

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON  
ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Les Horne Chairman  
Councillor M McGlone Vice-Chairman

Councillor N Bradley Councillor M Bromhead  
Councillor Linda Horne Councillor R Lee  
Councillor B Palin Councillor P Wright

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors D N Bebbington, I Baxter and M Wilson

**76 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

No declarations were made.

**77 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 August 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**78 POLICE MATTERS**

There were no specific Police matters to report but the Chairman referenced a recent meeting with PCSO Lawrence Price, held on Moss Lane, at which time drug paraphernalia had been discovered.

**79 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**80 CLERK'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Clerk's report for September was received and included the following items:

- Highways schemes proposed and in progress
- CEC update on war memorials
- Defibrillator – reply awaited from Bargain Booze and Co-Op, Parkers Road

**81 CASUAL VACANCY**

It was reported that owing to the non-attendance of Councillor I Chenery, for a consecutive period of six months, a casual vacancy had been created. Cheshire East Council had been notified.

In accordance with S.85 of the Local Government Act 1972 a parish councillor was automatically disqualified if he/she failed to attend a parish council meeting for a consecutive period of six months, unless the reasons for absence had been specifically considered and approved by the Parish Council prior to the expiry of the six month period. A distinction was drawn between the reporting of apologies at meetings, and the "approval of reasons for absence". Prolonged absence must be considered specifically.

The last date of a qualifying meeting attended by Councillor Chenery was 24 March 2014. The reasons for absence should, therefore, have been considered and approved by the Council at its August meeting.

## 82 FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 82.1 Authorisation of Payments

(a) **RESOLVED:** That the following payments be approved.

£84.20	HMRC – Tax on Clerk’s salary
£103.56	Councillor Les Horne – reimbursement for purchase of top soil
£276.00	Delmar Print – printing of 3,000 newsletters
£432.00	Fusion Logistics – delivery of newsletter to each household in the parish (other than some properties on Middlewich Road and Nantwich Road where the company had deemed it unsafe to park and cross the highway.) £360.00 net £72 vat
£240.00	BDO LLP – External audit 2013-2014 (£200.00 net and £40.00 vat)

### (b) Additional Payment

£600.00	TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd. Repair of sign. (£150.00 call-out/site visit and installation of K114B radar unit).
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Engineers from TWM Traffic Management Systems had made site visits and reported as follows:

SITE 1 Parkers Rd.	Tested and stripped out equipment and connections on lamp column. No Fault found
SITE 2 Minshull New Road	Sign tested and found radar fault: New K114B radar installed

This work had been carried out without an instruction being provided by the Clerk to the company. The company had discounted the cost of the radar unit to £450.00 as a one-off price, and had completed the work on site to avoid the Parish Council paying an additional £150.00 call-out charge which would have been incurred if the company had sought prior approval.

The Clerk would ensure that in the future, TWM must seek permission from the Clerk before carrying out any work which incurred charges.

Members noted that this was not in accordance with Financial Regulations which required authorisation in advance; however, the payment was approved, in accordance with Financial Regulations 6.2, 6.3 and 6.5.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That payment of £600.00 to TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd. be approved; and

(b) That in the absence of a formal invoice, the VAT element be notified at a later date.

### 82.2 External Auditor’s Report – 2013-2014

The report of the external auditor, BDO LLP, was received and noted. There were no matters which required a separate report to the Council.

## 83 LEIGHTON ACADEMY

This item had been requested by the Chairman. He withdrew the item at the meeting as the matters had now been resolved amongst all parties. The Chairman gave a brief outline of the problems and resolution reached.

**84 PROVISION OF DOG-WASTE LITTER-BINS (THORN TREE and PERRY FIELDS PLAYGROUNDS)**

In its budget for 2014-2015, the Parish Council had allocated £700 for the purchase of litter-bins.

Councillor Les Horne invited the Parish Council to consider purchasing two dog-waste litter-bins; one to be located at Thorn Tree playground and the other at Perry Fields playground. Ansa Environmental Services (the refuse arm of Cheshire East Council) had provided details of an appropriate bin which cost £323 each (plus VAT).

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk be authorised to place an order with Ansa Environmental Services for the purchase of two litter bins (at £323 each plus VAT); one to be installed at Thorn Tree playground and one at Perry Fields playground.

**85 BLOOR HOMES DEVELOPMENT**

(Item requested by Councillor Les Horne)

Councillor Les Horne invited the Parish Council to comment on a number of plans which related to proposed road improvements in the parish as part of the development on land off Parkers Road.

Councillor Horne had met on site with two Highways Engineers, at which time they had asked for the Parish Council's observations on the proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the following be forwarded to Cheshire East Highways as the Parish Council's comments on the proposed highway improvements as shown on the plans submitted to the meeting.

