

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2012**

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
Councillor W T Beard	Councillor Linda Horne
Councillor K Halford	Councillor M McGlone
Councillor B Palin	Councillor P Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO V McKenna
PCSO K Tatlock

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillors I Chenery and M Wilson

ABSENT: Councillor D N Bebbington

683 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of the item.

No declarations were made.

684 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO McKenna reported on recent criminal activity in the parish over the previous four months, follow which she and her colleague, PCSO K Tatlock, withdrew from the meeting:

- 9 shoplifting offences
- 28 thefts, eg garden furniture
- 14 criminal damage incidents
- 8 burglaries
- 12 thefts from motor vehicles
- 3 thefts of motor vehicles
- 20 nuisances anti-social behaviour incidents
- 37 personal anti-social behaviour incidents
- 4 road traffic collisions

685 MINUTES – 20 AUGUST 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2012, be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute No. 670 – Speed Watch Scheme.

Second paragraph, DELETE the sentence commencing “It was acknowledged.....” .

686 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 20 AUGUST 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 20 August 2012 (to admit former parish councillor William Barnes to the Roll of Honorary Freemen) be approved as a correct record.

687 MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING – 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 12 September 2012 be approved as a correct record.

688 MATTERS ARISING

688.1 Crewe Community Governance Review

Subsequent to the matters considered at the meeting held on 12 September 2012, the Parish Council was now asked to reach a view on the representation implications of an additional 400 electors in the parish. Did the Parish Council consider that there should be an additional parish councillor to ensure appropriate representation of electors?

The Clerk had been in discussion with the Cheshire East Manager who was dealing with this matter, and it was likely that the decision would be deferred to the December Full Council meeting to enable a “mini-review” to be undertaken to establish the electoral representation implications of the change.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council consider that 22 parish councillors was sufficient to represent local electors satisfactorily, and that an additional 400 electors would not diminish the quality of representation.

669 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance and the Parish Council proceeded to its next business.

670 FINANCIAL MATTERS

670.1 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:
The Parish Council is asked to authorise the following payments:

£80.00	HMRC – Tax on Clerk’s salary
£45.77	Mrs C M Jones – postage and stationery
£73.20	Johnsons Printers – printing of compliments slips for the Clerk
£48.00	Johnsons Printers – printing and framing of Parish Council’s resolution (William Barnes)
£84.00	Alan Bennion – cutting the parish field. (£70.00 plus £14 vat)

670.2 Appointment of External Auditor

It was reported that with effect from the financial year 2012-2013, BPO LLP had been appointed as the external auditor. The Audit Commission would continue to monitor the performance of the firms providing this service. The fee for the Parish Council fell within the income/expenditure band £25,001 - 50,000 the fee for which would be £200.

671 MOSS LANE – TRAFFIC – CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the Cheshire East Council survey of residents in respect of consideration of traffic-calming measures on Moss Lane were available and submitted to the Parish Council.

It was noted that a press release had been issued by the Borough Council on 7 September 2012 in respect of this matter. The results of the survey were detailed in that press release. It was noted that the people who lived and worked on Moss Lane did not consider that there was a traffic problem. In view of the results, Cheshire East Council considered that there was no justification for carrying out any measures at this time to reduce the speed of traffic on Moss Lane. The situation would be monitored, particularly in view of the proposed new housing estate to be built in the vicinity of Moss Lane.

672 KEEP IT GREEN CAMPAIGN (KIGC)

In the absence of both Margaret Smith (Chairman of the Keep it Green Campaign) and Derek Bebbington (a founder member of the Campaign) the Chairman reported

on matters of which he was aware, including signatures on a petition and implications for the Crewe Town Strategy Consultation.

The Clerk had now received bank details for the Campaign and following the signing of a cheque at this evening's meeting (the grant had been authorised at the meeting held on 20 August 2012, subject to receipt of bank details) the cheque would be deposited into the KIGC account.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Keep it Green Campaign be asked to attend the next meeting to update the Parish Council on the activities of the group.

673 **AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS**

(a) Title of "Councillor" Used in Minutes

A Member suggested reverting to the practice of referring to parish councillors in minutes by their title of "Mr" or "Mrs" rather than "Councillor". Members had previously expressed a preference for the use of "Mr/Mrs" or other title and this had fallen into disuse in recent months.

The Clerk's view was that the Minutes were not only a record of the meeting but were also an historic record and it was important for the public and future generations to be able to identify the elected representatives of the period and this historical aspect should be afforded some weight.

The Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) which had been consulted, stated that there was no legal precedent for this. It was custom and practice. ChALC suggested that parish councillors should be referred to as such in the list of those present, but if Members were so minded, when it was necessary to name a parish councillor in the body of the minutes, they could be referred to as 'Mr' 'Mrs' or other title.

RESOLVED: That the suggestion made by the Cheshire Association of Local Councils be adopted, namely, that the Minutes of the Meetings refer to 'parish councillors' in the list of those present and that if it were necessary to name a parish councillor in the body of the minutes, they be referred to as 'Mr' 'Mrs' or other title.

(b) Frequency of Parish Council Meetings

A Member had suggested that the current practice of holding monthly meetings be reviewed and asked the Parish Council to consider changing the frequency to the former practice of a six weeks interval between meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council continue to hold its meetings monthly.

(c) Community Hall – Long-Term Plans

The Clerk was asked to contact the Reverend Philip Goggin to enquire into the long-term plans for the hall. A Member had been given to understand that the Trust held it for 7-years after which it reverted to church ownership.

(d) Consideration of Purchase of Two Fixed Speed Display Signs

This was suggested as an appropriate item for purchasing during the current financial year, or for consideration as part of the budget proposals for 2013-2014.

RESOLVED: That this matter be considered as part of the budget proposals for 2013-2014.

(e) