

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON  
ON 27 JANUARY 2014**

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

Councillor I Baxter Councillor W T Beard  
Councillor I Chenery Councillor R Lee  
Councillor B Palin Councillor M Wilson  
Councillor P Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Hon. Freeman John Whittingham

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors M Bromhead, D Bebbington and Linda Horne

**1010 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.

**1011 MINUTES – 18 DECEMBER 2013**

**1011.1 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**1011.2 Matters Arising**

**(a) Playgrounds (Thorntree and Perryfields) (Minute No. 995.1)**

It was reported that the Clerk had written to the anonymous benefactor (Minute No. 1009 referred) outlining proposals for the cost of replacement equipment at these two playgrounds. A response was awaited.

The Clerk had also contacted Cheshire East Council (CEC) requesting details about which equipment could be saved and which required replacement; and also seeking assurance that if the Parish Council funded the cost of new playground equipment, the continued maintenance would be undertaken by CEC itself.

Written confirmation had been received to the effect that the CEC policy was to self-insure in respect of equipment costing under £15,000. Any equipment which required replacement would be funded by CEC.

**(b) Cycle-ways (Minute No. 1005)**

At the previous meeting, Councillor Beard made reference to cycle-ways and agreed to provide further information for this meeting. There was no information at this time.

**1012 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Lawrence Price was not in attendance.

**1013 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)**

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to ask questions.

Hon Freeman John Whittingham offered to assist the Parish Council in gathering information regarding the air crashes in the parish in WWII and also agreed to discuss the matter outside the meeting with the Chairman, with the aim of providing information for the website.

#### **1014 EMERGENCY PLANNING**

At the November meeting, a working group had been set up comprising Councillors I Baxter, D N Bebbington, Les Horne and M McGlone. The Group had not yet met but would report in due course.

#### **1015 STAFFING COMMITTEE**

##### **1015.1 Membership**

Former Councillors K Halford and D Scott had been members of the Staffing Committee. The only remaining Member was Councillor R Lee.

The Parish Council was invited to appoint two Members to complete the Staffing Committee.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That Councillors W T Beard and M Wilson be transferred from “substitute” status to “substantive” status to replace Councillors Halford and Scott on the Staffing Committee; and

(b) That Councillors I Baxter and I Chenery be appointed as substitute Members of the Staffing Committee.

##### **1015.2 Staffing Appraisal System**

The Clerk submitted for information a report in respect of a staffing appraisal system. This would be considered at the next meeting of the Staffing Committee.

#### **1016 ITEM REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILLOR (COUNCILLOR I CHENERY) PARISH FIELD**

Councillor I Chenery invited the Parish Council to consider inviting the two primary schools (Leighton and Mablins Lane) to become involved in creating a woodland, or similar, on the parish field. Initial enquiries had been made of the schools; Mablins Lane could not commit at the present time; Leighton Academy would commit to a longer-term arrangement.

It was understood that there were no covenants which would restrict this proposal.

A full discussion ensued, during which the following issues emerged:

- The parish field was subject to flooding and was unsuitable for growing trees.
- The site would need to be risk-assessed before children could be permitted entry.
- Transport for pupils, to and from school, would need to be arranged by the Parish Council.

In view of these issues, it was agreed that no further action be taken at this time regarding a project on the parish field. Members then discussed the possibility of supporting/initiating an environmental project at each of the schools and agreed that this be pursued in due course.

Members requested the inclusion of an item on the next agenda “*to consider purchasing a tree to replace the removed tree stump on Bradfield Green in 2010-2011*”.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Parish Council consider supporting environmental tree-planting projects at both Mablins Lane and Leighton Academy schools; and

(b) That at the next meeting, the Parish Council consider purchasing a tree for planting at Bradfield Green to replace the tree stump which had been removed in 2010-2011.

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**Note: At this point in the proceedings, the meeting was suspended to allow Hon. Freeman John Whittingham to address the Parish Council, following which the meeting was reconvened.**

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## **1017 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **1017.1 Authorisation of Payments**

**RESOLVED:** That the following payments be authorised:

£108.00	TWM Traffic Control systems – repair to trailer speed sign (£90 net and £18 VAT)
£80.00	HMRC – Tax on Clerk’s salary
£214.20	Mrs C M Jones – travel expenses for the period Jan 2013 – Dec 2013

Audlem-Minshull Vernon return = 34 miles @ tax-neutral rate of 45P per mile = £15.30 per journey. Attendance at a total of 15 meetings.

