

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 30 JUNE 2014**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Les Horne Chairman
Councillor M McGlone Vice-Chairman
- Councillor W T Beard Councillor I Baxter
Councillor D N Bebbington Councillor Linda Horne
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors N Bradley, R Lee, B Palin, M Wilson and P Wright
- ABSENT:** Councillor I Chenery

25 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.

26 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the following Minutes be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman:

- Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2014
- Annual Council Meeting 19 May 2014
- Special Meeting held on 19 May 2014 to admit GlynTurner to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Parish.

27 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Lawrence Price was not in attendance but had sent an e-mail report to Members.

The Clerk reported receipt of an invitation to attend a Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting to be held on 29 July 2014.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Les Horne and P Wright be nominated to attend the Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting to be held on 29 July 2014.

28 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)

There were no questions from members of the public.

29 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk submitted a general report which provided an update in respect of relevant correspondence and provided information about activities in the parish which did not require a decision.

The report included the following items:

- Confirmation from CEC that the Parish Council's application for a grant under the War Memorial Grants Scheme would be considered in July.
- Confirmation from Scottish Power that it had amended its records and there would be no further invoices for electricity. It had waived a final invoice for the period 1 October 2012-31 March 2013 in the sum of £57.

- It had been six months since David Scott had ceased attending meetings and although he had moved away from the area, he had not given formal resignation. The vacancy would be advertised in accordance with electoral regulations. Although there were numerous vacancies on the Parish Council, note of this particular vacancy would be added to the agenda in July.
- Staffing Committee: Members had been appointed to the Staffing Committee at the May meeting. The Clerk had canvassed Committee Members to arrange a date for the first meeting and responses were awaited.

30 SCHOOL FAIRS – LEIGHTON ACADEMY AND MABLINS LANE PRIMARY

At the previous meeting, it had been agreed that this be placed as an item on the agenda to enable Members to consider holding an un-staffed stall at each of the local primary schools' summer fairs.

Mablins Lane School held its fair on 21 June and Leighton Academy was holding its fair on 5 July. Members were invited to consider what arrangements should be made to support the event.

The Chairman undertook to attend the fair and would provide an 'open book' to enable members of the public to write in any issues/questions for consideration by the Parish Council.

31 FINANCIAL MATTERS

31.1 RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£84.10	HMRC – Tax on Clerk's salary
£30.00	Mr Les Horne – reimbursement for purchase of bouquet of flowers for Mrs Turner on the occasion of the presentation of the Council's framed copy of the Council's resolution to Mr Glyn Turner.
£50.00	Mr C M Moulton – internal audit – 2013-2014
£43.00	Johnsons the Printers – framed Council resolution £35.83 net and £7.17 vat
£43.06	Mr M McGlone – website hosting) one cheque for £49.61
£6.55	Mr M McGlone – petrol for strimmer)
£84.00	A D Bennion – field strimming (£70 net and £14 VAT)

(Note: Cheques for payments approved at the May meeting were also signed, as the accounts including cheque books, were being audited on 19 May 2014.)

31.2 Authorisation of Action

RESOLVED: (a) That Councillor Les Horne be authorised to purchase two tonnes of top soil and half a tonne of sharp sand [for use on the parish field (top soil) and the memorial footpath (sharp sand)];

(b) That, although the spend was estimated at £35 per tonne the maximum spend authorised was £250; and

(c) That expenditure be authorised in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (k) and having regard to the need to obtain value-for-money at all times.

31.3 Internal Audit Report

The Internal Auditor's report was available for inspection. Mr C M Moulton had carried out checks as follows and had stated that there were no matters to report:

- ◆ Checking that books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.
- ◆ Checking all payments to ensure that the Council's Financial Regulations have been met, payments are supported by invoices, expenditure is approved and VAT is correctly accounted for.
- ◆ Check that salaries to employees have been paid in accordance with Council approvals and that tax/NI contributions have been made to HM Revenue and Customs.
- ◆ Adequacy of insurance, particularly fidelity guarantee
- ◆ Reviewing the Council's Risk Assessment and ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to manage all identified risks.
- ◆ Verifying that the annual precept request is the result of a proper budgetary process; that budget progress has been regularly monitored and that the Parish Council's reserves are appropriate.
- ◆ Testing the accuracy and timeliness of periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations.
- ◆ Year-end testing on the accuracy and completeness of the financial statements.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Auditor's report be noted.

