

CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 02 MARCH 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr Bob Schiller (Chairman), Cllr Tim Boote, Cllr Jacqui Groos, Cllr Nigel Lewis, Cllr Robert Parton and Cllr Mark Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Cllr Sarah Pochin, Sean Houlston (representing Edwards Timpson, MP), Antoinette Sandbach and representatives from Burland Parish Council Cholmondeston and Wettenhall Parish Council, Environment Agency, Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council, National Farmers Union, Winsford Town Council and one member of the public.

20/065 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

20/065.1 Brian Charlesworth.

RESOLVED – that as it was noted that Cllr Charlesworth had not attended a meeting of the Council for just under six months, S85 of the Local Government Act 1972 be suspended to enable Cllr Charlesworth to remain a Councillor. This would be reviewed at the next meeting.

20/066 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

20/066.1 None

20/067 FLOODING/HIGHWAYS

20/067.1 The Chairman advised that representatives from a number of organisations had been invited to the meeting in order to consider how to tackle the flooding problems in the village and other areas along the River Weaver. The recent flooding had been caused by Storm Cristoph and one house had been flooded in the village, for the second time in two years. It was noted that flooding had also been a problem in Winsford and Nantwich during the storm, as well as Northwich although this had been caused by drainage issues.

20/067.2 Concern was expressed at the lack of engagement from Cheshire East Council in respect of flooding and highways matters, with numerous unanswered contacts over recent months.

20/067.3 The representative from the NFU identified that heavy rainfall events were now occurring more often with 1 in 50 year events now being 1 in 5 to 10 year events. There had been less maintenance undertaken of drainage systems as the protection of people and property had been prioritised ahead of agricultural areas. There was also a lack of coordination and recognition of the issues exacerbated by the number of different agencies involved.

20/067.4 Borough Cllr Pochin provided a response from the Borough Council regarding an inspection of the bridge over the River Weaver and adjacent highways. A number of issues had been identified and had been added to the list of works requiring funding. Three blocked gullies had been cleared and further monitoring would be undertaken.

20/067.5 The Environment Agency outlined the process for agreeing funding for flood defences and this included cost benefit analysis of the potential damage caused by flooding against the cost of any works. It was noted that, given the works to the road system around Leighton Hospital over the coming years, traffic through Church Minshull would increase considerably thus increasing the strategic importance of the bridge over the river.

- 20/067.6 The Parish Council would be interested in taking forward an Environmental Land Management Scheme as a way to alleviating flooding problems from the River Weaver. Although the process for such schemes were still in development, it was noted that flooding issues would only be resolved with the support of landowners further upstream. The Environment Agency advised that they currently had intervention maps which identified areas which could be used to improve drainage. It was expected that the ELM schemes would not be open until 2024 therefore other actions would be necessary in the interim.
- 20/067.7 It was agreed that a further meeting should be held in order to establish what could be done to protect the area from flooding again. This would involve Edward Timpson MP, Antoinette Sandbach and representatives from Church Minshull and Winsford Parish Councils, Cheshire East Council, the Environment Agency and NFU.
- 20/067.8 Cllr Groos expressed concern at the volume of heavy traffic travelling through Church Minshull and along Minshull Lane which was causing major damage. It was evident that any minor repairs undertaken by the Borough Council were inadequate and the road network in the area would continue to decline.
- 20/067.9 It was suggested that a collaborative approach would be beneficial with Parish Councils working together, although it was noted that the HS2 proposals for the increase in vehicular movements during construction may provide additional funding for the area and it was imperative to start discussions with the Borough Council regarding Impact Assessments in the area.
- 20/067.10 It was agreed that a further meeting should be conducted in order to establish what could be done to protect the roads from the current damages that were constantly recurring. The meeting was to be organised by Sarah Pochin. This would be attended by Antoinette Sandbach and representatives of Cheshire East Council, Highways Agency, HS2, Cheshire East Parish Council, and Cholmondeston and Wettenhall Parish Council.

20/068 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 JANUARY 2021

- 20/068.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

20/069 VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT

- 20/069.1 Councillors discussed the progress made since the last meeting on the redevelopment of the Village Hall. A meeting had been held with an architect and more were planned. Proposals would be submitted to the Parish Council in the next month or so.

20/070 WILDLIFE AREA

- 20/070.1 There had been no further action on this matter.

20/071 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

- 20/071.1 Cllr Lewis provided an update regarding the proposed schemes. With regards the defibrillator for Home Farm Park, the Company Secretary had advised that they did not support this. Therefore, the Council agreed not to proceed with this.

20/072 WEBSITE

20/072.1 Cllr Lewis advised that ThenMedia had migrated the website to the new platform.

20/073 FINANCE REPORT

20/073.1 The Finance Report provided details of a bank reconciliation, end of year projection and budgetary analysis.

20/073.2 Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be authorised:

| Payee | Reason | Total | VAT | Net |
|---------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| ThenMedia Ltd | Website and Emails | 698.64 | 114.40 | 582.20 |
| HMRC | PAYE Q4 | 132.40 | | 132.40 |
| Pryce Jones | Website | 215.00 | | 215.00 |
| Mark Robinson | Salary (March) | 176.85 | | 176.85 |
| Mark Robinson | Expenses | 97.95 | 12.00 | 85.95 |

20/073.3 Standing Order 2021/22

RESOLVED – that the following monthly Standing Order for April 2021 to March 2022 be approved

| Payee | Reason | Total | VAT | Net |
|-------------|---------|-------|-----|-------|
| Pryce Jones | Website | 50.00 | | 50.00 |

20/073.4 Printer

The St Bartholemew's PCC had requested the Council's support for the purchase of a printer to produce the Insight magazine.

RESOLVED – that the request be approved.

20/073.5 Reserves

Councillors reviewed the list of earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED – that the Council's earmarked reserves are as follows, with any remaining monies being held in general reserve –

- By-Election - £5,000
- Village Improvements - £1,875.26
- Village Hall Redevelopment - £3,000

20/073.6 Asset Register

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register, which totalled £2,107.21.

RESOLVED – that the Asset Register be approved.

20/073.7 Risk Assessment

Councillors reviewed the Council's risk assessment schedule.

RESOLVED – that the Risk Assessment Schedule be approved.

20/074 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20/074.1 Tuesday, 04 May 2021.