



**The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on
Monday the 22nd of September 2014 at 7.30pm**

AGENDA

- 14.07.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
- 14.07.02 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
- 14.07.03 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
- 14.07.04 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.
- 14.07.05 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM CM VHC
- 14.07.06 PROGRESS ON A STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY:
 - Presentation from John Heselwood on Housing survey- Cheshire Community Action.
- 14.07.07 CONSIDERATION OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS.
 - Report on progress regarding correspondence.
- 14.07.08 REPORTS FROM MEETINGS:
 - Police Cluster meeting
 - Canals and Rivers Trust
 - Community Speed Watch Scheme
- 14.07.09 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS.
- 14.07.10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING- July 2014 and amendments.
- 14.07.11 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.
- 14.07.12 CORRESPONDENCE
- 14.07.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
(Note that whilst this Agenda item may be used to raise issues, substantive decisions can only be taken where business has been specified on the Agenda)



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 22nd of September 2014.

Present: Cllrs D Wallis, K Bannon, L Bannon, C. Challoner, J Stockdale, B. Charlesworth, M Carss, Cllr M Jones, John Heslewood- Cheshire Community Action, and L Hassall - Clerk. Member of the public - consent expressed to be recorded as Graham in the minutes.

Please note that some items in the minutes have been re-ordered to deal with the availability of attendees.

14.09.01 Apologies for absence – None. Cllr Jones is expected to arrive late to the meeting.

14.09.02 Declaration of interests in items on the agenda-

Interests declared on item 14.09.05 by JS, DW, and CC.

14.09.03 Public participation.

Graham – Here to provide information the Parish council may be interested in. He advised that Wulvern Housing at Weaver View will be widening the road by 3 foot to deal with parking.

14.09.06 Progress on a strategic vision for the community:

KB advised the council of the outcomes of the community lead plan with the key outcome themes of Traffic, Broadband, Green Spaces and Environment. KB explained that the area not covered sufficiently in the plan was housing needs. The matter was discussed with John from Cheshire Community action who discussed approaches to solving this issue and answered questions. BC joined the meeting.

RESOLVED

a) That John Heslewood will provide details of the service and costs.

b) That KB will coordinate with John Heslewood on the matter.

14.07.07 Consideration of any planning applications.

Report on progress re: correspondence received May meeting- Clerk advised that there has been no reply.

14.09.08 Reports from meetings:

Police cluster meeting- No report, as meeting not until next month.

Canals and rivers trust update- DW reported that the CRT volunteers have completed litter pick recently.

DW advised members that he has received the adoption papers from CRT and will circulate these to council members.

Community Speed Watch /scheme- CC stated that volunteers will speed watch in the Weaver View areas following recent speeding reports. CC will also complete the rota for the scheme.

Highway LAP- MC attended last meeting, and advised that the group are considering changing the structure of the meetings to allow more people to be involved.

14.09.09 Matters arising from the minutes and action points.

Amendments made to the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on the 21st of July be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

DW checked off the action points with participants.

DW advised that a meeting is planned for this coming Thursday to discuss the traffic data. JS discussed warning signs of 30mph before entering the actual 30mph. LB advised that he is still waiting a reply regarding the broadband for the parish. LB has emailed Cllr Jones regarding this and has received a reply saying that he will push the matter further.



KB advised that she has received an email back from Cllr Jones regarding the silting of the bridges, with some contact details to assist with the issue. Agreed that KB will communicate with the parties regarding this matter.

The clerk advised members of the difficulties regarding the BDO audit.

Councillor Jones joined the meeting.

The clerk advised that the BDO has commented as follows:

- a) Reserves are too high- a precept amount of £4,638.00, the BDO advised that Parish Council should hold not more than 2 ½ times their annual precept, this would be £11,595.00, they currently hold £16,437.92p
- b) Gifts- the BDO has raised a qualified issue regarding the gifts made to a former councillor and former clerk of £173.00, as they had no powers to make these gifts. The councillors were advised that in affect they have used public funds to pay for a gift. Therefore, a qualified issue has been raised by the BDO, and this will be recorded on the record of the council. The clerk advised that following an email, the former clerk has stated that he advised Parish councillor's at the time that they had no powers to make this payment at the time, but unfortunately he failed to minute this advice.

