

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON, CREWE  
ON 27 APRIL 2015**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor M McGlone	Vice-Chairman
	Councillor W T Beard	Councillor I Baxter
	Councillor Linda Horne	Councillor B Palin
	Councillor D Ridings	Councillor P Wright
<b>IN ATTENDANCE :</b>	Tom Evans	Cheshire East Council Spatial Planning Team (for Minute No. 209 only)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor R Lee	

**207 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.

Councillors Les Horne, Linda Horne and M McGlone each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application No. 15/1249N in accordance with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 on the basis that they each had a beneficial interest in land which was in close proximity to the location of the development.

**208 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**209 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

**209.1** Tom Evans, CEC Spatial Planning Team, was in attendance and outlined for Members the process involved in preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, the likely costs; assistance which could be provided to the Parish Council; the level of involvement of parish councillors themselves; and the status of a completed Plan.

Members were able to ask questions about the process, funding available, and the design of questionnaires to ensure that the disparate nature of the parish could be accommodated within one Plan (four separate parishes with differing needs and aspirations).

There was a sum of £7,000 available from Cheshire East Council, and £8,000 in grant funding from Cheshire Community Action to support the project.

Mr Evans undertook to send skeleton questionnaires and completed Neighbourhood Plans from other Parish Councils to give Members an idea of the level of work involved.

(Note: Mr Evans withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

**209.2** Members were invited to consider if the Parish Council should prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Parish Council prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the area; and

(b) That at a future meeting Members give consideration to issuing a special-edition newsletter to give publicity to the project.

**210 MATTER ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
MOLES- BRADFIELD GREEN (MINUTE 203)**

The Clerk had contacted 'Suddenstrike' of Nantwich, a company which was registered with the British Pest Control Association. The company representative's advice was that 'live-catch trapping' was not carried out by this particular company. It caused undue stress to the animal itself because of their metabolism and the way in which their bodies functioned (moles work/eat and then sleep every 4 hours). In addition, moles were territorial and if two moles met in a run they would fight to the death; so the process of re-locating a mole would result in its death.

By law, pest control companies must use the most effective and most humane method of control available to them. The company had an 85% success rate, and they typically needed to visit a site twice. Although the problem could be temporarily eradicated, there was nothing to prevent other moles from entering the area and there was no product or method legally available to do this.

The company made its first visit on or around 2 April 2015 to set the traps and had killed all moles trapped.

The invoice had not yet been received.

**211 FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME – BRADFIELD GREEN**

Paul Reeves (Flood Alleviation Manager at Cheshire East Highways) was expected to be in attendance to update the Parish Council in respect of progress on the drainage work at Bradfield Green. Owing to an urgent personal commitment he was unable to be in attendance but had sent an e-mail to explain the current situation, and this had been e-mailed to all Members with Internet access.

Mr Reeves had agreed to attend a future meeting.

**212 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Lawrence Price was not on duty but had sent an e-mail to the Chairman and Clerk. There were no significant matters to report.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

**214 CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report was received and noted.

**215 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

It was reported that Neil Bradley and Marshall Wilson had resigned from the Parish Council. This left nine sitting councillors (out of a total of 22 seats). The quorum for this Parish Council was eight parish councillors. If membership fell below eight Members, the Council would not be able to function.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to former councillors Marshall Wilson and Neil Bradley to thank them for their contribution to the work of the Parish Council.

**216 ELECTIONS – 7 MAY 2015**

**216.1 Statement of Persons Nominated**

The Statement of Persons Nominated was published on 10 April 2015. Eight candidates stood validly nominated, viz: four for Minshull Vernon and four for Leighton Urban. There were no candidates for Leighton Rural or Woolstanwood.

At the Annual Meeting on Monday, 18 May 2015, the Council would be invited to consider co-opting arrangements for the remaining seats.

### 216.2 Potential Review of Representation

Given the difficulties in filling all 22 seats on the Parish Council, Members were invited to consider if, during the course of 2015-2016, the Borough Council should be asked to reduce the number of council seats. At present, 22 seats equated to each councillor representing 218 electors. To reduce this to, say, 18, would result in each councillor representing 266 electors. Since 2007, there had been an annual average of 15 councillors comprising the membership.

The Borough Council could be asked for advice about the appropriate number of electors (or residents) to be represented by one councillor.

The overall numbers were noted as follows:

Year	Maximum No. of Councillors	Year	Maximum No. of Councillors
2008	17	2012	14
2009	18	2013	13
2010	16	2014	13
2011	13	2015	8

**RESOLVED:** That, during the course of 2015-2016, the Borough Council be asked to consider reducing the number of seats on the Parish Council, for the reasons given.

### 217 REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

There were no Borough Councillors in attendance.

### 218 FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### 218.1 Authorisation of Payments

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

£88.83	HM Revenue & Customs -Tax on Clerk's salary
£720.00	TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd. (£600 net - £120 VAT)
£13.96	M McGlone – reimbursement for posts to repair parish field fence
£172.18	Mrs C M Jones – contribution to telephone costs

In approving the payment to TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd. the Clerk was asked to make enquiries about the possibility of entering into a maintenance contract with the company.

