

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON, CREWE
ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT:	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor Linda Horne	Councillor S Kay
	Councillor R Lee	Councillor D Ridings
	Councillor D Street	Councillor C Stringer
	Councillor K Stringer	Councillor J Weir
	Councillor P Wright	
APOLOGIES:	Councillors M McGlone and B Palin	
ABSENT:	Councillor M Stanley	

56 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.

No declarations were made at this point in the proceedings.

57 MINUTES – 21 AUGUST 2017

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2017 be approved as a correct record.

58 UP-DATE ON EMPLOYMENT OF NEW CLERK

The closing date for applications for the appointment of a Parish Clerk was 31 August 2017. There had been only one application to date and this had been considered by the Staffing Committee at a recent meeting. The Committee had decided not to interview the applicant and not to re-advertise the post. The applicant would be informed of this decision.

The Committee had agreed that Councillor K Stringer be appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council, with immediate effect. It was noted that this would be an unpaid post, but Councillor Stringer would be reimbursed for appropriate expenses associated with the post (e.g. stationery, ink cartridges).

Council Stringer had previously indicated that she wished to undergo Clerk's training as offered by NALC, through the local Cheshire Association of Local Councils and she would make her own arrangements for the training, which would be funded by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Parish Council ratify the Staffing Committee's decision to appoint Councillor K Stringer as Clerk to the Parish Council, with immediate effect;

(b) That Councillor K Stringer continue in her role as Responsible Financial Officer (S.151 of the Local Government Act 1972); and

(c) That it be noted that in the event of Councillor K Stringer wishing to become an employee of the Parish Council, as its Clerk, she would need to resign as a parish councillor and continue as an unpaid Clerk for a period of 12 months. (Sections 112(5) and 116 of the Local Government Act 1972).

59 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

60 FINANCIAL MATTERS

60.1 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payment be approved:

£17.47 Mrs C Jones – reimbursement for purchase of 4-hole punch

In the absence of a receipt, a request for payment of £7.99 to Councillor M McGlone (reimbursement for purchase of strimmer cord) was deferred until the next meeting.

60.2 Report of the Responsible Financial Officer

Councillor K Stringer tabled an up-dated Financial Statement, including a bank reconciliation, which reflected payments made since the last meeting.

Arising out of discussion, the issue of payment to Shires Pay Services and HMRC was raised.

Although Councillor K Stringer had been appointed as a non-remunerated Clerk, the Parish Council was registered as an employer with HM Revenue & Customs and might be required to submit a 'nil return' together with other evidence that there were currently no paid employees. Shires Pay Services could advise on this matter.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statement be received and noted.

61 PLANNING MATTERS

61.1 Planning Applications

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

17/4011N Bentley Motors, Pyms Lane, Crewe, CW1 3PL
Hybrid Planning Application for

- Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for means of access and layout for Production and Manufacturing Facility 2);
- For the erection of two production and manufacturing facilities;
- Two covered links connecting one of the production and manufacturing facilities with Bentley's existing manufacturing facility;
- An engine test bed facility together with associated car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure.
- Full planning application for the erection of a gatehouse, security fencing, pedestrian turnstile and associated turning facilities to the west of the existing Bentley Motors site on Pyms Lane;
- The erection of a gatehouse, security fence, pedestrian turnstile, bin store, reconfiguration of visitor parking and associated turning facilities to the east of the existing Bentley Motors site on Pyms Lane;
- The erection of a gatehouse, security fence, cycle store, pedestrian turnstile and associated turning facilities together with a further gate on Sunnybank Road.

(Note: During discussion of planning application 17/4011N, Councillor Kay declared a personal interest on the basis that he lived near to the application site. He did not consider, however, that his interest was sufficient to prevent him from making an unbiased assessment of the application.)

RESOLVED: That the following observations be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of planning application No. 17/4011N –

Members accepted the importance of this application to the area, but were very concerned about the significant potential disruption as a result of some of the detailed proposals. If the Borough Council was minded approving the application, the Parish Council requested that the application be conditioned to add the following:

- 1) No roads to be closed until the physical infrastructure is in place. This will help to reduce the disruption for residents and other members of the public.
- 2) Implement junction improvements at Sunnybank Road with West Street by installing either traffic lights or a roundabout, to reduce disruption for residents and other members of the public.

17/4116N 1 Leighton Grange Cottage, Middlewich Road, Minshull Vernon, CW1 4QQ
Addition of new porch and extension on back of property.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on planning application No. 17/4116N.

61.2 Planning Update – Event hosted by CEC/ChALC – 25 July 2017

The notes of the Planning Update meeting were submitted for information. It was recalled that although Councillor C Stringer had expected to represent the Parish Council at this event, he had been called into work at short notice and had been unable to attend.

62 POLICE MATTERS

There were no PCSOs in attendance. The Chairman reported that there were continuing anti-social behaviour incidents, with the main problem being at the Merlin site.

63 SPEED-WATCH

The Chairman reported that he had recently been out on site with traffic Police.

