

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON, CREWE  
ON 26 OCTOBER 2015**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor M McGlone (Vice-Chairman)	In the Chair
	Councillor Linda Horne Councillor R Lee Councillor C Stringer	Councillor D Kay Councillor B Palin Councillor M Stanley
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	David Street	Candidate for co-option
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor J Cunningnam Councillor Les Horne Councillor D Ridings Councillor K Stringer Councillor P Wright	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Councillor W T Beard	

**87 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.

Councillor Linda Horne declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application No 15/4778N (1 Queen's Crescent) on the basis that the applicant was a close neighbour.

**88 MINUTES – 28 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 be approved as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Michael Stanley's name in the list of those in attendance as a candidate for co-option.

**89 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a period of 10 minutes was allocated for questions from members of the public. There were no questions.

**90 POLICE MATTERS**

PCSO Lawrence Price was unable to attend the meeting but had reported on some minor criminal activity in the parish.

PCSO Price had also reported that he had been using the 'enforceable speed gun' on Parkers Road and would continue to use it over the next few weeks.

**91 CO-OPTION**

Andrew David Street (known as 'David Street'), a Crewe resident, had expressed interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council and was in attendance.

Mr Street briefly explained his reasons for wishing to become a parish councillor following which Members were able to ask questions of him.

**RESOLVED:** That David Street be co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent the Leighton Urban Ward.

(Mr Street signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.)

**92 FLOOD ALLEVIATION – BRADFIELD GREEN**

Paul Reeves (Flood Alleviation Manager) was not available to update the Parish Council in respect of the flood alleviation scheme at Bradfield Green.

It was reported that some landowners on Moss Lane had taken advantage of the work being carried out and had put in their own connections to the new system to allow their land to drain. The purpose of the scheme was to protect Bradfield Green which had experienced long-standing problems with drainage; it was not a land-protection project for landowners.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to Mr Reeves (Flood Alleviation Manager) (a) requesting an update on the drainage scheme at Bradfield Green and (b) informing him of the actions taken by some landowners to drain their own land.

**93 WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY – 4 JUNE 2016**

It was reported that the Working Group had not been able to meet. Members of the group who were present agreed that at the conclusion of the November meeting, the Working Group Members remain behind to discuss arrangements for the war memorial dedication ceremony.

The **Clerk was asked to contact the Bookings Secretary** for the hall to request an earlier start for the Parish Council meeting (7.00 pm) to enable the Working Group meeting to start at approximately 8.30 pm on 23 November 2015.

**94 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PUBLIC MEETINGS (NEWSLETTER TO PUBLICISE EVENTS)  
TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER (LEIGHTON ACADEMY):  
THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER (MABLINS LANE SCHOOL)**

The company which distributed newsletters would not commence work until it had received payment in advance. For this reason, the dates offered by Members at the previous meeting were no longer feasible. The Clerk suggested the following and had included these on the revised newsletter which was submitted.

Leighton Academy	Tuesday, 24 November 2015	7.15 pm
Mablins Lane School	Thursday, 26 November 2015	7.15 pm

As these meetings were the same week as the Parish Council, it was agreed that at least six Members attend each event. The Clerk was asked to e-mail all Members to co-ordinate the arrangements.

Members agreed that a broad programme for the evening (an 'agenda') was required to ensure that the events ran smoothly and that Members were as prepared as possible to respond to questions from residents.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the public meetings be held on Tuesday 24 November (Leighton Academy) and Thursday, 26 November 2015 (Mablins Lane School);

(b) That the revised newsletter be approved;

(c) That the Clerk contact Members by e-mail to co-ordinate arrangements which would ensure that at least six parish councillors attend each event; and

(d) That the Clerk contact John Heselwood of Cheshire Community Action to enquire if he would be available to facilitate one of the meetings.

**95 TREE WORK**

At the previous meeting, the Parish Council agreed that work to the dangerous trees, as identified in the survey report from Buckland Care, should be carried out by Mercia Tree Care which had previously carried out work for the Parish Council.

The cost of the work was £750+ VAT and for some of the work would require traffic-control lights and additional staff.

The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, had approved this work. To satisfy any criticism by the auditor, the Clerk had reviewed the Financial Regulations.

Financial Regulation 3.4 provided that *The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be effected at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £500. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.* As the cost of this work was in excess of £500, this regulation did not apply.

An alternative was Regulation 6.5 which stipulated ..... *'where it is necessary to make a payment before it has been authorised by the Council, such payment shall be certified as to its correctness and urgency by the Responsible Financial Officer and shall be authorised by the Proper Officer with the approval of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman. The payment must be under a head of expenditure as identified in the Council's budget for the appropriate year.* Although there was no specific heading 'Tree pruning/felling' for the current financial year, it could be regarded as a 'grounds maintenance' item, and the Clerk considered that the auditor would accept this action.

The Parish Council was asked to ratify the Clerk's action in authorising Mercia Tree Care to effect the necessary work to the trees.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council ratify the Clerk's action in approving a contract with Mercia Tree Care, for the work described above, at a cost of £750 plus VAT.

## 96 **SIGNS – LAY-BY OPPOSITE LEIGHTON ACADEMY (MINSHULL NEW ROAD)**

At the previous meeting, it was reported that the cost of two aluminium signs was £225 plus VAT. The company was asked to quote for a lower standard of material bearing the words *'This is a drop-off and pick-up point only. Waiting time is limited to 15 minutes.'*

### 96.1 **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 by disclosing the information.

### 96.2 **Quotations**

Reason for Exclusion: Commercially sensitive as it would identify the name of each company

There were two quotations for consideration, both of which were for aluminium composite signs which comprised two thin layers of aluminium separated with a black core – 3' x 2'.