### **1017.2 Receipts and Payments Statement to 31 December 2013**

**RESOLVED:** That the Receipts and Payments Statement for the third quarter of the financial year (1 April 2013 – 31 December 2013) be approved.

## **1018 HONORARY FREEMEN – CRITERIA FOR AWARD**

At the previous meeting, Councillor M McGlone undertook to prepare a draft scoring system for application when considering appropriate candidates for admission to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen.

A draft document was tabled and amendments made at the meeting, following which it was –

**RESOLVED:** That, based on the discussions at the meeting, the Clerk revise the document for submission to the next meeting with a view to it being adopted as a policy and procedure for considering honour nominations.

## **1019 PLANNING MATTERS**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning applications which had been received subsequent to issue of the agenda:

14/0118N	Leighton Hospital, Middlewich Road: Formation of new vehicular entrance with external lobby and external canopy over and re-configuration of adjacent road to allow parking access.
14/0288N	Wood Cottage, Middlewich Road, Woolstanwood Demolition of sheds/out-houses and erection of two new dwellings

**RESOLVED:** That no objections be raised on planning applications Nos. 14/0118N and 14/0288N.

## **1020 SPEED WATCH SCHEME**

Councillors Les Horne and Paul Wright reported on speed watch matters. Some of the equipment was faulty and had been returned to TWM Traffic Control Systems for repair.

#### **1021 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

- Councillor Beard reported on the Crewe LAP meeting. It was noted that a sum of £80,000 had been allocated for the purpose of commemorating the centenary of WWI.
- Councillor Horne reported that the next meeting of the Nantwich LAP was 26 February 2014.

#### **1022 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

There were no Borough Councillors in attendance.

#### **1023 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported receipt of the following correspondence received since the last meeting.

##### Cheshire East Council

- Minor Works Allocations
- Traffic Management LAP Reports
- Clinical Commissioning Policy Review  
Views are invited by 26 January 2014. Any individual can submit views using the following link:  
<https://www.cheshiremerseysidecsu.nhs.uk/commissioning-policy-review.htm>

##### Cheshire Association of Local Councils

- January newsletter
- Notice-board competition  
The competition was open until July 2014 and was intended to demonstrate how parish councils communicated with their electorate; it was not, necessarily, related to the attractiveness of the board itself.
- Nomination of Chairman and spouse to Royal Garden Party. Nominations required by 31 January 2014.

##### Other

The Clerk reported that although responsibility for the street lights at Whalley's Green was now the responsibility of Cheshire East Council, she had received an invoice from Scottish Power. She telephoned Scottish Power which advised that it required an adoption certificate from CEC to enable its records to be corrected.

#### **1024 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD – 2013**

A Members' attendance record for the calendar year 2013 was submitted for information.

#### **1025 SHARED INFORMATION**

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

- A Member reported that the Mablins Lane School newsletter carried information about speeding motorists on Parkers Lane.
- Air Crash in the parish. Request for item to be added to the next agenda and for Mr Steve Barratt to be invited to attend. (Councillor W T Beard would provide contact details to the Clerk.)
- Councillor McGlone was thanked for installing the verge masters.

**1026 FUTURE MEETINGS**

The bookings clerk for St Peter's Hall had asked the Parish Council to consider changing the dates of its meetings in April and May. These were currently booked in on 28 April and 19 May which coincided with meetings of one of the hall's regular clients.

The bookings clerk asked the Parish Council to consider changing the date of the meetings to 21 April and 26 May respectively. The Clerk had responded to point out that the alternative dates offered were public holidays (Easter Monday and Spring Bank Holiday respectively) and as alternatives had offered Wednesday - 23 April and 28 May, subject to Members' agreement.

The Parish Council had, on previous occasions, accommodated changes requested when there had been diary conflicts and had either cancelled a meeting or agreed to it being transferred to the church. Members were of the view that as the calendar of meetings had been provided to the bookings clerk in June 2013, the dates should not be changed.

**RESOLVED:** That the St Peter's Hall bookings clerk be advised that the Parish Council was unable to change its meetings already booked for 28 April and 19 May 2014.

**1027 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

24 February 2014

**1028 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.

**1029 MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE (HOLE HOUSE GAS FACILITY)**

Reason for Exclusion

The meetings were convened by an outside body, were not open to the public and confidentiality must, therefore, be respected.

The Parish Council received and noted the Minutes of the Hole House Gas Facility Local Liaison Committee Meeting held on 28 November 2013.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 9.15 pm