

CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL

**The Next Meeting of Church Minshull Parish Council
will be held in the Village Hall
on Monday 23rd January 2012**

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
6. TO DETERMINE A BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2012-2013
7. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS:
 - Local Area Partnership meetings
 - Police Cluster Meeting
8. TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS
9. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME
10. TO CONSIDER PROGRESS ON A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY
11. EVENT TO MARK THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
12. LITTERPICKING
13. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON CHARITABLE DONATIONS
14. TO CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO INSIGHT (PARISH) MAGAZINE
15. TO CONSIDER A LOGO FOR THE USE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
16. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT & AUDIT TRAIL
17. CORRESPONDENCE
 - To include consideration of a letter regarding Fire Service Control Arrangements
18. 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)

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January 2012

CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd January 2012

Present

Cllrs K Bannon, L Bannon, P Harper, M Carss and C Challinor.
Two members of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Brian Charlesworth and David Wallis.

RESOLVED

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

2. Declaration of Interests

Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. Cllr Carss declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 4485N (Willow Tree Farmhouse) as he was the applicant. All members declared personal interests in the same matter, as all were acquainted with Cllr Carss. Cllr Challoner declared a personal interest in the matter of the Council's policy on charitable donations, as he was a volunteer with the local CAB which had in the past been supported by the Council.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Poultry House application.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's submission regarding the appeal had been hand-delivered to the Planning Inspectorate's Bristol office, and had been acknowledged. A member indicated that a decision was expected by February/March.

Website.

It was reported that everything was now in place to allow the take-over of the village website, but difficulty was being experienced in arranging to meet the previous webmaster. A number of dates had been suggested for a meeting to hand over passwords etc.

Badger Inn.

It was agreed that Cllr Jones should be asked to provide an update on any outstanding planning and/or environmental health issues.

[The Chairman adjourned the meeting briefly to allow a member of the public to speak, who challenged the accuracy of the November minute which stated “that there was no smell nuisance at neighbouring residential process”, as in his view such a nuisance existed. The Clerk explained that the minute recorded the view of the Borough Council, as conveyed by Cllr Jones at the last meeting, and that residents – or indeed the Parish Council and/or Cllr Jones - might take a different view]

5. Borough Councillor’s Report

In the absence of Borough Cllr Jones there was no report.

6. Budget and Precept 2012-2013

Members considered a report prepared by the Clerk setting out recent expenditure patterns and a draft budget for 2012-2013.

RESOLVED

- a) that the draft budget be approved, subject to the amendment of the provision for ‘Support to organisations/projects’ from £750 to £1,000, to reflect possible expenditure on a Golden Jubilee event;
- b) that the precept for 2012-2013 be set at a sum of £2,500;
- c) that the shortfall of £560 between the precept and the budgeted expenditure be met from the Council’s existing balances.

7. Reports from meetings

Local Area Partnership.

Cllr Challoner reported that the Transport Group meeting at Bickley on 29th November had discussed a potential bus service, offering a circular Nantwich – Leighton – Church Minshull – Worleston – Nantwich service. However it was clear that such a service would be expensive to provide, and it was difficult to obtain details on how much could be raised from fares, and therefore how much subsidy would be required. Further, various people seemed to be getting involved in the project and it was increasingly difficult to see who was leading on the project, and could co-ordinate both the specification of the service and the funding package required.

The Clerk explained that he had tried to clarify some of the issues highlighted by Cllr Challoner but had run into similar difficulties. He also outlined some of the legal complications in the licensing and tendering processes. Taking the matter forward would not be straightforward, and the Council perhaps needed to be sure that the project was worthwhile before taking it further.

Members took the view that the service was potentially important, in that although the service might not attract many users it would be important to those who would use it.

RESOLVED

- a) that the Council reaffirms its commitment to the service in principle;
- b) that the Clerk contact neighbouring Parish Councils to establish their support in principle, and their estimates of likely demand;
- c) that the Clerk be asked to seek further information from Cheshire’s transport department;

d) that the proposal be linked to the Village Vision project, and that alternative sources of funding and provision be examined.

Police Cluster Meeting.

Cllr Harper reported on his attendance at the recent meeting, at which only five of the fifteen parish councils were represented. Discussion had centred on the changes in police policy toward the rural parishes, and the future of the Cluster Meetings.

