

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON ON 26 MARCH 2012**

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Mr D C Forrest	Chairman
Mr W T Beard	Vice-Chairman
Mr I Chenery	Mr Les Horne
Mrs L Horne	Mr B Palin

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor M J Weatherill [Cheshire East Council]
PCSO V McKenna
Paul Wright Candidate for co-option

APOLOGIES: Messrs D N Bebbington, K Halford and M Wilson

ABSENT: Messrs B Evans and M McGlone

553 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 the item.

No declarations were made.

554 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2012 be approved as a correct record subject to the following:

Deletion of "Cabinet Member" following Councillor M J Weatherill's name in the list of those in attendance.

555 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

556 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 MINUTES)

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to ask questions. There were no questions from members of the public.

557 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO McKenna reported on recent criminal activity in the parish:

- Nine shoplifting offences – one of the offenders had received a custodial sentence.
- Seven thefts including "drive-offs" from petrol stations
- Nine criminal damage
- Six burglaries
- Four thefts from motor vehicles
- Four environmental anti-social behaviour incidents (ASB)
- Nine Nuisance ASB incidents
- Sixteen personal ASB incidents
- Two road traffic collisions

[Note: owing to work commitments, PCSO McKenna withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings.]

558 DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012 – JUNE 2012

558.1 Family Day – Saturday, 2 June 2012

The Parish Council noted progress in respect of arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee.

- Parish Councillor Linda Horne had designed a poster advertising the event and this was displayed at the meeting.
- Members had visited stores and local businesses asking for donations to St Luke's Hospice and general sponsorship for the event. Various "High Street stores", including Halfords and Marks & Spencer had provided cash or gift vouchers.
- Parish Councillor I Chenery, who was the landlord of The Farmhouse, offered a meal for two as one of the prizes.
- Craft stall-holders would make a donation out of their takings on the day. One of the craft groups was donating all its proceeds to St Luke's Hospice.
- Additional volunteers were needed to assist on the day. Councillors Beard and Palin volunteered. Councillor Palin undertook to act as escort to the Bickerton Twins who were the guests of honour.

There was a proposal for the provision of helium balloons. A Member commented that these were environmentally-unfriendly and the Parish Council should avoid providing them. The matter was put to a vote and it was **RESOLVED**: That 500 helium-filled balloons be provided at the event.

The following pre-event payments were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£88.02	Alive Network – caricature drawing
£71.60	Payable to L Horne in respect of Delcom Systems Ltd. for the purchase of "Walkie-talkies"
£550.00	D Lockett – bouncy castles, sumo-wrestling ring and disco
£125.00	I Davies – Punch and Judy Show
£160.00	L Crowton – provision of "Creepy Crawly" presentation (4.30 pm – 7.00 pm)

558.2 Footpath around War Memorial (App No. 12/0718N)

It was reported that that the Parish Council's Planning Application 12/0718N (Footpath around the war memorial) had been deemed to be invalid by Cheshire East Council for the following reasons:

- 1) There was no fee accompanying the application. This had now been rectified and a cheque had been issued. Authorisation had been granted at the February meeting.
- 2) There was no evidence of ownership. The Parish Council was required "to take reasonable steps to provide evidence of ownership". The Clerk was proposing to visit the County Archivist in Chester as soon as practicable to inspect the various historical documents which belonged to the Parish Council. In the absence of such documents, a Section D notice would be completed by the Clerk and provided to the Borough Council stating that "reasonable steps have been taken to prove ownership, but no such documentation can be found". In these circumstances, the Borough Council would accept ownership.
- 3) No location plan provided. The Clerk had asked Ben MacDonald to provide a location plan together with a compass rose showing North. The location plan was awaited.

558.3 Plaque Inscription

The Parish Council was invited to agree a form of wording for inscribing on the plaque.

Councillor R Hollinshead, who had been involved in this project, reported that he was making arrangements for the plaque to be made in stainless steel plate to be bolted onto one of the pillars. Members were of the view that stainless steel was inappropriate for a number of reasons, one of which was the likelihood of it being stolen. It was considered that slate or similar would be a better alternative.

RESOLVED: (a) That the plaque for the footpath around the war memorial be made in slate or other similar material;

(b) That Parish Councillors submit suggestions for a form of wording to be inscribed on the plaque to be considered at a future Parish Council meeting; and

(c) That the location of the plaque on or around the footpath be discussed at a future meeting.

558.4 Other Matters

Collection for St Luke's Hospice:

At the previous meeting, Members referred to a collection to be organised with the proceeds being donated to St Luke's Hospice. The Clerk had made enquiries of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils which had advised that Members could collect on the day, or in advance, but the funds must not be processed through the Parish Council's accounts. There was no statutory power to make such a donation.

Guests of Honour:

Messrs Bickerton and Bickerton had contacted Councillor Palin to confirm that they would be available for the event.

559 PLANNING MATTERS

12/0547N – Spring Farm Business Centre, Moss Lane, Minshull Vernon 88 panel solar PV array on agricultural building roof

The Parish Council was invited to comment on this application.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised on the application.

