

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON, CREWE
ON 24 JULY 2017**

PRESENT:	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor M McGlone	Vice-Chairman
	Councillor Linda Horne	Councillor S Kay
	Councillor B Palin	Councillor C Stringer
	Councillor K Stringer	Councillor P Wright
IN ATTENDANCE:	PC Paul Edmonds	
	PCSO Sarah Jones	
	One member of the public	
APOLOGIES:	Councillors R Lee, D Ridings and D Street	

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 B Palin declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application No. 17/3616N (East View) on the basis that the applicant's site was next door to his own house. Councillor M McGlone declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 33 (Dog-Walking Area) on the basis that one of the identified sites for the activity was adjacent to his own house.

No other declarations were made.

18 MINUTES – 26 JUNE 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017 be approved as a correct record. The Minutes were not available for signature at the meeting.

19 CLERK VACANCY

Interim Duties: Carol Jones, former Clerk, had agreed to assist the Parish Council in the short-term, by attending meetings to take the minutes. Other duties associated with the role of Clerk would be carried out by Members, and, in respect of the RFO role, Councillor K Stringer had already been appointed as Interim RFO.

Advertisement for Clerk: The vacancy for a Clerk had been advertised on the Cheshire Association of Local Councils with a closing date of 31 August 2017 for applications.

The Chairman reported that one application had been received. It was intended to collate all applications and interview approximately two weeks after the closing date

20 MEMBER TRAINING

Councillor K Stringer had expressed an interest in Clerk training. This was offered by the National Association of Local Councils, under the National Training Strategy delivered by local Associations (Cheshire Association of Local Councils for this parish). Councillor Stringer considered that the training would enable her to cover future absences of a Clerk, whether temporary or in the event of no Clerk being in post.

RESOLVED: (a) That approval, in principle, be given for Councillor K Stringer to be trained as a Parish Clerk; and

(b) That the Council consider details, including costs, at the next meeting.

21 DEATH OF A FORMER CLERK – CHRISTOPHER MOULTON

Members paid tribute to Christopher Moulton, who had died suddenly in June, at the age of 53 years. He had been Clerk to the Council between 1987 and 1991 and more latterly had provided the internal audit service to the Council.

The Chairman had sent a letter of condolence to his family.

22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, members of the public were able to ask questions or address the Parish Council.

There were no questions.

23 POLICE MATTERS

PC P Edmonds and PCSO S Jones were in attendance for this item. PC Edmonds had issued a report which had been provided by e-mail to Members. Topics covered in the report were as follows and Members were also able to raise issues and ask questions.

- Merlin Public House – anti-social behaviour
- Various anti-social behaviour, some of which related to areas outside the parish.
- Parking issues at Priory Close, Leighton.
- Speeding vehicles on Bradfield Road.
- Complaints about speeding on Moss Lane.
- Beckinsale Drive – anti-social behaviour.
- Community 'Drop-In' run by PCSO Carol Ball.
- Connected Communities - walk-around on 12 July when representatives from CEC and the Police attended. A future walk would be arranged with Guinness Partnership (Wulvern) to tackle issues identified on 12 July.

During discussion, the Chairman reported that there was a problem with the post for the SID on Parkers Road. The post was expected to be re-located by Cheshire East Highways in the near future.

PC Edmonds and PCSO Jones were thanked for their contribution and they withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings.

24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

24.1 Finance Committee

It was reported that the Finance Committee had confirmed Councillor K Stringer as the Interim Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

24.2 Accounts Management

Councillor K Stringer (Interim RFO) reported on the current financial position from 1 April 2017 – 5 July 2017. A Receipts and Payments Statement showing the individual bank reconciliations at 5 May, 5 June and 5 July was submitted.

Councillor Stringer would continue to report the financial position monthly.

Members were informed that the Chairman remained the custodian of the bank statements, cheque books and other financial documents. Councillor Stringer would collect these from the Chairman approximately one week prior to a meeting to enable her to prepare the accounts; these would then be returned to the Chairman.

RESOLVED: (a) That the financial report be received; and

(b) That the balance of £20,575.71 on 5 July 2107 be noted.

24.3 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£10.74	Cardiac Science Holdings – purchase of defibrillator pads – additional payment. (This was partially the VAT element on a previously approved payment.)
£40.99	Les Horne – reimbursement for purchase of flowers for Mrs C M Jones
£7.80	Les Horne – Purchase of postage stamps (12 x 1 st class)

24.4 Grant Request – Feedback

Mablins Lane Community Primary School PTA had sent a letter of thanks for the grant of £300 which had contributed to the purchase of two gazebos costing a total of £350. The school had also provided a receipt for the expenditure, as evidence that the whole grant had been used.

25 PLANNING MATTERS

25.1 Planning Applications

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

17/3616N	East View, Walleys Green The works comprised 60m ² ground-floor extension to provide a garage Utility room, WC and kitchen/dining area.
----------	---

RESOLVED: That the following observation be made in respect of planning application No. 17/3616N.

- The site was served by a septic tank drainage system and there was concern that the development would adversely affect the water run-off.

(Note: Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this planning application, Councillor B Palin withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the item and re-joined the meeting after the vote was taken.)

17/3272N	Sunnyside Farm, 41 Mablins Lane, Crewe Proposed demolition of house and farm and erection of 20 dwellings
----------	--

RESOLVED: That the following comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of planning application No. 17/3272N:

- The site was already subject to a permission for 17 dwellings, which was considered to be sufficient.
- An additional three dwellings would result in over-crowding of the site and would also be detrimental to the street scene.

17/3288N	10 Englefield Close, Leighton Proposed front garden fence – wooden bow-topped
----------	--

17/3449N	136 Bradfield Road, Crewe Proposed front porch extension, loft conversion, orangery and side garage.
----------	---

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to planning applications Nos. 17/3288N and 17/3449N.