The local Police Inspector had decided that there would no longer be any time allocated to proactive involvement with parishes, only reactively. The meeting had taken the view that all councils should write to express their dissatisfaction with the lack of police presence, and that there should be at least some police presence in each parish in each three month period.

RESOLVED

That the Council write to the Neighbourhood Policing Unit supporting this view.

The police were no longer willing to fund meetings of the Cluster, and it was suggested that this should be provided by the Parish Councils by a payment of £10 per parish.

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees to provide such funding if there is general agreement from other local parishes.

8. Planning

Members considered planning application I1/4485N for extensions to Willow Tree Farmhouse, Minshull Lane.

RESOLVED

That the Council has no objection to the application.

[Cllr Carss – having declared a prejudicial interest – withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item, and took no part in the proceedings]

9. Community Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr Challoner reported that the planned training session for volunteers had been cancelled due to the indisposition of the trainer. A new date for training was being sought.

10. Strategic Vision for the Community

Following the successful public meeting a further meeting had been held and three groups had been formed: Jubilee Event; Parish Plan; and a group to examine potential 'quick win' ideas.

The Steering Group was about to be formally created, and signed off to be eligible for Parish Plan status. An application had been lodged for £3,000 to help fund the Parish Plan process.

The group looking at early 'quick win' schemes were looking at the possibility of siting two benches in the village, potentially at the Village Hall car park and on Wulvern land.

11. Diamond Jubilee

Mrs Sandra Wallis was heading up a group developing ideas for the Jubilee, and matters were progressing.

12. Litterpicking

Concern was expressed at the level of littering in the area, on both the highways and the canal towpath.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk a) arrange for the Council's normal contractor to carry out up to two days of litterpicking in the area, with particular attention to the village centre in advance of any Jubilee event;

b) contact British Waterways to seek action either to litterpick the towpath, or make a contribution to allow the Parish Council to commission such work

13. Policy on Charitable Donations

Members considered a paper prepared by the Clerk, setting out the Council's current policy on donations to charitable organisations.

RESOLVED

That the Council reaffirms the existing policy of March 2003, but that specific donations to individual charities be reviewed in the 2012-13 financial year, or as requests are received.

[The Clerk declared a personal interest in this matter, as his wife was a recently-retired employee of one of the charities involved]

14. Insight (Parish) Magazine

Members were advised that the magazine was now fully-funded for the coming year, partly from contributions from other local Parish Councils of £100. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a similar contribution.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be asked to arrange for a contribution of £100 to be made toward the costs of the magazine.

15. Logo for the Parish Council

The Council had been advised that the Minshull Arms could be used for events, but could not be used for documentation. It was therefore suggested that the Village Vision Steering Group be invited to arrange a competition to develop a suitable logo which could be used for various village organisations, including the Parish Council.

16. Accounts for Payment and Audit Trail

RESOLVED

That the following be authorised for payment:

G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£179.64	515
Church Minshull			
Village Hall Cttee	hall hire	£ 26.10	516

As there were only two signatories present (Cllr P Harper & G Griffiths), and that the Clerk was a beneficiary of Cheque 515, it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the third signatory (Cllr D Wallis) to sign that cheque in due course.

The Clerk advised members that he had arranged payment of £770.00 to Waste Recycling Group (Wren) (Cheque 514) as the Parish Council's contribution to works at the Village Hall, as provided for by Minute 12/65 of 8th August 2011.

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

17. Correspondence

The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the Fire Authority on behalf of the Council, seeking assurances that standards would be at least maintained, and preferably enhanced, by any changes to control room arrangements.

18. Any Other Business

Members considered a number of issues raised by members and the Clerk. These included the possible use of social media by the Council (e.g. twitter), the lack of gritting on Minshull Lane, dates for forthcoming meetings, and whether the Council should have procedures in place to deal with urgent business which arose between meetings.

RESOLVED

a) that the Clerk raise the issue of gritting on Minshull Lane with the Borough Council;

b) that the dates of meetings for 2012 be fixed as Mondays 12th March, 21st May, 16th July, 17th September and 19th November (subject to availability of the venue);

c) that the Clerk be asked to prepare appropriate draft Standing Orders to deal with urgent business for the next meeting.