560 FINANCIAL MATTERS

560.1 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£127.72 Mrs C M Jones – expenses in respect of the following:

- Travel: attendance at Parish Council meetings Jan, Feb and March (Audlem-Minshull Vernon return – 34 miles) tax neutral rate of 45P per mile
- Travel to Sandbach to arrange for Mr J Whittingham to sign the Hon. Freeman certificate (Audlem-Sandbach return – 32 miles)
- 50% contribution to cost of Broadband
- Purchase of ink cartridges, paper and cost of postage

£19.20 Mr M McGlone – expenses association with Trailer-Mounted Vehicle Speed Display unit.

560.2 Reduction in Cost (Whitehill Direct)

At the previous meeting, payment of £875.00 was authorised in respect of the cost of headers on the notice-boards, payable to Whitehill Direct. The company had made contact and returned the cheque stating that the invoice should have been in the amount of £840.00 only. The Parish Council was asked to issue a new cheque for the reduced amount.

RESOLVED: That a replacement cheque be issued to Whitehill Direct Ltd. in the sum of £840.00 as a replacement for the previously issued cheque for £875.00.

561 SPEED WATCH SCHEME (Incorporating activities associated with the trailer-mounted vehicle display unit)

Councillor Horne reported on recent activities associated with the Speed Watch Scheme. He also reported on the establishment of a new Police unit at Police Headquarters (Winsford); six motor-cyclists would be targeting red routes only (one of which was the A530 – Middlewich Road) and there had been some limited success to date.

There were some technical problems with the trailer-mounted unit which had been returned to TWM Traffic Control Systems. The company had repaired it at no cost.

Poles in respect of the new scheme outside the two primary schools had now been installed, although the one on Minshull New Road was in the wrong location and Cheshire East Highways was to move it to the correct location.

562 SPECIAL EVENT TO CONFER HONORARY FREEMAN STATUS ON FORMER PARISH COUNCILLORS CHARLESWORTH AND WHITTINGHAM

It was reported that Mr J Major (Grants Butchers) had been asked to provide a buffet for the event, to be held on 30 April.

Parish Councillors at the meeting were asked to indicate if they were proposing to bring a guest to the event.

A draft agenda for the event was also attached.

563 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor M J Weatherill reported on the following matters:

- Cabinet Member Councillor Michael Jones had been appointed as Leader of the Conservative Group at Cheshire East Council. He had also been appointed Leader-Designate of the Council to replace Wesley Fitzgerald and this was expected to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting in May.

It was **AGREED** that a letter of congratulations be sent on behalf of the Parish Council to Councillor Michael Jones.

- A serious road traffic collision had occurred on the A530 in the vicinity of the Rising Sun. As a result of this, Borough Councillors Margaret Simon and Jacquie Weatherill were due to meet with Highways Engineers to discuss the possibility of hard engineering measures which could be introduced at this location (eg Toucan Crossing, traffic-lights or roundabout).

564 CREWE AND NANTWICH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

The Highways Group of the Nantwich LAP was due to meet to discuss proposed schemes and priorities. There were no other matters to report.

(Note: Paul Wright, candidate for co-option onto the Parish Council, arrived at this point in the proceedings.)

565 CO-OPTION

Paul Wright, a local elector and a volunteer with the Speed Watch scheme, was in attendance and had registered his interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Mr Wright briefly explained his reasons for wishing to become a parish councillor.

RESOLVED: That Paul Wright be co-opted onto the Parish Council, with immediate effect, representing Leighton Urban.

(Note: Mr Wright signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, following which he participated fully in the meeting.)

566 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received.

- Cheshire Association of Local Councils Newsletter (accessible through the ChALC website)
- **Diamond Jubilee 2012 – Borough Mayor’s Service of Thanksgiving**
Parish Councillors were invited to contact the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, individually, if they wished to be nominated for attendance at the Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 22 April at St Michael & All Angels Church, Macclesfield.

567 SHARED INFORMATION

Parish Councillors were invited to share information and/or request items for inclusion on the next agenda.

- It was **AGREED** that at a meeting later in the year, the Parish Council discuss the location of a notice-board at Woolstanwood.
- Councillor Les Horne would be submitting travel claims to the Parish Council in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils’ mileage rates, in respect of travel associated with Speed Watch and the re-location of the unit around the Parish.
- The Chairman undertook to arrange a litter-pick in the Moss Lane area.
- The Chairman would be involved in the painting of the Cheshire railings at the weekend, around Minshull Nurseries, at which time, the owner of the Nurseries would be asked to remove all advertising signage. An invoice for the paint would be submitted to the next meeting.
- The Chairman reported that for personal reasons, he had resigned from the ChALC Executive and was also proposing to resign from the ChALC Area Meeting.

568 DATES OF APRIL MEETINGS

22 April – Ordinary meeting
30 April – Special Meeting

569 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that the matters to be discussed were of a confidential nature and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

570 REVIEW OF INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Parish Council's annual premium was due for renewal on 1 April 2012. A schedule of costs from three companies, including the Parish Council's current provider, was submitted.

RESOLVED: (a) That the quotation submitted by Zurich Municipal at a cost of £998.57 for the first year, be accepted; and

(b) That the Parish Council enter into a three-year fixed term agreement with the company.

571 DERELICT HOUSE

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the resident who owned the house next-door to the derelict house.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm