

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

PRESENT:	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor M McGlone	Vice-Chairman
	Councillor W T Beard	Councillor M Bromhead
	Councillor I Chenery	Councillor Linda Horne
	Councillor R Lee	Councillor B Palin
	Councillor P Wright	
APOLOGIES:	Councillors I Baxter, D N Bebbington and M Wilson	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr N Bradley	Candidate for co-option

1049 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.

1050 MINUTES – 24 FEBRUARY 2014

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 February 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1051 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Lawrence Price was not in attendance for this item; however, he had recently spoken with the Chairman who now reported that there had been a small spate of car break-ins in the parish.

1052 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)

There were no questions from members of the public.

1053 CO-OPTION ONTO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Neil Bradley, a local registered elector, had declared himself to be a candidate for co-option. He was in attendance and addressed Members briefly explaining his reasons for wishing to enter public life.

One Member asked a question of Mr Bradley, following which the matter was put to the vote.

RESOLVED: That Neil Bradley be co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent Leighton Urban.

Mr Bradley signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office following which he was able to participate fully in the meeting.

1054 COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE – BRADFIELD GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk reported on completion of the grant application form to be submitted to Cheshire East Council by 28 March 2014.

The following were reported:

- The Chairman had taken photographs of the war memorial and these would accompany the application.
- The quotation from Oxley's had been received; the cost for engraving the two new plaques would be £3 per letter. Extrapolating from this, the overall cost was likely to be £3,500 to include the cost of the 22/24 names on the plaques, the rank of each deceased person and the legend to explain the reason for the inclusion of the names.
- The Parish Council had allowed £500 in its budget for this project and as this was not due for start/completion until 2016, any shortfall in funding could be met when the budget for 2015-2016 was considered.

1055 TRAINING – STAFF APPRAISALS

At the previous meeting, Councillor Chenery (along with Councillor Beard) had been nominated to attend a training session on staff appraisals on 2 April. Subsequent to the meeting, Councillor Chenery, having inspected a summary of the training programme, informed the Clerk that in his business life he was well-acquainted with the aims of the seminar and considered it an unwise use of public money (£120 per person).

There were no other Staffing Committee Members available on this date. The places had been booked on a "first come, first served" basis and ChALC expected it to be a popular course. The Parish Council was invited to (a) nominate another Member to attend the session; or (b) inform ChALC that it cannot fill both places.

RESOLVED: That the Cheshire Association of Local Councils be informed that only one place was required on the Staff Appraisal Training Session arranged for 2 April 2014.

1056 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Councillor Chenery reported on discussions with the two schools.

Leighton Primary School was working in partnership with Bentley's on an environmental project.

Mablins Lane School was embarking on a government scheme called "Forest Care". The school was also marking its 25 year anniversary during the year and was proposing to purchase 25 Birch trees. The Head had asked about the possibility of a grant from the Parish Council.

The Clerk was asked to forward a grant application form to Councillor Chenery who would, in turn, pass this to the Head Teacher.

1057 FINANCIAL MATTERS – AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

1057.1 RESOLVED: That the following payment be approved.

£84.10 HMRC – Tax on Clerk's salary

1057.2 Clerk's Training

The Parish Council was invited to consider contributing to the cost of the Clerk's attendance at a seminar to be held on 26 March 2014, as part of her professional development (Managing Difficult Behaviour). The cost was £202.80 (£169.00 net and £33.80 VAT) and the Clerk had already paid for this.

Members noted that this was not essential training and the Parish Council was not required to pay any of the cost. It was suggested that if Members were minded to approve payment, the contribution should be pro-rated to take into account the Clerk's employment with other Parish Councils. The proportion would be as follows:

Minshull Vernon & District PC 7.5 hours a week
Other PCs 22.5 hours a week

Contribution from Minshull Vernon & District = £50.70 + £8.45 VAT **£59.15**

RESOLVED: That payment to Mrs C M Jones, in the sum of £59.15 be authorised in respect of the seminar to be held on 26 March 2014.

1058 PLANNING MATTERS

1058.1 Planning Applications

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning application –

14/0960N 107 Kestrel Drive, Crewe – Remove front lawned area
and replace with parking to front of house.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to planning application No. 14/0960N.