- (i) There was no safe pedestrian route from Parkers Road to Leighton Hospital;
- (ii) Cycle routes were required and were not shown on the plans. The need for cycle routes had previously been raised at a CEC Highways Meeting (under the auspices of the LAP regime); moreover, the road was not wide enough for a separate cycle route to be included;
- (iii) There were no dropped kerbs at the Zebra crossing on Flowers Lane;
- (iv) There were no dropped kerbs at the entrance to Manor Farm;
- (v) Day-glo poles should be installed at the Zebra crossing on Flowers Lane;
- (vi) The kidney-shaped roundabout at Smithy Lane/Flowers Lane would be hazardous for cyclists and heavy goods vehicles;
- (vii) Smithy Lane – A530: A mini-roundabout would be preferable to the installation of traffic lights as this would improve traffic flow;
- (viii) If traffic-lights were to be installed, then dropped kerbs needed to be installed also at the lights to provide access to two properties on the A530.
- (ix) There was no pedestrian-control on the North side of the traffic lights at Eardswick Lane and the A530 to give access to bus stops and shops.

(b) That Cheshire East Highways be asked to provide a copy of the final proposals.

**86 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning applications:

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|----------|---|
| 14/3743N | Bradfield Green Farm, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon<br>Erection of garage and workshop.  |
| 14/3389N | Land north of Parkers Road, Leighton<br>Hybrid application – variation of condition 4 to change the approved house types under permission 11/1879N (up to 400 new dwellings with open space). |

Application No. 14/3389N had been considered at the Strategic Planning Board on 17 September 2014. The decision of the Board was that the Head of Planning should determine the application. This gave the Parish Council the opportunity to submit observations as CEC had omitted to forward details of this application to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED:** That no objections be raised to planning applications Nos. 14/3743N and 14/338.

#### **87 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The Parish Council was invited to consider appointing two additional Members to the Staffing Committee, or two substitute Members. The current membership was Councillors W T Beard, M Bromhead and M McGlone.

The Clerk had canvassed Members to try to arrange a meeting of the Committee, but owing to individual Members' commitments this would not be possible until the new year. If substitute Members were appointed, it would give greater flexibility to arrange a meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillors N Bradley and P Wright be appointed as substitute Members on the Staffing Committee.

#### **88 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS – WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

At the Town and Parish Council Conference held on 1 May 2014, a presentation was made on behalf of the Sandbach Partnership (Dot Flint and Jonathan Williams from Middlewich Vision made the presentation).

The partnerships were intended to bring together local communities which could work with statutory and other bodies, when appropriate, to work on a range of projects which addressed agreed community priorities.

As a consequence of that presentation and because of interest expressed from town and parishes across the Borough, two workshops were to be held in October. Officers from Cheshire East Council's Partnerships Team and representatives from some of the six existing partnerships in Cheshire East would be available on each evening to share their experiences, to explore the benefits of community partnerships, to explain what might be involved in establishing a community partnership.

The Parish Council was invited to be represented at this event.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council decline to be represented at the workshop to be held in October.

#### **89 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members appointed to outside bodies reported on the following meetings.

- Nantwich LAP Meeting:

Councillor Les Horne reported on various highway schemes. The LAPs had now been abolished but the Highways Group would continue.

If Parish Councils wished to suggest highway schemes, these should be routed through the Ward Councillor who would, in turn, request the schemes, if appropriate.

Members were invited to consider highway schemes which could be included on the highways programme. This would be added to the November Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Reference was also made to the forthcoming Cheshire Association of Local Councils annual meeting to be held on 22 October and the Flood and Resilience Workshop being organised by Cheshire East Council.

**90 SPEED WATCH**

Members received the latest speed-watch data. The Police had undertaken to give additional support to the scheme on Parkers Road and Minshull New Road. The Chairman was due to attend a Road Safety Partnership meeting during the week, at which time Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer would be present.

**91 SHARED INFORMATION**

Members shared information as follows:

- Risk assessment to be considered at the next meeting following the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's inspection of memorials and benches.
- Notice-board at Parkers Road. It was suggested that this be affixed to the wall of Bargain Booze.
- Following discussion of planning application 14/3389N, the Chairman requested the inclusion of an item on the next agenda, with a view to submitting a letter of complaint to Cheshire East Council that the Parish Council had not been consulted on the various approved changes to the application connected with the development on land off Parkers Road, Leighton.
- The Chairman had recently met on site with a land-owner and the Flood Alleviation Manager to discuss the drainage route for the new scheme.

**92 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

**93 QUOTATIONS FOR AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)**

Reason for exclusion:

These matters are commercially-sensitive and the companies which have quoted would not wish their quotations to be made public.

At the previous meeting, as there were only six Members present, the Parish Council agreed to defer making a decision on the purchase of an automated external defibrillator (AED) until this meeting to allow other Members to participate in the decision.

Members agreed that it would be helpful if NW Ambulance Trust would recommend one of the units. The Clerk was asked to seek the views of the Trust and report to the next meeting.

**94 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

27 October 2014 (to be held in the Staff Room at Leighton Academy)  
**7.00 pm**

.....Chairman