

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL, [GROUNDS OF ST [PETER'S CHURCH] MINSHULLVERNON
ON 30 JANUARY 2012**

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Mr D C Forrest	Chairman
W T Beard	Vice-Chairman

Mr D N Bebbington	Mr I Chenery
Mr Les Horne	Mrs L Horne
Mr K Halford	Mr R Hollinshead
Mr M McGlone	Mr B Palin
Mr M Wilson	

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor M Jones [Cheshire East Council Cabinet Member]
Borough Councillor R A Bailey [Cheshire East Council Cabinet Member]
PCSO V McKenna

APOLOGIES: Mr W Barnes and Mr D Preece

ABSENT: Mr B Evans

515 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.

516 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 December 2011 be approved as a correct record subject to the following:

- The additional inclusion of the following names in the list of apologies –
Messrs W Barnes, D N Bebbington, M McGlone and M Wilson
- **Minute No. 510 – Shared Items**
Following the words “.....Ben MacDonald had planted 500.....”
Delete “.....of the daffodils provided by Cheshire East Council.”
Replace with “daffodils at his own expense”.

517 MATTERS ARISING (not detailed elsewhere on the agenda)

517.1 Fly-tipping: Response from Councillor R Menlove (Cheshire East Council Cabinet Member)

The Clerk reported on a partial response in respect of this item and sought clarification on the details of the fly-tipping. It was expected that a full response would be available at the next meeting.

[Note: Councillors I Chenery and M Wilson arrived during discussion of this item.]

518 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012

On 7 November 2011, the Parish Council agreed that its meetings should be held on the third

Monday of each month, commencing at a new time of 7.00 pm. The community hall was booked on the second and third Mondays of each Month. The Parish Council was, therefore, invited to consider holding its meetings either on the first Monday or the fourth Monday of each month. Dates for the remainder of the Municipal Year, and an indication of dates for the Municipal Year 2012-2013 were also given.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Parish Council hold its meetings on the fourth Monday of each month; and

(b) That dates for future meetings be noted:

27 February
26 March
23 April
28 May Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (the Parish Meeting to be held at 7.00 pm and the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30 pm or on the rising of the Parish Meeting, whichever is the earlier.)

Municipal Year 2012-2013 (indicative dates)

25 June
23 July
27 August
24 September
22 October
5 November (Budget Meeting)
26 November
3 December
28 January 2013
25 February
25 March
22 April
27 May (Annual Meetings)

519 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. In the absence of members of the public, the Parish Council proceeded to its next business.

520 POLICE MATTERS

In the absence of Police representation the Parish Council proceeded to its next business.

521 ASSETS REGISTER

The Parish Council was invited to review the Assets Register. The values (replacement cost only, with the exception of Item 5 which was a nominal cost) were listed as follows:

		£
1	"Bradfield Green" sign	800.00
2	Trailer-mounted vehicle speed display unit	8,500.00
3	4 x notice-boards	3,000.00
4	Bus shelter – Whalleys Green	2,400.00
5	1.5 acres of land	1.00
6	War memorial and land	58,989.00
7	Victoria Jubilee Memorial and land	58,989.00
8	Photocopier	400.00
9	Microstart computer	400.00
10	Gates and fences at Moss Lane	1,200.00
	TOTAL	<u>134,679.00</u>

It was agreed that item 4 (Bus shelter – Whalleys Green) be removed from the schedule on the basis that it was now the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

There was some discussion about the valuation of items 6 and 7 [the War memorial/land and the Victoria Jubilee Memorial/land] both of which were indicated to be valued at identical amounts of £58,989. It was understood that neither of these assets had been formally valued. Members agreed to retain the value as indicated for the time being, but agreed that at some future date, a professional valuation was required.

Item 8 (photocopier) was located at the Clerk's house but had not been used since she had taken over the post in 2007.

Item 9 (Microstart computer) was beyond economical repair.