1058.2 Electronic Consultation on Planning Applications

Cheshire East Council (CEC) had notified Town and Parish Councils that consultation on planning applications was changing.

At present most Town and Parish Councils received a full copy of paper drawings through the post. CEC was now introducing an e-mail notification system with all Town and Parish Councils. The e-mail would include a direct link to the individual planning application details, which could either be downloaded or viewed online.

This procedure was to be introduced from 1 April 2014 for all “minor” planning applications, such as household extensions and schemes of fewer than 10 houses. The Parish Council would continue to receive a copy of the paper plans for any major planning applications in the area (ie. over 10 dwellings).

The reasons for changing were noted:

- It was faster and more secure. Local councils were notified sooner giving more time for assessment and comment.
- It saved valuable resources by reducing paper, printing costs, staff time and postage.

The new scheme would disadvantage those Members without access to the Internet. In future, provided sufficient notice was given, they would be able to visit the Municipal Buildings in Crewe to inspect applications.

1059 SPEED WATCH SCHEME

Councillors Les Horne and Paul Wright reported on the latest speed watch data; information had previously been circulated to Members by e-mail.

During discussion, a Member reported on the equipment on Parkers Road which appeared to be faulty.

Members were encouraged to contact either Councillor Les Horne or Paul Wright if they became aware of any faults, rather than wait until the next Parish Council meeting to report it. By reporting faults as soon as they were noticed would mean that the equipment could be repaired more quickly.

Councillor Les Horne reported that he was intending to visit TWM Traffic Control System for refresher training. Councillors M McGlone and P Wright agreed to accompany him at that time.

1060 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- LAP Representatives (L Horne and W T Beard)

The Chairman had been unable to attend the Nantwich LAP Highways Group meeting on 26 February but had received information from the LAP Manager. He reported on various minor works which had already been funded and also referred to schemes yet to be funded.

1061 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported receipt of a St Luke's Hospice newsletter. There were no other items of correspondence to report.

1062 SHARED INFORMATION

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

Members noted that in view of the comments made on 24 February 2014 about the non-attendance of Borough Councillors at meetings, the standing item "Borough Councillors' Reports" had now been removed from the agenda and "Shared Items" had been amended to allow any Borough Councillor in attendance to be able to report on Cheshire East matters.

- Calendar of Meetings

It was reported that following recent requests by the Community Hall Bookings Clerk to change two of the Parish Council meetings, the Chairman/Vice-Chairman and Clerk had attended a with the Revd. P Goggin and the Bookings Clerk to explain the Parish Council's position and the need to hold meetings monthly, in the hall.

The bookings for the community hall were on a January-December basis, whereas the Parish Council's calendar was for a municipal year, ie. May to May.

The latest information from the Bookings Clerk was to the effect that the dates for May 2014 – December 2014 could be approved imminently; however, the dates for January 2015 – May 2015 could not be confirmed until September/October 2014.

The Clerk was asked to make arrangements for the Chairman/Vice-Chairman and herself, to address the full Community Hall Management Committee to discuss this matter further.

1063 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28 April 2014

1064 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 items for the reasons given and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

1065 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – THORNTREE AND PERRYFIELDS

(Discussion of commercially sensitive information which the companies might not wish to be made public and could jeopardise any concession which might be offered.)

The Parish Council had included a sum of £10,000 in its budget for 2014-2015 to purchase replacement play equipment for both Thorntree and Perryfields playgrounds.

The Clerk had issued quotations by e-mail. No Member had received these and it was understood that as the e-mail had been 5 MB, her system might not have been able to cope

with this size of data. The Clerk undertook to re-send the information in three or four separate tranches and the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

1066 HONORARY FREEMAN

(In accordance with the Criteria recently approved, nominations must be considered in confidence until Members have given an indication of support for the nomination; the final meeting at which the honour is conferred is open to the public.)

The Parish Councillor who had intended to submit a nomination for consideration had not been able to find sufficient information to support his nomination. This item was, therefore, deferred to the next meeting.

.....Chairman

Approved

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm