

# Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council

## Annual Report 2015-2016



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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I start off by thanking my fellow parish councillors for once again, having re-elected me as Chairman in May 2015 (and again in May 2016).

I also take this opportunity to thank Mike McGlone, who has been of great support to me during the year, not only in his capacity as Vice-chairman, but also in matters related to the general running of the Council and particularly for his management of the website which he undertakes at no charge.

Thanks also need to go to all the Parish Councillors whose hard work during the year enabled the Bradfield Green War Memorial Re-dedication event to take place in June 2016 (see the end of this report).

It would be remiss of me not to mention former Councillor Terry Beard who has been a parish councillor for over 30 years. He resigned in July this year and his contribution to the work of the Parish Council will be greatly missed.

As reported last year, we are still short of parish councillors. There are 14 but the full complement is 22.

If you are interested in serving 'grass roots' local government, please contact the Clerk for more information. If you are unsure, why not attend a Parish Council meeting to observe the proceedings, before making a decision.

## COMMUNICATIONS

This report is but one means of communicating with residents. We communicate via notice-boards, the website, and, of course, at Parish Council meetings.

We encourage residents to attend our meetings, either to observe for the whole of the meeting, or to raise a question, or address the Parish Council during the Public Question Time slot.

### Website

The website contains agendas, financial and other reports, newsletters, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme etc.

As noted in the Chairman's report above, Councillor McGlone provides the hosting and support and also reviews the content and design regularly to ensure that it meets the needs of residents and is easy to access and navigate.

## FINANCE

In December 2015, the Parish Council agreed its budget for 2016-2017. The accounts for the previous financial year (2015-2016) are currently being audited. Residents are entitled to inspect the accounts and this can be arranged by contacting the Clerk.

The key areas of expenditure for the financial year 2016-2017 are given below. Members of the public have the opportunity to attend all meetings, but are especially welcome at the budget meetings which are held in November and December. In November, initial consideration is given to draft proposals and in December, the budget is finalised to enable a precept to be requested from the Borough Council.

### What is a precept?

A local council (ie a town or parish council) receives the majority of its funding from an annual charge called the precept. This is requested from the Borough Council and then re-charged to local electors through their Council Tax bill.

Precepts in recent years are as follows:

2014-2015	£29,700
2015-2016	£27,400
2016-2017	£18,000

The Council tends to adopt a combination of incremental and zero-based budgeting, by building on previous expenditure, but also by adding new projects which are considered important for the whole community.

The following are the key areas of spend for 2016-2017:

Item	£
Clerk's gross salary	5,330
Admin (eg payroll, Clerk's expenses)	600
Insurance/Audit	1,540
Expenses (Members)	200
Chairman's Allowance	250
Printing/distribution of newsletter/ annual report	1,200
Training fees (Members and Clerk)	100
Membership fee: Cheshire Association of Local Councils	1,500
Maintenance (grounds maintenance and memorials)	1,000
Grants	2,000
Miscellaneous	130
Neighbourhood Plan	2,000
War Memorial Re-dedication Event	3,500
Website support	55
Speed Watch scheme (incidentals including repairs)	1,500
Unallocated reserves	3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,905</b>

## GRANTS

The Council operates a grants scheme. Generally, grants can be made to help the Parish Council area's voluntary and community groups. As you can see under 'Finance' above, a total of £2,000 has been allocated for the forward year.

Application forms can be requested from the Clerk, or downloaded from the Parish Council's website. The form gives guidance on how grants are allocated.

## THESE ARE YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Name	Parish	Phone No.
James Cunningham	Leighton Urban	07920 781 175
Dawn Kay	Woolstanwood	01270 848732
Stuart Kay	Woolstanwood	01270 848732
Richard Lee	Leighton Urban	07951 435 123
Les Horne	Minshull Vernon	01270 522386
Linda Horne	Minshull Vernon	01270 522386
Mike McGlone	Minshull Vernon	01270 522762
Brian Palin	Minshull Vernon	01270 522209
Diane Ridings	Leighton Urban	07974 180 864
Michael Stanley	Woolstanwood	07984 351 894
David Street	Leighton Urban	07753 230 902
Clive Stringer	Leighton Urban	07403 999 334
Kath Stringer	Leighton Urban	07411 764 666
Paul Wright	Leighton Urban	07807 006 572

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We held two public meetings in November 2015 to try to generate interest in the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. The meetings were arranged after a newsletter had been distributed to each household in the parish. Unfortunately, there were only four residents in attendance and as this needs a fairly significant proportion of the community to support it, we were unable to proceed.

Steps are now being taken to create a Facebook page and we are asking the public if they wish to reconsider having a Neighbourhood Plan. As a reminder, a brief explanation of Neighbourhood Plans is given below.