Items omitted from the register

RESOLVED: (a) That Item 4 on the Assets Register be removed for the reasons given;

(b) That Items 8 and 9 be the subject of formal write-off action;

(c) That the value of Items 6 and 7 be retained for the time being but the Parish Council to seek formal valuation at an early date;

(d) That the hand-held speed gun, valued at £200 and the Speed Watch Dictaphone valued at £50, be added to the register; and

(d) That the Assets Register be revised as discussed.

[Note: Councillor R Hollinshead arrived during discussion of this item.]

**522 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL – PLANNING SITE INSPECTION PROTOCOL
ADDRESS BY CABINET MEMBER, COUNCILLOR RACHEL BAILEY**

At its meeting held on 7 November 2011, the Parish Council received a report that the Chairman had attended the Strategic Planning Board and had spoken on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of the hybrid application at Parkers Road. He had also attended a site visit in connection with this application. It was the site visit which had been his cause for concern. He reported to the Parish Council that neither the Ward Councillor nor he as Chairman of the Parish Council had been permitted to speak during this visit and he considered this to be a breach of the Site Inspection Protocol, a copy of which had been provided for each Member of the Parish Council.

Councillor Bailey was in attendance for discussion of this item, and addressed the Parish Council explaining the purpose of the Site Inspection Protocol and expanding on the rules. She suggested that the Parish Council might wish to write to the Planning and Development Manager to seek his observations, commenting that the protocol appeared to have been breached on this occasion. Councillor Bailey undertook to discuss the matter with appropriate Planning Officers.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the Planning and Development Manager, Cheshire East Council, expressing disappointment at the apparent breach of the Site Inspection Protocol and seeking his observations.

[Note: Councillor Bailey withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings and Borough Councillor M Jones arrived.]

523 DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

523.1 Joint Event with St Peter's Church

The Clerk had written to the Reverend Philip Goggin (St Peter's Church) advising him that the Parish Council was prepared to organise a joint event with St Peter's Church. At the previous

meeting a small Working Group had been appointed, comprising the Chairman and Councillors Les Horne and Linda Horne. This Group had met with representatives of the Parochial Church Council to discuss arrangements. The Church would not be able to assist with funding, but would assist in other ways.

The event date had been agreed as Monday, 4 June in the grounds of the community hall and the following had been suggested for the day:

- Hog roast – catering to be provided by Grants Butchers
- Marquee
- Carousel
- Floating balloons
- Candy floss/ice cream stalls
- Nantwich Town Crier
- Police, Fire and Ambulance to be involved
- The Royal Oak to host a paid bar
- Local businesses to be involved through sponsorship
- Parking marshalls (for directing cars)
- Linda Horne had agreed to help with the food

Parish councillors were invited to take on responsibility for various aspects of the event. The Chairman agreed to make contact with local cadet forces; Councillor D N Bebbington offered to arrange for the provision of a marquee at no charge; and the Clerk undertook to contact Nantwich and District Band to check its availability.

New Footpath around War Memorial

During discussion, a Member asked about the unveiling ceremony for the new footpath around the war memorial. This would be impractical if held on the same date; the unveiling would be held in June but on a separate occasion.

Councillor Hollinshead agreed to draft a proposed inscription for the plaque, to be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

523.2 Commemorative Items for Pupils at Local Schools

At the last meeting, Members discussed the possibility of the purchase of commemorative items to be given to each pupil at both Mablins Lane School and Leighton Primary School. Following discussion, and quotations acquired, it was –

RESOLVED: (a) That 1,000 mugs be purchased, one to be provided for each school pupil at both Leighton Primary and Mablins Lane Primary Schools;

(b) That the Clerk be authorised to place an order for 1,000 China mugs at a cost of £3.50 each from “Commemorative Mugs”; and

(c) That each mug be inscribed with –

Presented by

Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council

On the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee 2012

532.3 Cheshire East Council Support

It was reported that Cheshire East Council had created a dedicated web-page giving advice to community organisations, in respect of various types of events to be held to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

524 PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 11/4557W - Hole House Gas Storage Facility
- Additional application received subsequent to preparation of the agenda 12/0100N – Springfield Cottage Moss Lane – Wind Turbine

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to either planning application.