Remedy.

- a) Clerk advised that the page 122 of the minutes book need to be amended to reflect the proper recording of the recipients of the gifts to state that the gifts were for two people as at the point when payment was made the clerk was not made aware that it was for a gift was for two people, as receipt was only received at January's meeting after the previous minutes had been completed.
- b) Clerk advised that no payments should be made without an accompanying invoice or receipt and power, as this payment was made before present clerk was RFO, and this will process needs to be observed for all payments.
- c) The clerk advised that this public money has to be refunded as councillors all share the liability to repay this money. And that this could be achieved by dividing the cost of repayment between the councillors except JS, as she was not a councillor at the time payment was made.
- d) The clerk advised in the future this could be avoided by having a chairperson's discretionary allowance of a small amount, such as £50 per year. This would allow the chair to make payments for items, for example, to pay for sending flowers if a community volunteers when ill. The clerk advised that the chair would not need to keep receipts for payments made. Unfortunately this cannot be put in place until next year as the budget has already been set for 2014/15.
- e) The clerk advised caution on having a chairperson's allowance as it has the effect of reducing full financial accountability, and therefore open to risk.
- f) The clerk advised that if councillors wanted to have a chairperson's allowance it should only be a small amount of £50.00

DW asked the clerk if they had any suggestions for dealing with the £173.00, the clerk advised that the only option is (see point 'c' above) that the councillors at the time the payment was made must repay the money into the public funds.

The clerk went on to explain that for all payments the council must have a statutory power to make the payment. The clerk gave examples of such powers.

RESOLVED.

1. That the minutes be amended on page 122 of the minutes book to show that the payment was for two people.
2. That the minutes signed by chair against the amendment in the book.
3. That Councillors will discuss the repaying of the £173.00 outside of the meeting and report the outcome to the next meeting in November.



4. That the council will have a chairpersons allowance of £75.00 in next year's budget.

The clerk advised again that as these gifts have been raised as a qualified issue, it will be recorded on the file of the council for public record and that a public notice has been displayed on the noticeboard inviting members of the public to examine the accounts should they wish to.

14.09.11 Accounts for payment – None.

Chairman checked and signed statements missed at the last meeting.

14.09.12 Correspondence

The Clerk presented the following items of correspondence.

- i. St. Bartholomew's Church- Invitation to Remembrance Day service on November the 9th at 10.50am. CC discussed the service and the groups involved, including the attendance of 20 members of the Royal British legion.
- ii. Letter from Cllr Michael Jones (CE) - regarding traffic lights on Canal Bridge. Cllrs had been sent a scanned copy of this letter.
- iii. HSBC- changes in terms and conditions. Clerk highlighted the changes relevant to the council.
- iv. Resignation letter of the Clerk and RFO.

RESOLVED

- a. That DW will attend the Remembrance service as representative of the PC.
- b. That the clerk will arrange a Poppy wreath.
- c. Meeting regarding lights is due on to be held on the 1st of October, clerk is not required to attend. Cllr Jones will attend the meeting.
- d. That the clerk will advertise the vacancy on the Chalc and CE website.
- e. That the clerks notice period will end on the 30th of November 2014 and her resignation is accepted by the PC.

