

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON, CREWE
ON 25 JULY 2016**

PRESENT:	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor M McGlone	Vice-Chairman
	Councillor Linda Horne	Councillor D Kay
	Councillor B Palin	Councillor D Ridings
	Councillor D Street	Councillor C Stringer
	Councillor K Stringer	Councillor M Stanley
	Councillor P Wright	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Two members of the public	
APOLOGIES:	Councillors J Cunningham and R Lee	

42 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.

43 MINUTES – MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

44 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

45 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

It was reported that owing to personal commitments, Councillor Terry Beard had resigned from the Parish Council. A notice advertising the vacancy had been issued to Cheshire East Council and would need to be displayed on the Parish Council website and notice-boards.

If no election was called, the Parish Council would be able to co-opt to the vacancy.

Members paid tribute to Councillor Beard's work as a parish councillor and the Clerk was asked to send a letter to thank him for his contribution to the work of the Parish Council over many years.

46 CLERK VACANCY

It was reported that interviews for a new Clerk had been held on 4 July, but unfortunately, no appointment had been made.

The Clerk reported that she had informed CVS Cheshire East (which managed the payroll service) that her last date of employment would be 31 August 2016, which was four months from the date notice was given. This would allow a new Clerk to attend the meeting on 22 August at which time the current Clerk could be in attendance to provide a hand-over, but she would also meet separately with the new Clerk to transfer various documents, both paper and electronic.

Members discussed options for re-advertising the vacancy and agreed to defer a decision until later in the meeting.

47 FINANCIAL MATTERS – AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:

£88.80	HM Revenue & Customs – tax on Clerk’s salary
£84.00	A D Bennion – parish field cutting (£70 net and £14 VAT)
£5.70	M McGlone – reimbursement for fuel for the strimmer
£708.50	Wishing Well Project Ltd. – catering at the War Memorial Re-dedication event on 4 June 2016.

48 FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

At the previous meeting, the Parish Council resolved to submit a letter of complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in respect of the way in which the Cheshire East Highways team had dealt with the flood alleviation scheme at Bradfield Green.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Clerk sent an e-mail to all Members advising that the LGO would not consider any complaint unless the complainant had exhausted all stages of the appropriate public authority’s complaints procedure. This meant that if Members were minded to submit a complaint, Cheshire East Council’s Complaints Procedure must be followed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk issue a letter to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman who would prepare a draft to form the basis of the letter, setting out the reasons for the complaint.

49 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

16/3097N	7 Hothersall Close, Crewe, CW1 4QF Proposed alterations and extension on rear of detached house to provide facilities for registered disabled person.
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RESOLVED: That, in the event of Cheshire East Council approving planning application No. 16/3097N, a condition be added to require that access be provided at all times.

(Note: Councillor D Kay requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.)

16/3319N	The Merlin Planning permission has already been approved for the majority of works (16/1136N); however, further works have been added: second smoking shelter to the rear beer garden. This will be identical to the approved smoking shelter at the side of the property.
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The applicant also wished to increase the size of the car park by digging out some of the existing grassed area and adding tarmac.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised in respect of planning application No. 16/3319N.

16/3190N	Gemini House, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon CW10 0LT Conversion of existing detached garage into two-bedroom ‘granny flat’.
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Members were of the view that this application did not accord with their understanding of a ‘granny flat’. Moreover, the proposal related to a separate building and, whilst not a grounds for objection, there was a potential for this to become a separate dwelling in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council object to planning application No. 16/3097N on the grounds that:

- (a) The proposal was not in accordance with Members' understanding of a 'granny flat; and
- (b) The drainage system was currently under strain and this proposal would exacerbate the problem.

16/3203N Brindlewood, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon
Variation of Condition 7 on approval 14/5532N

The original application related to a holiday let; Members were of the view that it should be maintained for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council object to planning application No. 16/3203N on the grounds that the proposal was a significant deviation from the original application which was a holiday let for tourists to the area, and this should be maintained.

**50 AFFILIATION TO CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
(Item requested by Councillor Les Horne)**

Councillor Les Horne invited the Parish Council to re-consider affiliation to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

In view of the difficulties encountered in advertising the Clerk vacancy, and the prohibitive cost of advertising the vacancy commercially, he considered that at this time, it was important for the Council to re-affiliate to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils which could advertise the vacancy free-of-charge and would also be able to provide support to the new Clerk.

Following discussion, under Minute No. 46 above, Members agreed that the Clerk vacancy be advertised on the Cheshire Association of Local Councils' website.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Parish Council re-affiliate to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) with immediate effect; and

(b) That ChALC be asked to advertise the Clerk vacancy on its website.

51 FACEBOOK PAGE/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Although items 11 (Neighbourhood Plan) and 12 (Facebook Page) were listed separately on the agenda, Members discussed the two items together.

Councillor K Stringer spoke to the item, requesting the Parish Council to consider introducing a Parish Council Facebook page on social media as a means of engaging more fully with the Council's community. This would also be a means of trying to re-engage with residents about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Although a newsletter had been issued to each household in the parish late in 2015, and two public meetings had been held in November 2015, total attendance was under six residents. Councillor Stringer was of the view that a Facebook page would attract more interest than the hand-delivered newsletters.

- RESOLVED:** (a) That a Facebook page be created;
- (b) That Councillor K Stringer set up the Facebook page;
 - (c) That arrangements for monitoring the page be agreed at a future meeting;
 - (d) That Councillor Stringer add an item to the Facebook page inviting interest in creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the area (or part of the area); and
 - (e) That in the event of there being significant interest in creating a Neighbourhood Plan, a public meeting be held.

52 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

It was reported that in August 2016, Cheshire East Council would be conducting its community governance review in respect of the number of seats on this Parish Council.

53 ANNUAL REPORT – 2015-2016

The Annual Report for 2015-2016 was not yet available but would be submitted to the August meeting.

54 POLICE MATTERS

There were no Police Officers in attendance; however, it was reported that Carol Ball had been appointed as the new PCSO for the Leighton area.

55 SPEED WATCH

55.1 Covert Cameras

The Parish Council was invited to consider purchasing two covert cameras for use in the parish to try to obtain evidence in respect of fly-tipping.

Councillor Les Horne spoke to the item and explained that these could be purchased via the Internet and would cost approximately £300. If the images were sufficiently clear, Cheshire East Council would be able to use them to prosecute offenders.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Les Horne purchase two covert cameras, at a maximum total cost of £300, and that he be reimbursed for the expenditure at the next meeting.

55.2 Speed Watch Activities

Councillor Les Horne reported on speed watch activities. Councillor J Cunningham was now fully trained, and a local resident had expressed interest in becoming part of the speed watch team.

Councillor Horne would now make contact with the new PCSO.

56 REPORTS/SHARED INFORMATION

Members were able to share information which had not been available at the time of publication of the agenda or to report on attendance at meetings of outside bodies.

- Having agreed to re-join ChALC, Councillor P Wright wished to be nominated as the representative to attend the ChALC meetings, and this was agreed.
- Councillor Les Horne reported on a recent Police Cluster meeting and also a 'Night of Action' (13 July 2016) which had been arranged by Cheshire Police.

57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22 August 2016

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 8.30 pm