524.2 Affordable Housing

The Localism Act which received Royal Assent in November 2011 would have an impact on parish councils; in particular, town and parish councils would have more influence over planning within their parishes. Following the enactment of the Bill, Arley Homes, a housing development company, had made contact with the Parish Council seeking its views on the need for affordable housing within the parish. Members were invited to consider this matter and a letter from the company was submitted.

RESOLVED: That the letter from Arley Homes be received and noted.

525 FINANCIAL MATTERS

525.1 Budget Proposals – 2012-2013

It was reported that the Clerk had requested a precept of £37,800 from Cheshire East Council. A copy of the agreed budget proposals had been attached to the official set of minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2011 and, for ease of reference, an extract had been included on the agenda.

525.2 Receipts and Payments Statement for the Third Quarter [1 April 2011 – 31 December 2011]

The Parish Council was asked to approve the Receipts and Payments Statement for the period ended 31 December 2011. This was an indicative statement only as the bank statements were dated 16 December 2011.

RESOLVED: (a) That the indicative Receipts and Payments statement for the quarter ended 31 December 2011 be approved; and

(b) That the bank reconciliation be noted –

	£
Total Receipts	58,656.40
<u>Less</u> Payments	-26,814.85
TOTAL	<u>31,841.55</u>
Reserve Account	31,746.52
Current Account	100.00
	<u>31,846.52</u>
LESS Un-presented cheque	-4.97
	<u>31,841.55</u>

525.3 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:

£104.80 HM Revenue & Customs – tax in respect of the Clerk's salary for Months 11 and 12 (months ended 5 February 2012 and 5 March)

£45.90 Mrs C M Jones – travel expenses for attendance at the following meetings:
7 November 2011
14 November (Budget Meeting)
19 December 2011

34 miles per journey [ie Audlem-Minshull Vernon return] x 45P per mile
(tax-neutral rate) x 3 = £45.90

£48.00 CVS – second half-year payment for administration of the payroll system.

£65.00 St Peter's Church – cost of advertising in Parish Magazine for 2012.

526 SPEED WATCH SCHEME (INCORPORATING ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRAILER-MOUNTED VEHICLE DISPLAY UNIT)

526.1 Councillor Les Horne reported on the speed watch scheme in general and his site visit with an Officer from Cheshire East Highways regarding the scheme at Whalleys Green.

526.2 Borough Councillor M Jones stated that there was no justifiable reason for a delay in the installation of the posts outside the two primary schools. He invited Councillor Les Horne to contact him direct if he had not been contacted by Cheshire East Highways by Friday, 3 February.

526.3 Risk Assessment/Trailer-Mounted Vehicle Speed Display Unit

Councillor M McGlone reported on his preparation of a risk assessment schedule for the trailer-mounted vehicle speed display unit. A copy was presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the risk assessment in respect of the trailer-mounted vehicle speed display unit be approved.

526.4 Speed Limit

It was reported that the proposals to reduce the speed limit on the A534 outside St Peter's Church was due to be considered at a Nantwich LAP meeting in February.

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

At the previous meeting, the Parish Council had agreed that a special meeting be held in March to confer Honorary Freeman status on former parish councillors John Whittingham and Marshall Charlesworth. The community hall was not available on any date in March. The Clerk had written to each of the former parish councillors inviting them to advise their availability in April. Each had been asked to invite up to ten guests.

The outline programme for the evening was expected to be –

7.00 pm Meeting convenes and the Chairman welcomes all.

The only item of business would be to confer Honorary Freeman status on Marshall Charlesworth and John Whittingham.

It was normal practice for a parish councillor to speak in support of the nomination; this would be seconded by another parish councillor who would make a brief speech in support. The same process would be adopted for the second candidate.

A vote would be taken and then each, in turn, would be presented with a framed certificate. Each new Honorary Freeman would respond by making a short acceptance speech.