#### 218.2 Internal Auditor – 2015-2016

The Parish Council was invited to consider re-appointing Mr C M Moulton as the Council's internal auditor for the accounts for 2015-2016. It was a requirement that internal auditors be appointed annually.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr C M Moulton be appointed Internal Auditor for the year 2015-2016.

#### 218.3 Balance Sheet - 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

The Parish Council received a copy of the balance sheet for the financial year 2014-2015, together with a copy of the VAT re-claim form.

The Council would be asked to approve the accounts at the Annual Meeting on 18 May 2015.

#### 218.4 Notice-Board (formerly at Parkers Road)

The notice-board which had been damaged by vandals had been collected by Zero Ads in Crewe, for repair. The company had advised that as the door was a sealed unit, it was likely that the notice-board itself would break if they attempted to remove it.

The Clerk had made contact with Whitehill Direct (the supplier of the notice-board) which had asked for further information and advised as follows:

- If it was the door only which had been damaged and there was no damage to the case frame, Whitehill could provide a replacement door and fit it with the notice-board still mounted on the post-set *in situ* (ie 1350 x 1000 for anodised free-standing notice-board) and repair on site.

Full replacement door, door frame and acrylic to include fitting of door to existing frame in situ at the location and removal of damaged door would cost -

£225.00 excluding VAT

- Whitehill had suggested that if the Parish Council was able to replace the door by use of a handyman, or similar, this would reduce the cost of the door to supply-only for £185.00 excluding VAT.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the quotation from Whitehill Direct, in the sum of £185.00 for a replacement door only be accepted;

(b) That the Clerk make arrangements for the notice-board (currently at Zero Ads) to be returned to Councillor McGlone, or arrangements be made for the board to be collected from Zero-Ads; and

(c) That Councillors Les Horne and M McGlone fit the door to the damaged notice-board and then re-locate it to Woolstanwood.

#### 219 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**219.1** Members were invited to comment on the following planning application.

15/1249N Grenson Motor Co. Ltd, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon  
Proposed construction of 10 dwellings complete with access,  
associated parking and landscaping.

(Notes:

- (a) Councillors Les Horne, Linda Horne and M McGlone, having each declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the application, withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion.
- (b) Councillor Les Horne addressed the Parish Council on the application, prior to withdrawing from the meeting.)

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor P Wright be elected Chairman for the duration of discussion on the planning application.

Members discussed the application, following which, it was –

**RESOLVED:** That the following observations be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of Planning Application No. 15/1249N:

- The LPA to ensure that a contaminated land survey is undertaken
- The drainage system in this area was already inadequate and would need to be addressed as part of the development.
- Contractors' vehicles should be prohibited from parking on Moss Lane, Queen's Crescent, West View and the memorial green at Bradfield Green during the build.

(Note: Councillors Les Horne, Linda Horne and M McGlone re-joined the meeting at this point in the proceedings. Councillor Les Horne resumed the chair.)

**219.2** The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning application:

15/1557N      Land adjacent to Flowers Lane, Leighton  
Proposed construction of one detached, two-bedroom bungalow

**RESOLVED:** That no observations be made on Planning Application No. 15/1557N.

**220      INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) AT BRIGHT NURSERY**

It was reported that Nick Blair who was a NW Ambulance Trust (NWAT) Officer, had provided a Memorandum of Understanding which set out the responsibilities of the two parties, ie, North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust and the Static Responder Site (ie Bright Nursery).

Mr Blair was of the view that whilst awareness/training sessions were not essential because of the automated nature of the defibrillator, it should be encouraged. It also provided an opportunity for potential users to engage with NWAT staff who would be able to respond to any concerns about use of the equipment.

Once the equipment was installed, there was a period of approximately two weeks before it could be activated at NWAT Headquarters. In the meantime, a notice to this effect would need to be displayed on the AED.

Fitting the equipment could be carried out by a qualified electrician.

Members discussed the need for training and were of the view that there would be benefit in arranging an awareness/training session.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That NWAT be asked to offer dates for awareness/training in the use of defibrillators; and

(b) That the event be held at Mablins Lane School, subject to availability.

**221      SPEED WATCH**

Councillors Les Horne and P Wright reported on speed watch activities. The Chairman had also been accompanied by PCSO Lawrence Price to monitor driver behaviour in some locations.

**222      BUNBURY CLUSTER MEETING**

The Chairman reported on the Bunbury Cluster meeting held on 21 April 2015.

**223      SHARED INFORMATION**

Members were able to share information which included the following:

- St Peter's Community Hall Management Committee was seeking a bookings clerk.
- Fly-tipping on Moss Lane.
- ChALC Meeting – 16 April 2015, at which time Adrian Fisher (CEC) had made a presentation on the current status of the Local Plan.

**224 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 18 May 2015 (to be held at Leighton Academy)**

Annual Parish Meeting                      7.15 pm  
Followed by:  
Annual Council Meeting

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 9.20 pm

Approved