones agreed that it could also be used for reporting of potholes and access to planning. Cllr Carss advised that there are links already on the site to council services.

Cllr Wallis asked for Cllrs L Bannon and Carss hard work in getting the site up and running to be acknowledged in the minutes. Members expressed their appreciation.

11. Contract of employment of clerk- council approval.

This matter was discussed by members.

RESOLVED

That the contract of employment be approved by council and signed.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT and AUDIT TRAIL

Accounts for payment

RESOLVED

That the following accounts be authorised for payment.

<u>To</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheque no.</u>
Then Media	Website instalment.-final.	£400.00	564
Then Media	Website maintenance	£430.56	565
L. Hassall	Salary and expenses -1/2 yr.	£711.55	566

Cllr Wallis agreed to provide the clerk with a receipt for cheque number ending 562.

Banking arrangements- The Clerk informed members of a letter from HSBC confirming the changes made to signatories and address.

Bank statement for the current account was examined by members and signed by the Chairman.

13. Setting of Parish Precept

The chair asked about the cut-off date for submitting the precept request. Cllr Jones and the Clerk advised that this is the 17th of January 2014. Chairman asked about the restrictions on increasing this amount. Cllr Jones advised that there is no cap on this request. The clerk advised that this would show a percentage rise on the council tax bill. Cllr Jones asked about the number of households within the parish- 204. The clerk presented members with some information on the present amount of £11.69 for a band 'D' property. Cllr Jones advised that the council should base their request on



the cost for the future and not what they have spent historically. Cllr Carss stated that as a Parish council they are trying to do more, which has a cost. Cllr Carss is concerned that any increase needs a justified explanation for anymore receiving their council tax bill and whether this needs to be communicated to households in a similar way other bodies do. The clerk briefly provided a basic clarification for the way the calculation is made. Cllr Jones agreed with Cllr Carss suggestion to inform residents beforehand, explaining what the council intend to do and why. Councillors discussed the matter further. Cllr Wallis suggested that given the timeframe that a decision should be made. The matter was discussed further

RESOLVED

- a) That the precept requested amount will be doubled to £23.38 charge for a Band D property.
- b) That a statement giving reasons for these changes provided to residents from the parish council.

14. Correspondence

The Clerk presented the following items of correspondence receive since the last meeting.

- i. NALC subscription renewal.
- ii. HSBC letter-dealt with in item 12.
- iii. Clerks personal correspondence.
- iv. Cheshire East letter-already sent to members and dealt in item 13.
- v. Chalc newsletter.
- vi. LAP interim report and policy statement, with notice already displayed.

No action required on any items of correspondence, except where already dealt with during meeting.

Cllr Jones asked if the council received electronic planning applications. The Clerk advised that these are sent directly to the Chairman. Cllr Jones advised that soon only electronic and not paper application will be sent out. Cllr Jones advised that if the council does want to go electronic planning, then planning powers for the council can also be discussed for next year.

Cllr Carss asked about funding and sponsorship for an internet connection for the community. Cllr Jones advised that if the council required funding they could write to him to request a grant for funds for infrastructure costs, such chairs/seating.

Cllr Jones announced that CE having a £100,000 fund to be used for First World War memorial repairs.

Cllr Jones advised Cllr K Bannon to send her an email regarding access to infrastructure funding.

15. New Council member

The chairman asked for this matter to be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Cllr Wallis asked Cllr Jones about the next due election date- May 2015, and about the rules on attendance of councillors at meeting.

16. Any other business

Cllr K Bannon reported on a Vision group meeting with Bentley motors corporate responsibility officer. Cllr K Bannon explained that linking in with the manufacturer would be mutually beneficial. The officer has agreed to meet with the group once she has settled into her new role. Use of facilities, transport and support for prizes was discussed at the meeting.



Cllr Wallis brought the matter of litter in the village to the meeting. The matter was discussed. Cllr Cronin suggested an incentive for the community, such as Best Kept Village competition or environmentally friendly. Cllr Wallis suggested a joint letter from the Parish Council and the Vision group with the aim to organise an event to tidy up the village in the spring.

