

# CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL

**The Next Meeting of Church Minshull Parish Council  
will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 21st May 2012**

## AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2012-13
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
5. ANNUAL BUSINESS  
Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer; Review of Standing Orders; Risk Assessment
6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011-2012
7. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
9. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
10. TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES
11. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS:  
Local Area Partnership meetings : Police Cluster Meeting
12. TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS
13. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME
14. TO CONSIDER PROGRESS ON A STRATEGIC VISION FOR  
THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY
15. EVENT TO MARK THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
16. TO CONSIDER A LOGO FOR THE USE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
17. TO CONSIDER WEED CLEARING IN THE VILLAGE
18. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & AUDIT TRAIL
19. CORRESPONDENCE
20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**The Annual Electors' Meeting will follow the meeting of the Parish Council.  
All local residents are invited to attend, and to raise any local issues of concern.**

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May 2012

# **CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st May 2012**

Present

Cllrs D Wallis, K Bannon, L Bannon, C Challinor and B Charlesworth.  
Borough Cllr M Jones.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

### **1. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED

That Cllr Wallis be elected Chairman for 2012-13, and that Cllr L Bannon be elected Vice-Chairman for 2012-13.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Carss (work) and Harper (holiday).

RESOLVED

That the apologies received be accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

### **4. Public participation**

There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

### **5. Annual Business**

The Clerk reminded members of their statutory obligations to carry out certain business: to appoint a Responsible Financial Officer; to consider an Annual Risk Assessment; to consider whether a Review of Standing Orders was appropriate; to appoint an internal auditor; and to consider the Annual Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement.

RESOLVED

a) that the Clerk (Mr Gwyn Griffiths) be reappointed as Responsible Financial Officer for 2012-13;

b) that the Council, having carried out an appropriate risk assessment, considers the interests of the Council to be adequately protected;

c) that the Council does not feel it needs to review its Standing Orders;

d) that Mrs JD Bratherton be invited to continue to serve as the Council's Internal Auditor, on the terms previously agreed;

e) that the Annual Return Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance be approved, and be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

## **6. Minutes of the last meeting**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2012 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

## **7. Matters arising**

Poultry House application. Borough Cllr Jones was reminded that he had offered to forward to members a template letter to S O'Brien MP regarding the issue, and assured members that he would arrange for such a letter to be forwarded.

Co-option of additional member/s. The Clerk advised members that they had no power to vary the size of the council, and that it would therefore not be possible to co-opt additional members.

## **8. Borough Councillor's Report**

Cllr Jones reported that he had no knowledge of any further application on the poultry shed site. A bad pothole on Over Road had been reported for repair. The preparation for a Strategic Housing Land Allocation was underway to provide a 5 year supply of available housing land. Some villages were actively seeking housing development.

Cllr Jones advised members that he had now succeeded Cllr Wesley Fitzgerald as Leader of Cheshire East Council.

## **9. Traffic and Highways issues**

Cllr Jones confirmed that he would be happy to facilitate a meeting at which representatives of the Parish Council could meet with relevant highways officers to discuss options to address highways issues in the area. Members felt that it was necessary to draw up a document identifying what the issues were, and how they might be addressed, to present to such a meeting.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Council mandates a group of councillors to meet highways officers;
- b) that members will co-ordinate the feedback from the community survey to identify key issues.

## **10. Reports from meetings**

Local Area Partnership. The Rural Transport Group had met earlier in the evening, and the prospects for a bus link to Nantwich seemed to be improving. Another operator had been approached and there was now a possibility of a Winsford – Church Minshull – Nantwich service which might be more economical than the previous proposal. There was more work to be carried out, and Cheshire East would be leading on this, with the aim of a fully worked-up scheme by the August meeting of the LAP. The role of the Parish Council in marketing such a service was stressed.

## **11. Planning applications**

The Council considered two planning applications.

12/0837N Listed building application for new chimney and to retain existing windows and internal finishes, The Badger Inn, Over Road, Church Minshull

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council supports the application.

