

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULLVERNON  
ON 18 APRIL 2011**

**PRESENT:**

Mr D C Forrest	Chair
Mr W T Beard	Mr B Palin
Mrs P K Butterill	Mr R Hollinshead
Mr L Horne	Mrs L Horne
Mr M McGlone	Mr D Preece
Mr J Whittingham	Mr M Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr B Evans Candidate for Borough Council elections

**APOLOGIES:** Messrs W Barnes and K Halford

### **374 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and, if necessary, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

Mr L Horne had a pre-existing personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (9/3251N - Demolition of Existing Garage and Petrol Station and Erection of 11 dwellings - former Grenson's garage site) on the basis that he lived in close proximity to the development site and was, therefore, more affected than other Council Tax payers in the parish. He stated that he wished to be permitted to speak on the application.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that under Paragraph 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct, Councillors with a personal and prejudicial interest in any item were able to make representations, answer questions or give evidence in respect of that item, but only if this was a right which was extended to members of the public. The Parish Council did not permit members of the public to make comment on planning applications.

There was a full discussion about declarations of interest, following which Mr Horne and Mr Hollinshead requested that their objections to the provisions of the Code of Conduct be recorded.

### **375 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2011 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Mr M Wilson's name in the list of those present.

It was noted that Mr Wilson's name had also been omitted from the minutes of the meeting held in December 2010.

## **376 MATTERS ARISING**

### **376.1 Insurance Claim**

Following the theft of the battery from the trailer-mounted vehicle display unit, the matter had been reported to the Parish Council's insurers.

Allianz contacted the Clerk to state that the equipment had not been included on the schedule of insurance. A copy of the letter to the insurance company (22 June 2010) had been provided as evidence, and the current situation was that Allianz had approved acceptance of the quotation of £517, but there was an excess of £125.00. The equipment had not been added onto the Parish Council's insurance schedule, but this had now been rectified and as a result an additional premium of £177.62 was required. (see Minute No. 384 below.)

## **377 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to ask questions.

## **378 BLOOR HOMES – DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH**

Mr Will Scawn, who had been expected to be in attendance at the meeting had sent apologies, but would attend the next meeting.

## **379 POLICE MATTERS**

There were no police officers in attendance.

## **380 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

- **11/0751N – 14.8M Telecommunications Tower – Land at Coppenhall Lane**

The deadline for comments was noon on 12 April 2011.

- **11/0109N – Excavation of pond to provide natural habitat for bird and pond life. Land south of Pear Tree Cottage, 7 Wood Farm, Middlewich Road, Woolstanwood.**

The deadline for comments was noon on 13 April 2011.

**No objections raised.**

- **9/3251N - Demolition of Existing Garage and Petrol Station and Erection of 11 dwellings (former Grenson's garage site)**

(Note: having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, Mr L Horne withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion and voting.)

An extract from Cheshire East Council's Strategic Planning Board meeting held on 30 March 2011 (Minute No. 133) was provided, together with a copy of the report submitted to the Board.

It was noted that the application had been approved, but had been conditioned to take account of concerns expressed such as drainage and contaminated land survey, in view of the previous use of the site.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That a letter be sent to the Heading of Planning and Housing expressing the following views on application No. 9/3251N which included comments made on an earlier application by the same applicant (PO8/1311) –

- drainage issue – land in the area was clay
- bat survey required
- infra-structure inadequate for the development notwithstanding the fact that the number of dwellings had reduced from 16 to 11
- if the Planning Authority was minded to approve the application, the footway at the front of the development should include a raised kerb in the Northern direction for a bus stop.

(b) That the Head of Planning and Housing be informed that the Parish Council –

- did not consider that it “had a voice” in respect of its comments on planning applications;
- considered that the consultation period on application No. 11/0751N had been inadequate and an explanation of the consultation procedure be requested.

### **381 ELECTIONS – 5 MAY 2011**

A copy of the Statement of Persons Nominated was tabled at the meeting. It was noted that there were 11 valid nominations and there were 11 seats remaining vacant.

### **382 PROJECTS/STANDING ITEMS**

#### **382.1 Speed Watch Scheme**

Mr Horne reported on recent activities on the Speed Watch Scheme.

#### **382.2 Drainage**

At the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 December 2010, the issue of drainage had been discussed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency about this matter. As background information, the Clerk made enquiries of Cheshire East Highways about the extent of the problem in the parish. Cheshire East Highways had commented that the scheme completed two years ago was designed to relieve the pressure on the existing carrier drain which runs behind the properties from Moss Lane to Flowers Lane and eventually outfalls across the fields on Eardswick Lane. Since that scheme was completed, no flooding had been reported to Highways.