25.2 Moathouse Farm, Walleys Green

Councillors Les Horne and M McGlone had made a site visit to Moathouse Farm and had been accompanied on their inspection by the farmer.

Both Councillors considered that they now had sufficient background information to enable them to offer advice to the Parish Council on any future planning applications submitted for this site.

25.3 Planning Update – 25 July 2017 – Holmes Chapel Community Centre

Members were reminded that Councillors C Stringer and P Wright would be attending this event and would report back to the next meeting.

26 SPEED WATCH

The Chairman had recently been out on site the PCSOs on speed watch activities and was due to go out again on 25 July.

The sign on Parkers Road (opposite the Eight Farmers Pub) was currently at TWM Traffic Management Systems for repair.

The sign at Woolstanwood was also currently faulty and required repair.

27 ANNUAL REPORT

It was reported that the Annual Report would be collated and published in September 2017.

28 CASUAL VACANCIES

As there were 10 vacancies for the 22 seats on the Council, the recent casual vacancies had not been reported to Cheshire East Council.

29 VICTORIA DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL CROSS

Councillor Kay updated the Parish Council in respect of the identification of appropriate stonemason contractors which could effect the remedial work required on the Jubilee Memorial Cross.

Councillor Kay had contacted three potential contractors but did not currently have sufficient information for the Parish Council to make a decision.

During his discussions with contractors, he had been advised that it would be essential for the contractor to be a sandstone specialist. Oxleys had been contacted but had declined to quote as the company was not competent to work on sandstone.

Councillor Kay was going to research the possibility of the availability of grants to fund the work required.

Councillor K Stringer undertook to provide contact details of appropriate companies to Councillor Kay.

30 MABLINS LANE COMMUNITY PROJECT

This project had been initiated by James Cunningham who was no longer a councillor.

Councillor K Stringer had carried out some further research to enable progress to be made on the project. She had acquired all the documentation, but had not yet had the opportunity to review it. She would report further at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Mablins Lane Committee be re-constituted comprising Councillors Linda Horne, Richard Lee (subject to his agreement), Clive Stringer, Kathryn Stringer and Diane Ridings.

31 FACEBOOK

Councillor K Stringer reported on this item. The Facebook page was now operational, although only a few people had visited and 'liked' the page. As residents became more aware of its existence as a Parish Council communication tool, it was expected to grow 'organically'.

It was suggested that Bloor Homes could be asked if it would include the Facebook page details on its own flyers.

32 MEMORIAL GREEN – UNAUTHORISED PARKING OF BT OPENREACH VEHICLES

BT Openreach vehicles had parked on Memorial Green on several occasions. The Chairman had asked the drivers to remove their vehicles and they had complied.

During discussion of potential action, including the installation of a sign prohibiting parking, Councillor C Stringer undertook to contact the Area Manager to ask him to ensure that the BT vehicles would cease parking on the Green.

Councillor Stringer was thanked for his offer and it was **AGREED** that no further action be taken at present and the matter be reviewed at the next meeting.

33 DEDICATED DOG-WALKING AREAS

Prior to discussion of this item, the Chairman suspended the meeting to enable Councillor McGlone to address Members, following which, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item, he withdrew from the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened.

The issue of the Parish Council to provide a dedicated dog-walking area had been raised by a resident on behalf of a group of dog-walkers.

Councillor K Stringer had been in contact with the resident to inform her that the item had been placed on the agenda for this meeting and the resident had been invited to attend to outline the group's proposals for the area identified as the most suitable for this purpose; how it would operate; who would be responsible for maintaining the site, including the clearing dog faeces; and any other associated issues. It eventually transpired that the group had not prepared any information and none of its representatives were able to attend the meeting.

In view of this, it was –

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken to create a dedicated dog-walking area.

Councillor McGlone re-joined the meeting at this point in the proceedings.

34 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – SUPPORTED BUS SERVICE REVIEW

Cheshire East Council was proposing changes to subsidised bus services as part of its budget plans. Details of the proposed changes had been provided to Members. The consultation concluded on 26 July 2017.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the Cheshire East Council Supported Bus Service Review.

35 CEC LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY

It was reported that Cheshire East Council (CEC) had now received the Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Development Plan Document, dated 20 June 2017. The Inspector had been appointed to carry out the independent examination under Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and this report

contained his recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations. The following documents had now been published:

- Report on the Examination of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Development Plan Document;
- Appendix 1: Inspector's Interim Views and Clarification;
- Appendix 2: Inspector's Further Interim Views; and
- Schedule of Main Modifications to the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Accompanying Inspector's Report.

These documents were available on the CEC website and in various locations throughout the borough. The examination of the Local Plan Strategy had now ended and in the near future, CEC would consider a report on the adoption of the Local Plan Strategy.

The Chairman reported that his reading of the documents showed that whilst CEC had included a statement that no developments should commence until the physical infrastructure was in place, this had been deleted by the Inspector. Members expressed disappointment, as CEC had been fully supportive of the need for this.

The Chairman had recently met with the Leader of the Council and the Strategic Highways Manager. They advised that Cheshire East Highways would negotiate with developers to ensure that the infrastructure was in place prior to the commencement of any development.

36 REPORTS AND SHARED INFORMATION

Members were able to share information or report on attendance at recent meetings of outside bodies. The following issues were raised:

- Fly-tipping on Moss Lane.
- Faulty street light which had now been reported to CEC.
- Hedge-cutting. It was noted that this was not an appropriate time of year for hedges to be trimmed. This would be followed-up in due course.

37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21 August 2017

.....Chairman