12/1616N Erection of an agricultural building and restroom/office in connection with a smallholding, land off Minshull Lane, Church Minshull

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council objects to the application on the following grounds:

The application fails to meet the requirements of Local Plan Policy NE.14 in that there is no evidence supplied to prove that the development “is required for ... the use of the land for agricultural purposes”; no evidence is supplied that “the development is essential either to the agricultural operation or to comply with current environmental and welfare legislation”; and the development is clearly not “satisfactorily sited in relation to existing buildings”.

The Parish Council also points out that no evidence is supplied to indicate that an agricultural business on such a limited acreage is sustainable and viable.

## **12. Community Speed Watch Scheme**

Cllr Challoner reported that the planned training session for volunteers had taken place, and that 14 volunteers were operating as seven teams. A rota was now in place to mid-August. To date nineteen vehicles had been reported to the police for exceeding 37mph, with a maximum speed of 45mph.

A new speed gun had been purchased which was significantly lighter than the previous device, which was however still in good condition. There was some discussion regarding the future of the old device, which was jointly owned with Worleston.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be asked to contact Worleston PC regarding the future of the old device, to include the options of outright sale to Worleston PC or its disposal with any proceeds being split between the two councils.

## **13. Strategic Vision for the Community**

Cllr K Bannon updated members on progress. A Grant had been approved through Cheshire Community Action; 210 questionnaires had been distributed and 69 returned (33% response rate). A meeting would be held on Thursday to begin the analysis of the responses.

## **14. Diamond Jubilee**

Arrangements for the programme of events were progressing well.

## **15. Logo for the Parish Council**

Posters for the competition arranged by the Village Vision Group had now gone up, with a closing date of the Diamond Jubilee weekend.

## 16. Weed clearing in the village

Members expressed concern regarding the volume of weed growth around the village, and considered ways of addressing the problem. It was suggested that there were a number of parties who could be involved:- Cheshire East Council; Community Payback schemes; a Parish Council-appointed contractor; the Parish Council directly; local householders.

RESOLVED

a) that the Clerk seek to identify the role of Cheshire East Council in such work, and potential contractors who might be able to carry out such work;

b) that members carry out a survey to identify the work required, and that this survey provide the specification for any works to be carried out.

## 17. Accounts for Payment and Audit Trail

RESOLVED

That the following be authorised for payment:

C C Ltd	insurance premium	£144.59	521
C Challoner	reimbursement for purchase of speed camera	£178.80	522
Church Minshull Village Hall Cttee	hall hire	£113.40	523 ##
Cheshire Association of Local Councils	membership	£112.20	524
R Aspinall	litterpicking	£672.00	525
Church Minshull Vision Group	contribution to Jubilee expenditure	£386.00	526
D Wallis	reimbursement for	£ 48.40	527

## Hall hire included charges for a Speedwatch meeting, and two Village Vision events, in addition to meetings of the Council itself.

As there were only two signatories present (Cllr D Wallis & the Clerk) and that Cllr Wallis was a beneficiary of Cheque 527, it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the third signatory (Cllr P Harper) to sign that cheque in due course.

Appropriate bank statements were examined by members and signed by the Chairman.

## 18. Correspondence

The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

## **19. Any Other Business**

Members considered a number of issues raised by members and the Clerk, which included:

A member asked for clarification of the 'Parish Compact'. The Clerk explained that this was an annual sum granted to the Parish Council which was available for environmental schemes such as litterpicking.

A question was raised regarding a Members' Section on the Cheshire Association of Local Councils website. The Clerk undertook to find out how this could be accessed.

A member asked whether the business of council meetings might be expedited if certain reports were tabled prior to meetings, perhaps by e-mail to members. The Clerk confirmed that there was no legal bar, and it was agreed that efforts would be made to table reports in this way.

A member raised the possibility of exploring a twinning relationship for the parish.

A member reported that a group of residents in Weaver View was interested in carrying out improvements to communal land in the area. The Clerk was asked to approach Wulvern Housing to ask them to enter into a dialogue with the residents to see what improvements were possible.

It was noted that no feedback had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the clearance of a channel under the river bridge.