14.09.05 To consider request for support from CM VHC.

JS advise the meeting that VHC have for a number of years had an issue with storage, and that this situation has become worse as the exiting storage is unsafe. If the issue remains the same, the stored items will have to be stored in the hall which will reduce the available space in the hall. JS stated that VHC have applied and obtained planning permission for a new store on the front of hall in the corner. The committee has decided that this will be the course of action they will take. VHC has applied to 'Awards for all' and to the 'Foyle foundation', for funding of £10k each, and VHC attend to apply to Cheshire East Council. The total cost of the works are estimated to be £30,000 including demolition, but not fitting out. VHC are awaiting a third quote for the works. Cllr Jones offered some advice on making the application to CE. The matter was discussed, including VHC reserves and fundraising activities. The clerk advised the council that the Parish council do have the powers to provide financial support under the Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s.19 for Community Centres providing facilities such as the CM VHC currently deliver. LB voted to approve a resolution, seconded by KB. DW, JS and CC did not vote on this matter.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council will provide £2,000 towards the costs to VHC for new storage on the condition that other funding is in place first.

14.09.13 Any other business

LB discussed the Community Pride awards evening on the 9th of October in Congleton Town Hall. Due to the number of people who are expected to attend the event, a cost of £130.00 for mini buses is anticipated and LB asked if the Parish Council will pay for these travel arrangements, given that the scheme was entered into promote the PC within the community and in the name of the PC.



The clerk agreed to research for an applicable power to allow for this cost incurred by the PC and sub-committee in be reimbursed and report to the next meeting. LB agreed to provide a receipt for these cost for the next meeting.

Policy documents- the new PC policy documents discussed at the last meeting were discussed.

RESOLVED

- a) That the all the changes to the policy documents for - Notification / Disclosure relating to Complaints to Standards Committee; Public Sector Duties under Equalities Legislation; and The Localism Act 2011- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations are agreed and adopted by the Parish Council.
- b) That the above documents will be reviewed in July 2015.
- c) That all the new polices be signed by the chair and vice chairperson.

14.09.04 Borough councillor's report.

Cllr Jones reported on the following issues.

A530- Cllr Jones is looking at proposing changes on the A530, at the midpoint Middlewich near the salt cellar around to Crewe Road then up to Winsford.

Cllr Jones advised that the A530 will be made straight by Leighton Hospital to stop the dangerous bend.

Northern Crewe link road- from south of Middlewich across to somewhere near the Haslington by-pass, which should help remove some of the traffic from Church Minshull. Cllr Jones stated that this is also required for the connectivity required for HS2. Cllr Jones will also be attending a conference on this issue next Monday.

DW advised that the village is currently experience traffic avoiding Alveston Hall Road congestion, and the Crewe Winsford run. Cllr Jones stated that with the Kingsley field development all the roundabouts are being improved all the way along to the A500 to allow quicker access. These will take 3-4 years to complete.

JS asked about the effect of Kingsley field development may have on the traffic in the parish. Cllr Jones hopes that the traffic will go inwards the A500.

Unity of Councils- Cllr Jones outlined to the meeting of the benefits of joining with other councils.

Education – Cllr Jones stated that from 0 to 25 years old CE are working on ensuring that no one leaves education without a job, apprenticeship or into higher education.

Cllr Jones discussed the capturing and meeting of needs for this age group.

Schools will be merged and linking primary to secondary schools is underway.

Police- Cllr Jones stated that the council are looking into moving police into community hubs so that they can develop their knowledge of problems and deal with them locally.

Cheshire Cares – Cllr Jones explained that this is a proposal to work with an energy company to provide cheaper energy for residents up to 20% below the cost of the larger energy companies, with the plan for costs reduce as more people sign up to the scheme.

LB asked about the preparations for winter. Cllr Jones advised that salt reserves are in place, and that staff are to meet the needs of a drop in temperature.

LB asked about the 'at arm's length companies'. Cllr Jones stated that these are now all set up.

Energy – Cllr Jones advised that CE are looking into using garden and food waste to produce energy.

Crewe Town centre – Cllr Jones talked about potential changes to Crewe Town centre and the same in Congleton.

Cllr Jones also discussed dementia, budgets, grant funds, car parking charges review and road repair reporting.

Date of next meeting 17th of November. End of meeting.