**RESOLVED:** That the quotation submitted by E-Signs in the sum of £90.00 plus VAT be accepted as the lower quotation.

### 96.3 **Re-admittance of Press and Public**

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

## 97 **PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT – JAMES ATKINSON WAY**

Members noted that earlier in the year, the Parish Council approved a quotation from Fenland Leisure Products Ltd. in the sum of £5,978 (plus VAT) for the provision of equipment to be located at the James Atkinson Way playground. The quotation had been sourced by the James Atkinson Way Group (JAW). The equipment was to be purchased on the understanding that Cheshire East Council (through ANSA) would install it free-of-charge and take over the future maintenance/replacement of the equipment although no confirmation to this effect had yet been received.

The order was not placed, pending investigation by Officers from ANSA to ensure that the equipment was appropriate for the playground. Such matters as the size of the playground within the railings and the free-fall height of the equipment needed to be established.

There were some issues to be resolved and it was **AGREED** that this matter be deferred to the next meeting when further information would be available.

## 98 FINANCIAL MATTERS

**98.1 RESOLVED:** That the following payments be approved:

£10.00	Contribution towards the cost of room hire for Police Cluster meetings. The cheque was payable to 'Barbridge Methodist Chapel'.
£6.98	Les Horne – reimbursement for purchase of magnets for notice-boards.
£88.80	HM Revenue & Customs – tax on Clerk's salary
£25.00	Cheshire Association of Local Councils Attendance at Planning Seminar – 20 October 2015 Although Councillor Horne could not attend, the place had been booked and must be paid for as it was a popular event and some potential attendees were refused a place.
£17.00	Royal British Legion: Wreath for Remembrance Sunday
£222.00	Whitehill Direct Ltd. Replacement door for notice-board (£185.00 net and £37.00 VAT)
£463.00	The Leaflet Team (£178 printing: £285 distribution to 3,000 households – Special Neighbourhood Plan Edition newsletter)
£240.00	Buckland Tree Care £200 net and £40.00 VAT Note: The original invoice was £250 plus VAT. Charlie Ashworth (Proprietor of Buckland Tree Care) had reduced the invoice by £50 as an apology for the delay in issuing the survey report.

### 98.2 Receipts and Payments – 1 April 2015 – 30 September 2015 and Budget Monitoring showing the half-year position

A receipts and payments statement together with a budget-monitoring statement showing the half-year position at 30 September 2015 was submitted.

**RESOLVED:** That the receipts and payments statement and budget monitoring statement showing the half-year position at 30 September 2015 be received and noted.

## 99 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**99.1** The Parish Council was invited to comment on the following planning applications.

15/4238N Fourcrofts, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon, CW1 4RD  
Construction of granny flat adjacent to existing house.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council object to planning application No. 15/4238N on the following grounds:

- It does not conform to Members' view of what a 'granny flat' should comprise.
- The size of the proposed extension appears to be excessively large.
- Although the applicant is willing to enter into a unilateral undertaking retaining the proposed 'granny flat' as an integral part of the site which cannot ever be considered as a separate residence, Members are concerned about the future enforceability of this provision.

**Note:** Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following planning application, Councillor Linda Horne withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion and re-joined the meeting after the vote had been taken.

15/4778N          1 Queen's Crescent, Minshull Vernon  
Extension to form garage, utility room and WC

**RESOLVED:** That no observations be made in respect of planning application No. 15/4778N.

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**99.2    Southern Planning Committee – 28 October 2015**

15/2910N          The Gables, Bradfield Road  
Extension and refurbishment to an existing former nursing care  
home and conversion into key work accommodation.

The Parish Council had considered this application on 27 July 2015 and had objected on a number of grounds. There was an opportunity for a parish councillor to attend the Southern Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, 28 October to reiterate those objections.

Members agreed that there was no requirement for a parish councillor to attend.

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**100    PARISH COUNCIL SEATS**

Members noted that in June 2015, a formal request was submitted to Cheshire East Council requesting that consideration be given to reducing the number of seats on the Parish Council from 22 to 18, which would result in each councillor representing approximately 245 electors.

The Officer responsible for this was proposing to submit a report to the Constitution Committee at its November meeting to start the process. Following that, it was expected that the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee would take the matter forward in the following months.

**101    REPORTS/SHARED INFORMATION**

Members were invited to share information which was not available at the time of publication of the agenda or to report on attendance at recent meetings of outside bodies.

Councillor McGlone reported that the notice-board had been installed on Coppenhall Lane, Woolstanwood. Councillor Kay had been provided with magnets and would display appropriate material as and when required.

**102    SPEED WATCH**

It was reported that Councillor Les Horne had accompanied PC Sharon Jones and PCSO Lawrence Price on recent speed watch activities.

**103    MEETINGS: 2016**

The Parish Council's March 2016 meeting was scheduled for 28 March, which was Easter Monday. Members were invited to consider if the meeting should be re-scheduled to Monday, 4 April which the Bookings Secretary had confirmed was available.

**RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council's meeting in March 2016 be re-scheduled to 4 April 2016.

**104    DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 23 November 2015**

.....Chairman