

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 28 JULY 2014**

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

Councillor W T Beard Councillor N Bradley
Councillor M Bromhead Councillor Linda Horne
Councillor R Lee Councillor M Wilson
Councillor P Wright

APOLOGIES: Councillors I Chenery, D N Bebbington and B Palin

ABSENT: Councillor I Baxter

41 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.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 June be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Lawrence Price was in attendance and reported on various minor criminal activities in the parish. He also reported that as part of the Speed Watch scheme he would be seeking to carry out enforcement action.

PCSO Price was thanked for his attendance and withdrew from the meeting.

44 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.

There were no questions from members of the public.

45 CLERK'S REPORT – JULY 2014

The Clerk's July report was submitted for information. The following issue was raised.

- Playground equipment – The grass at Thorntree playground had been allowed to grow quite high. It was understood that this was for bio-diversity reasons. Enquiries would be made to establish if grounds maintenance of this area had been omitted in error.

46 FINANCIAL MATTERS

46.1 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£84.10 HMRC – Tax on Clerk's salary

£11,797.20	Streetscape (Products & Services) Ltd. Play equipment for Thorntree and Perryfields play-grounds (Net: £9,831: Carriage: £350: VAT: £1,966.20)
£66.00	Sign Studio – addition of Glyn Turner’s name on the Honorary Freemen Board (£55.00 net and £11.00 VAT).

46.2 Receipts and Payments Statement – 1 April – 30 June 2014

A Receipts and Payments statement for the period 1 April to 30 June 2014 was submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Receipts and Payments statement for the period to 30 June 2014 be approved.

47 PARISH NEWSLETTER

47.1 Draft Newsletter

A draft of the parish newsletter was submitted and Members were invited to approve/amend it as appropriate.

The newsletter was currently incomplete; an article was awaited from PCSO Lawrence Price and the Chairman agreed to edit the Speed Watch article.

RESOLVED: That the draft newsletter be approved, subject to the addition/editing of articles as discussed and the inclusion of telephone contact numbers for all Members.

47.2 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.

47.3 Quotations

The Clerk reported on three quotations for the printing of the newsletter as an A3, folded to A4 leaflet, 2000 copies of each. This was an insufficient number; at least 4,000 were required.

Members also discussed distribution of the newsletter. Some Members volunteered to hand-deliver within their own area of the parish; however, it was acknowledged that unless there were sufficient volunteers to deliver to each household in the parish, this was not an appropriate method of distribution.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk seek further quotations for printing, based on 4,000 copies;

(b) That quotations be sought for the cost of delivery to each household by commercial companies;

(c) That the Clerk make enquiries in respect of use of the commercial version of the Register of Electors to allow addresses to be used for distribution; and

(d) That the matter be re-considered at the next meeting.

47.4 Re-admittance of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

48 CASUAL VACANCY

A casual vacancy had been declared in respect of former Councillor David Scott's seat. Mr Scott moved away from the area but did not submit his resignation. As a consequence, he had now become disqualified (under S.85 of the Local Government Act 1972). The vacancy had been advertised in accordance with electoral regulations; no election was called and the Parish Council was now able to co-opt to this vacancy.

There were currently no candidates for co-option.

49 COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION

It was reported that a number of residents in the new part of the Leighton Ward (Register 1FJ4) made complaints that the Council Tax collected from them was in respect of the precept raised by Crewe Town Council rather than for Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council. This had resulted in an overpayment by the 187 properties newly-added to the parish. Cheshire East Council (CEC) had now made refunds in respect of these households.

In addition, the Council Tax base for the years 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 had been incorrectly calculated and this had resulted in minor overpayments made by the remaining households in the parish.

The Clerk's report, now submitted, gave details of CEC's proposal to rectify the error.

CEC would be re-calculating the tax base and when the Parish Council set its precept for 2015-2016, CEC would collect a value which would be reduced by £3,700 (the total of the overpayments for the two years) and this would be spread across the various household bands from A to H. This would compensate the individual households in proportion to the overpayment they had made.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council note and endorse Cheshire East Council's proposal to rectify the Council Tax errors incurred during 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

50 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications for consultation. A late application had been received (14/3534N) and would be submitted to the next meeting.

51 FLOOD ALLEVIATION

The Parish Council was invited to consider if any action should be taken following the presentation made by Paul Reeves (Cheshire East Council Flood Alleviation Manager) and his colleague, Matt Tandy, prior to the start of the meeting.

No action was required at this time.

52 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members appointed to outside bodies were invited to report on any recent meetings.

Councillor Les Horne reported on a recent Bunbury Police Cluster meeting.

53 SPEED WATCH

Councillors Les Horne and P Wright reported on speed watch activities. The equipment had been moved to James Atkinson Way, for a trial period, and the results indicated that there was no excessive speeding on the estate.

**54 CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (CHALC) – ANNUAL MEETING
22 OCTOBER 2014**

The annual ChALC meeting was to be held on 22 October 2014. The Parish Council was invited to consider if a motion should be submitted to the meeting.

RESOLVED: (a) That Councillors Les Horne and P Wright be nominated to attend the meeting on 22 October 2014; and

(b) That the Parish Council decline to submit a motion to the meeting.

55 SHARED INFORMATION

There were no shared items.

56 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 August 2014

57 OCTOBER MEETING

It was noted that as St Peter's Community Hall was being decorated week commencing 27 October 2014 (27 October being the date of the Parish Council meeting) arrangements had been made for the meeting to be held at Leighton Academy.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm and concluded at 8.50 pm