The Clerk tabled a draft certificate from Johnsons the Printers, Nantwich. The cost of the design work was £40, and the cost of each certificate was £28, to be printed on vellum material and framed using non-reflective glass.

RESOLVED: That the quotation from Johnsons the Printers, Nantwich, be accepted, in the sum of £40, design work and £28 for each certificate to be printed on vellum material and framed using non-reflective glass.

528 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor M Jones reported that for the financial year 2012-2013, Cheshire East Council was making grants to the parished areas of the Boroughs. A sum of £2,500 would be made to Minshull Vernon & District Parish Council in April.

Reference was made to the review of community governance in Cheshire East. Macclesfield and Crewe were the only un-parished areas and it was expected that there would be support, following consultation, for each of these towns to be parished.

The Borough Council was expecting to make significant improvements to highways in the next 3-years and had acknowledged that this had been an area where it had been deficient in the last two years.

529 ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

The following items had been requested by Councillor Les Horne:

- (i) Whalleys Green – overgrown hedging

Councillor B Palin was acquainted with the landowner and agreed to ask him, on behalf of the Parish Council, to trim the hedging.

- (ii) Bunbury Police Cluster Meetings: The Police had requested a small contribution from all Parish Councils in the Bunbury Cluster towards the cost of room hire for the meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council approve a donation of £10 towards the cost of hire of a room for the Bunbury Police Cluster meetings.

Arising out of discussion of this item, it was **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the local Police Inspector expressing the Parish Council's concern that there appeared to be a lack of policing in rural areas and a lack of support for identified priorities.

- (iii) CEC Website – Shared Information. It was reported that Cheshire East Council had a shared communications website for town and parish councils to upload information. Items such as calendar of meetings, announcements and discussion forum could be included.

530 CREWE AND NANTWICH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

There were no matters to report except that a review of the way in which the LAPs operated was being undertaken.

531 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence received since the last meeting.

- The Localism Act was due to come into full force in April 2012. The implications for town and parish councils were outlined.
- Fire Authority – Letter from the Chairman of the Fire Authority relating to the Fire Brigade's Union seeking support in respect of its position regarding a shared North-West Control Centre in Warrington for handling and mobilising to emergency fire calls.

- Cheshire Community Action – Event 7 March – Connecting Communities
- Nominations to attend the Royal Garden Party – this is restricted to Chairmen of Parish Councils and their spouse
- ChALC E-Bulletin – 20 January 2012
- Article from a recent “Clerks and Councils Direct” – Legal Matters “The role of councillors” which might be of assistance to the newer Members of the Parish Council.
- Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) proposed revision to Area Working.

The Chairman spoke to this item and reported that ChALC was proposing to change its area working to the facilitation of two Parish Conferences within the Cheshire East Area (with similar proposals for Cheshire West and Chester) and one Parish Conference within the Warrington Borough Council area. There would be new arrangements for the election of a Chairman and election to the ChALC Executive Board, together with revised the support and administrative arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council write to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to advise that it did not support the proposed revisions to area working and was of the view that the current system should continue.

532 SHARED INFORMATION

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

Diamond Jubilee

It was agreed that an invitation be extended to Messrs T and H Bickerton to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations as the Parish Council’s guests of honour. They were twins who had worked in the parish as farmers for 60 years and it was considered a fitting tribute.

533 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that the matter to be discussed was of a confidential nature, likely to reveal the identity of an individual(s) and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

534 DERELICT HOUSE

The Borough Council had responded to the Parish Council’s request, to the effect, that it was not appropriate, at this time, to take the action suggested by the Parish Council.

It was reported that Stephen O’Brien, MP was now involved in this matter. The Clerk was asked to write again to the Borough Council asking if the Officer could provide a time-frame when the Council would expect to be able to bring this matter to a close and/or a date by which time the Borough Council would make a decision that action should be taken against the named individual, requesting a response within 30 days.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.45 pm