In the short term there was no intention to upgrade/replace any existing highway drainage systems in Minshull Vernon parish.

The Parish Council was invited to consider if it wished to undertake any further investigative work.

Following a full discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

That Mr Jinks be invited to a site meeting with the Chairman to discuss any drainage issues in the vicinity of Mr Jinks' dwelling.

### **383 ROAD SAFETY**

At the previous meeting, parish councillor Mr L Horne reported that the two Road Safety Officer posts at Cheshire East Council were to be removed from the establishment. He had suggested that the Parish Council may wish to set up a Working Group/Sub-Committee to address road safety issues.

It was now reported that systems were to be put in place later in the year when the highways service was contracted out. No further action was required at this time.

### **384 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **384.1 End-of-Year Accounts (2010-2011)**

**RESOLVED:** That the balance sheet for the year 2010-2011 representing the financial position of the Parish Council at 31 March 2011 be approved.

It was noted that the Annual Return would be submitted to the May meeting for approval.

#### **384.2 Authorisation of Payments**

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

£33.00	Mr L Horne – purchase of high visibility jackets for the Speed Watch Scheme
£13.58	Mr L Horne – purchase of batteries for speed gun
£177.62	AON Ltd. – this represented additional premium for the addition of the trailer-mounted vehicle display equipment.

#### **384.3 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of part of the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that the business to be transacted related to the Clerk's personal financial details.

#### **384.4 HMRC – Registration for PAYE**

The Parish Council was informed of the new regulations concerning payment of salaries to Parish Clerks.

- If a Clerk's salary was their only form of income (**and they were not claiming any expenses related to this employment**) with earnings less than £102.00 per week there was no need for the Parish Council to register for PAYE

- If the Clerk was in receipt of state or occupational pensions in addition to the Parish Council salary, the Parish Council **must** register for PAYE
- If the Clerk had a second job and currently had an arrangement for tax amendment on primary salary, the Parish Council **must** register for PAYE

The CVS had offered a payroll service which cost £8 per employee per month and the Parish Council was invited to consider this offer.

**RESOLVED:** That the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) be asked to undertake the payroll service on behalf of the Parish Council at a monthly rate of £8 per employee.

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

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

### **385 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Members were invited to share information or request the inclusion of items on the next agenda.

- War Memorial: Work on the refurbishment of the war memorial was due to start in the near future.
- Parish Field

Mr Les Horne had requested the inclusion of this item: A local resident had expressed interest in renting the parish field for the purposes of grazing for her horse.

The Parish Council was invited to consider the request and was advised to take the following steps before reaching its decision –

- Establish a method of determining the commercial value of renting the land. This could be carried out by, for example, identifying a similar size of land which had been put to similar use to establish a “benchmark” for the appropriate rent.
- Having established the commercial value, the Parish Council would then need to advertise the land inviting application from anyone interested in renting for grazing of horses.

Notwithstanding the above, it was **RESOLVED** –

(a) That the parish field be rented to Mrs Carolyn Kaye for the purposes of grazing her horse, on the following terms and conditions:

- The field to be rented from 1 May 2011 to 1 October 2011, inclusive.
- The fee for hire of the field is £20 per calendar month, the total rental being £100, with the first month's fee being paid in advance of the 1 May.
- Payment shall be by cheque, payable to “Minshull Vernon and District Parish Council” and sent to the Clerk.
- Fencing around the field is to be maintained at Mrs Kaye's own expense.

- Mrs Kay had indicated that she would be erecting an electric fence; in these circumstances, it should be installed parallel to the existing fencing and at a distance of 2 metres from the closest dwelling.
  - Mrs Kaye to be responsible for security of the field.
  - Horse manure to be cleared weekly.
  - No buildings to be erected.
  - Mrs Kaye to be liable for any claim made in respect of the field which can be attributed to her negligence or recklessness.
  - At the end of the hire period, the field must be returned to the Parish Council in the same condition as at the start of the let.
- (b) That the Clerk write to Mr Micklewright to inform him that no further grass-cutting of the field was required during the Summer months.

**386 LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP (LAP)**

The Parish Council was updated on LAP activities.

**387 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman reported on correspondence he had received.

- Localism Press Release
- Nantwich Riverside Loop

**388 NEXT MEETING**

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting - 16 May 2011.

**389 CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr J Whittingham was not seeking re-election at the forthcoming elections on 5 May 2011. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman paid tribute to his valuable contribution to the work of the parish and the Parish Council over the previous 40 years. Members echoed the comments made and expressed their good wishes to Mr Whittingham.

.....Chairman