Mr Russell told the council of his experience on this issue and community engagement.

Cllr Wallis suggested that this should be on the next agenda.

RESOLVED

- a) That this issue will be listed on the agenda for the meeting in the spring.
- b) That the clerk will submit the precept request form before the deadline of the 17th of January.

Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the date of the next meeting will be the 27th of January. The Clerk will arrange the hall booking.

Further matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

The clerk asked for the chairman to reconvene the meeting to discuss issues outstanding from the co-option of a council member and for the clerk to explain the outcome of their research into the issue.

Cllr Wallis reconvened the meeting.

The clerk raised these concerns on the basis that a non-council member is currently being referenced as councillor on the community website, which relates to Mrs Stockdale's status. The clerk asked for their advice to be recorded in the minutes of this meeting for the protection of the council. The clerk raised the following concerns, after advice from Chalc and her own research.

No seat/ Vacancy- the non-council member holds no public office.

- a. Due to this, no declaration, which means no ability to check eligibility to hold public office, which is a legal requirement.
- b. Not declared, which means they are not bound by any code of conduct.
- c. Any voting done by the non-member will make the vote invalid.

The clerk advised that for the above reasons council members could lose public confidence, resulting in their own loss of reputation and by association the professional reputation of the clerk. They could lose their own office as member of the parish council if members of the public made complaints to the parish council, or local authority.

The clerk advised that co-option of a non-council member onto the council from another community group with the status of non-council member is acceptable provided that they do not vote on council matters, but can join the discussion of matters.

Future increase in councillor numbers- Chalc and Cheshire East have advised the clerk that a review of this issue is currently being undertaken in some parts of the Cheshire East Authority, however this will not be completed for some time.

Possible effect on elected members- The clerk advised that by continuing with the current course of action it could have the following effects on existing members of the council.

1. Decisions.

- a) The clerk advised that the decisions the members have made in the past and their future decisions could be invalid and questioned by the public and local authority.

2. Expenses claims and financial decisions.



- a) The clerk advised that all decisions involving public money could become invalid, meaning that every decision could be reviewed or questioned.
 - b) If their decisions were found to be invalid, then members could become personally liable jointly with other parish council members.
3. Insurance.
- a) Public liability- The clerk advised that if the members continued in their present course of action they could invalidate the insurance cover which could expose the members personally to risks and legal action.
 - b) Indemnity insurance- The clerk advised that indemnity insurance could be invalidated if the council continue with this course of action, against the advice of the clerk following the advice from the last meeting and recent advice of Chalc.
4. Other public office.
- a) The clerk advised that complaints or loss of public office could affect other public offices member hold outside of the council.
 - b) Complaints- as discussed at the last meeting of the parish council.
5. Public access and notices.
- The clerk advised that if the public see a non-council member listed as a council on public access sites, such as the current listing on the community website, that this approach of 'all but name' is not fair, open, honest or transparent, which are not attributes of those holding a public office.

The clerk stated that they appreciated the view of some councillors that unfortunately the rules of being a public body can prevent people who are interested in contributing to their community from doing so, as a councillor, but the clerk felt that it was important to highlight the why Mrs Stockdale cannot be listed or act as a councillor for the parish.

Mrs Stockdale suggested resolving the matter by withdrawing her application to join the council.

Cllr K Bannon asked if the process of gaining an additional councillor had been put into action from the last meeting.

The clerk agreed that the process has been investigated and would involve the review process by CE, as discussed, or by a councillor standing down. The clerk advised that if someone stood down the notice of vacancy requirement would still have to be followed. The clerk also advised that the review is a long process which could take two year and is expensive for the local authority to complete.

The minutes of the last meeting was discussed where it was resolved that K Cronin would become councillor and J Stockdale would be invited to meetings as a village hall representative. The clerk agreed, however the community website names Mrs Stockdale as a councillor of the parish council. The matter was discussed further.

RESOLVED

- a) That this entry on the website will be removed.
- b) Mrs Stockdale will remain a representative of the village hall at parish council meetings.

End of meeting.