### What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') is drawn up by the community (in this case led by the Parish Council) and

sets out a shared vision to shape the future growth and development of the local area. It is part of the statutory development plan (Local Plan) and must be used by Cheshire East Council when determining planning applications.

The Plan cannot be used to stop development, but it can be used to allow people a say in where they would prefer to see development.

The preparation of a Plan is a time-consuming and lengthy project, taking approximately two years.

The administrative area of Minshull Vernon & District comprises four separate parishes (Leighton Urban, Leighton Rural, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood) all of which have different needs and aspirations; however, it is possible to create a Neighbourhood Plan for just a part of the area and this might be considered.

### Why produce a Neighbourhood Plan?

This can give local people the power to shape the development and growth of the area. There are many potential benefits in terms of the outcome, and also the process itself, which includes the following:

- Gives local people greater 'ownership' of the planning policies in their area:
- Allows a community to set out where development should be placed and what it should look like, taking account of the characteristics of the neighbourhood, including style and density of development.
- Brings the community together to share ideas and build consensus about the needs and priorities for the area.
- Raises awareness and understanding of planning concepts and regulations.
- Enhances communication between residents and the Parish Council.
- Provides a detailed evidence-base about the community.

## MEETINGS

We welcome members of the public to our meetings and particularly to the Annual Parish Meeting which is for local residents (who are registered electors) to discuss parish affairs. Resolutions may be passed at this meeting and the Parish Council is obliged to consider these at its next meeting but not, necessarily, to accept the proposals.

The Parish Council meetings for the year May 2016 to May 2017 are as follows and are generally held on the third Monday in the month at St Peter's Community Hall commencing at 7.15 pm:

23 May 2016	19 December (third Monday)
27 June	23 January 2017
25 July	27 February
22 August	27 March
26 September	24 April
24 October	22 May (Annual PARISH Meeting
28 November	Followed by Annual COUNCIL)

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has several notice-boards (1) outside the Coach and Horses; (2) Parkers Road; (3) Minshull New Road; and (4) Coppenhall Lane, Woolstanwood.

Agendas and other information are placed on the website which is [www.minshullvernonparish.org.uk](http://www.minshullvernonparish.org.uk).

The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the notice-board at least three clear days before the meeting. If you do not have access to the Internet and would like a copy of any information, please contact the Clerk.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Parish Council, along with other parish councils in the borough, works in partnership with not only Cheshire East Council but also CEC Local Highways Group, the local Police through the Police Cluster meetings and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC).

Each year, the Council appoints representatives to attend the Police Cluster and ChALC meetings and also appoints Members, as appropriate, to any other outside bodies.

The Police Cluster meetings allow Parish Councils to present their various concerns to the Police and for the Police to report on their own priorities.

ChALC is an independent body serving the needs of Parish and Town Councils (*Local Councils*) and representing their interests across Cheshire, providing advice, representation, networking opportunities and support to member councils.

## PLANNING

One of the main consultative roles of parish councils, and of great importance, is to comment on local planning applications which may have a positive or detrimental impact on the community.

The broad aim of the Parish Council, in terms of planning is to keep the area a pleasant place to live, avoiding inappropriate development.

## POLICE

Although crime is relatively low in the parish, the local PCSO offers general advice to people to be vigilant and take whatever steps are necessary to prevent crime. Simple things like checking the door is locked, not leaving windows open, especially during the summer, and ensuring that garden sheds are locked, all help to stop the opportunist thief.

If you see something out of place, you can telephone 101 for non-emergencies or in the case of a genuine emergency, 999.

Local Officers can be contacted by e-mail at: [crewe.npu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:crewe.npu@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) OR  
Crewe Police Station voicemail: 0845 458 6370

## BRADFIELD GREEN WAR MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATION

The final report relates to the War Memorial Re-dedication service which has taken three years from inception to conclusion. In late 2012, the Parish Council was made aware that the names of 22 air crew who lost their lives in the parish during WWII had not been included on the Bradfield Green War Memorial.

They lost their lives when three planes crashed in the parish (two Wellington Bombers and one light aircraft). These included service-men from Britain (13), Poland, Australia and New Zealand. Following research by Steve Bratt, a local historian, this omission was rectified and their names were inscribed on two new green slate plaques commissioned by the Parish Council with some financial support from Cheshire East Council.

The event was held on Saturday, 4 June 2016 when there was a good turnout by members of the public. A number of VIPs also attended, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cheshire, the Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East, a Royal British Legion representative and dignitaries representing the Australian High Commission and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

The service was led by the Reverend Wing Commander Alastair Bissell, and Helena Jarecka read out the Roll of Honour. We also thank the Parade Marshall; and the Funky Choir and the Co-operative Band whose musical accompaniment provided support for the occasion.

Many of the relatives of the deceased were also able to attend and observe the fitting memorial to their late relatives.

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*Les Horne*

Chairman