

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 24 FEBRUARY 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Les Horne Chairman
Councillor W T Beard Councillor I Chenery
Councillor Linda Horne Councillor R Lee
Councillor B Palin Councillor M Wilson
Councillor P Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Bratt For Minute No. 1034

APOLOGIES: Councillors D N Bebbington, M McGlone

ABSENT: Councillors I Baxter and M Bromhead

1030 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.

1031 MINUTES – 27 JANUARY 2014

1031.1 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 be approved as a correct record.

1031.2 Matters Arising

Councillor Chenery reported that he would be meeting with a member of staff at Leighton Primary School in the next week to discuss the environmental tree-planting project (Minute No. 1016 referred).

1032 POLICE MATTERS

There were no Police matters to report.

1033 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)

There were no questions from members of the public.

1034 COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE – BRADFIELD GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

At the previous meeting, the Clerk had been asked to invite Mr Steve Bratt to address the Parish Council in view of his knowledge of the air crashes in the area during WWII.

Mr Bratt was in attendance and reported on additional information. His research had revealed the names of the majority of the 22 air crew killed in the parish in a Wellington Bomber during WWII. In addition, there were two Police Officers who had received a national honour for their part in the rescue mission.

Members were minded to add these names to the war memorial. Although it had originally been planned that there should be one plaque only, it was acknowledged that two plaques would be required to accommodate these names. The plaques would each need to carry a legend which explained the reason for the recognition of those named.

The Chairman had made contact with Oxleys the previous week to enquire into the most appropriate materials to be used. It was understood that the current plaques on the war memorial were made in green slate and the two new plaques would need to be of similar, or matching, materials.

As part of the discussion, Members considered a new scheme launched by Cheshire East Council, whereby a "one-off" fund was being made available to mark the centenary of WWI. A grant of up to £2,500 was available for each organisation which was qualified to apply. A copy of the policy document and application form was submitted for information. Although the funding was for application in the financial year 2014-2015, successful applicants would be able to use the funding within the four-year period ending on 11 November 2018 (the commemoration period).

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the commissioning of additional plaques be deferred until 2016 which would be the 75th anniversary of the air crashes in the parish. In the meantime, application would be made for the full grant of £2,500.

RESOLVED: (a) That the addition of names on the Bradfield Green War Memorial be deferred until 2016;

(b) That the Clerk make application to Cheshire East Council for a grant of £2,500 (by the due date of 28 March 2014); and

(c) That the Chairman provide appropriate costing information for the plaques to enable the application to be completed.

1035 TREE FOR BRADFIELD GREEN

The Parish Council was invited to consider purchasing a tree for the green at Bradfield Green to replace the tree stump which had been removed in 2010-2011. Members agreed that the land was unsuitable for planting a tree. It was **AGREED** that no action be taken.

1036 STAFFING COMMITTEE

1036.1 Staff Appraisals – Training for Members

The Clerk reported that the Cheshire Association of Local Councils was offering a training session on conducting appraisals for staff. The session was to be held on 2 April at Cranage Hall, Cranage, Holmes Chapel. The cost was £120 per person (for Member Councils). It was suggested that at least two Members of the Staffing Committee (Councillors W T Beard, R Lee and M Wilson) attend. In the event of any of the substantive Members being unable to attend, a substitute take one of the places (either Councillor I Baxter or I Chenery).

RESOLVED: That Councillors W T Beard and I Chenery be nominated to attend the training session on staffing appraisals, to be held on 2 April 2014.

1036.2 Next Meeting of the Staffing Committee

The Clerk had canvassed Committee Members to set a date for the next Staffing Committee meeting. There were currently no items for the agenda and Members had agreed to defer this until after the staffing appraisal training.

1037 HONORARY FREEMAN/HONORARY FREEWOMAN – AWARD CRITERIA

At the previous meeting, Members considered draft criteria to be applied when considering nominations for Honorary Freeman/Honorary Freewoman. Amendments had been agreed and the document had been revised. This was now submitted for adoption.

RESOLVED: That the awards criteria for nominations for Honorary Freeman/Honorary Freewoman status be adopted with immediate effect.

1038 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£84.10	HMRC – Tax on Clerk’s salary
£29.70	Councillor Les Horne – travel expenses associated with vehicle-speed display equipment – 66 miles @ 0.45P per mile.

1039 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications for consideration.

1040 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Parish Council had included funding in its budget for 2014-2015 to replace equipment at Thorntree and Perryfields playgrounds. To ensure that the equipment was in place at the early part of the new financial year, Members were invited to consider arrangements for the purchase of the items.

RESOLVED: That, at its meeting to be held on 24 March 2014, the Parish Council give consideration to the quotations previously submitted.

1041 SPEED WATCH SCHEME

Councillors Les Horne and Paul Wright reported on speed watch matters. Having recently spoken to Inspector Gammage, the Chairman reported that he had confirmed that the Police would increase enforcement.

At present, much of the work carried out by the Safety Camera Partnership (SCP) was on Minshull New Road. The Chairman would be requesting that Parkers Road be added as an area for SCP activity.

1042 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillors Beard and Horne reported on recent LAP meetings. It was also reported that Sharon Angus-Crawshaw, the Nantwich LAP Manager, would be taking over as the Manager for the Crewe LAP, and Dawn Clark, the Crewe LAP Manager, would be transferring to Nantwich.

1043 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

There were no Borough Councillors in attendance.

1044 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to report.

1045 SHARED INFORMATION

Members were invited to share information or request the inclusion of items on the next agenda.

- Item for the agenda: Update on environment project with schools (requested by Councillor I Chenery).
- A Member reported on receipt of a letter from a resident who had complained about the car parking arrangements at Leighton Hospital. Members agreed that this was not a matter for the Parish Council. Car parking arrangements within the hospital site were a matter for Leighton Hospital itself. Moreover, the hospital was currently undergoing major works on site and this might bring about an improvement in the car parking.

1046 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

24 March 2014

1047 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, during consideration of the following item for the reason given and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

1048 STAFFING MATTER

Reason for exclusion:

The matters to be discussed relate to the Clerk's employment and are therefore exempt from public discussion.

It was reported that the Clerk had now passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and, in accordance with her contract of employment, this required the Parish Council to appoint her to the next salary point.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk be appointed to Spinal Column Point 29 (i.e. annual salary of £5,046) in accordance with her contract of employment to reflect that she had passed the Certificate in Local Administration; and

(b) That the bank mandate be amended to increase the Clerk's net monthly salary from £319.75 to £337.16 with effect from 1 February 2014.

Approved

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 8.25 pm