It was reported that PC Paul Edmonds had now been promoted to Sergeant and was on temporary secondment to Crewe.

New batteries were required for some of the speed units. Councillor Les Horne would purchase these and be reimbursed for the cost at the next meeting.

64 ANNUAL REPORT – 2016/2017

A first draft of the Annual Report was submitted and amendments/other information were agreed.

- Article on Facebook (to be provided by Councillor K Stringer)
- Telephone numbers for parish councillors and amendments to be made to some already listed.
- The 'Making our Community Safe' article, prepared by Councillor Ridings, had been included. Councillor Ridings spoke to this item, which had also been included as a separate agenda item.
- Councillor K Stringer's name to be recorded as 'Kathryn'.
- The list of notice-boards required correction to include the notice-board on Minshull New Road and deletion of the board at Walleys Green.
- Add information about the defibrillator at the Nursery on Parkers Road.
- Article on the ex-BT telephone kiosk.
- Reference to the benches/seats as part of the 'look forward' to 2017-2018.

65 CASUAL VACANCIES

There were no new casual vacancies to report, and for this reason, Members agreed that this item should cease to be a standing agenda item.

Arising out of discussion, reference was made to the number of seats on the Parish Council. The Parish Council had raised this with Democratic Services at Cheshire East Council with a view to the 22 seats being reduced. The Constitution Committee had considered the matter (in 2016) and it was understood, had, in turn, referred this to a sub-committee.

This matter would be followed up and the Parish Council informed of the outcome.

66 VICTORIA DIAMOND JUBILEE MEMORIAL CROSS

Councillor Kay reported that he had now received an estimate for the work to be carried out on the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Memorial Cross. The estimate had been submitted by Mr Mark Woolley of All Stonemasonry Ltd. who had advised that in view of the fragility of the memorial, the work would need to be carried out in situ.

The Financial Regulations stated under Regulation 11 (a) (ii) that *contracts for specialist services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants, are exempt from the requirement to seek three quotations.* The Parish Council was advised that the service offered would qualify as an exemption.

Members discussed options for the work, especially as it was likely to cost upwards of £16,000 (plus VAT).

RESOLVED: (a) That Councillor Kay contact All Stonemasonry Ltd seeking a priced quotation for the work;

(b) That Councillors Les Horne, S Kay, R Lee and J Weir arrange to meet Mr Woolley on site on a mutually convenient date; and

(c) That the Parish Council be up-dated at the October meeting.

67 MABLINS LANE COMMUNITY PROJECT and MERLIN PUBLIC HOUSE

Although detailed separately on the agenda, these two items were discussed together.

At the previous meeting, Members had discussed potential uses for the Merlin Public House site. The Chairman now reported on discussions with Paul Carter from the CEC Assets Team at which time the possibility of acquiring the Merlin site had been raised. The lease was for 25 years only, but in certain exceptional circumstances this could be increased to 50 years.

The Chairman had sought pre-planning advice from CEC Planning to explore the possibility of planning permission being granted on the basis that the Parish Council would be enhancing the site.

No specific decisions were taken at this time, but on balance, Members agreed that the Mablins Lane Community Project was the preferred option at present.

68 EX-BT TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Parish Council was informed of progress on refurbishing the telephone kiosk which was now ready for painting.

Councillor C Stringer undertook to make application for £75 worth of paint, free of charge, and also to provide a 'Defibrillator' sign for the kiosk.

Councillor Stringer would report progress at the next meeting.

69 MEETING WITH CREWE TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor Street reported on attendance at the meeting hosted by Crewe Town Council. The Town Council had invited several neighbouring parish councils to attend the meeting with a view to exploring matters of mutual interest.

Councillor Street reported that the Town Council had suggested 'website sharing' which would mean that neighbouring parish councils would add a Crewe Town Council link onto their websites, and in turn, Crewe Town Council would add parish council links on its website.

RESOLVED: That no action be taken at this time.

70 'MAKING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE' INITIATIVE

Councillor Ridings spoke to this item and reported that she was in regular contact with Helen Musker who was the Crewe & Nantwich Co-ordinator of the 'Safer Cheshire East Anti-Social Behaviour Team' at Cheshire East Council. The Team worked closely with the Police to tackle anti-social behaviour reports. The Team also worked in partnership with a range of other agencies.

71 SHARED INFORMATION

Members were able to share information. Issues raised included the following:

- Items for the October meeting:
 - Parish Council logo.
 - Benches/seats.
 - Street naming. To consider preparing a list of themes/names which could be retained and then issued to Cheshire East Council when consulted on street naming on new developments.
- Councillor C Stringer would arrange to attend a ChALC training session.
- Parish Field: The Chairman reported on an expression of interest from a member of the public who wished to rent the parish field for the exercising of dogs, as part of her business. She had subsequently withdrawn her request as the on-site facilities were not appropriate for her use.

72 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 OCTOBER 2017

Approved

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.15 pm and concluded at 9.25 pm