32 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council had previously agreed that a newsletter should be published on the website annually. The Clerk reminded Members that the intention had been to publish an Annual Report in May each year (although there had been no publication this year) and to produce a newsletter in December each year so that parishioners were receiving comprehensive information about the Parish Council's activities twice a year.

Members discussed whether the newsletter should be provided electronically only (ie. on the website or by e-mail request) or printed and distributed professionally. This would be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime, Members suggested the following articles:

- Play equipment purchase for two playgrounds
- James Atkinson Way group activities
- Grants made to schools
- Speed watch scheme
- Hon. Freeman award to Glyn Turner
- Police item
- Addition of names to the war memorial

33 PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning applications had been notified electronically by Cheshire East Council and had been forwarded to Members.

- 14/2876N – Leighton Academy – new modular class-room building with two new class-rooms and toilet provision.
- 14/2920N – Red Hall Farm, Middlewich Road – extension of existing portal framed agricultural building to house additional bio-mass boiler and additional fuel storage area.

RESOLVED: That applications Nos. 14/2876N and 14/2920N be supported.

- 14/2577N – 5 Elmstead Crescent, Crewe – single-storey extension to side.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to planning application No. 14/2577N.

(Note: Councillor D N Bebbington, who was a Member of the CEC Southern Planning Committee declined to comment and vote on any of the planning applications.)

34 DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

At the previous meeting, Councillor Ian Chenery had been appointed, in his absence, to the following Committees. The Clerk had notified him of these appointments but had received no response. He was not present at this meeting and Members agreed to nominate Councillor I Baxter.

RESOLVED: That Councillor I Baxter be appointed to the Staffing Committee and Complaints Committee to replace Councillor I Chenery.

35 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- Councillor McGlone had been unable to attend the Hill Top and Hole House Farms Local Liaison Committee meeting scheduled for 27 June.
- Councillor Les Horne reported on -
 - A recent Nantwich LAP meeting. One more meeting would be held before the re-configuration of the LAPs.
 - Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) Area Meeting. These were generally poorly attended and ChALC might cease them altogether.

36 SPEED WATCH

Councillor Les Horne reported on recent speed watch activity. He had asked the Police to give more support to the scheme through enforcement.

The James Atkinson Way group had asked if the trailer-mounted unit could be moved onto James Atkinson Way for a period. The Police and Cheshire East Highways had approved this as a location.

At this point in the proceedings, the meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak, following which the meeting re-convened.

37 RURAL HOUSING QUESTIONNAIRE

The Cheshire Association of Local Councils had forwarded an e-mail from the National Rural Housing Policy Review which was exploring changes since the production of key reports into rural affordable housing published 2005-2008.

A survey form had been issued under separate cover to Members and the Parish Council was invited to consider if it wished to participate in the survey.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council decline to participate in the National Rural Housing Policy Review.

38 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT – SALE OF ELECTRICITY BY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Local Works was a coalition of over 100 national organisations which campaigned to promote the use of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. Local Works had been promoting the Act and urging people and organisations to become involved.

The organisation had issued an e-mail to town and parish councils asking them to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act requesting the government to give all town and parish councils the right to sell electricity which they generated from local schemes.

There were various legal restrictions which prevented this at present, and the Parish Council was invited to consider supporting a change in legislation which would permit local councils to sell surplus energy generated from their local schemes.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council support a change in legislation permitting local councils to sell surplus energy generated from their local schemes.

39 SHARED INFORMATION

Members were invited to share information. This was also an opportunity for any Borough Councillors in attendance to report on Cheshire East matters which may be of interest to the Parish Council.

Borough Councillor Bebbington reported on the following:

- The double yellow lines on Smithy Lane were to be re-painted.
- A 'drop-off' point was to be created outside Leighton Academy either later this year or early next year.

The Chairman reported on a complaint received from a resident whose Council Tax had been collected by Cheshire East Council in respect of the precept raised by Crewe Town Council rather than Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council.

40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

28 July 2014

7.15 pm	One hour presentation from the Flood Alleviation Manager.
8.15 pm	Parish Council meeting.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 8.25 pm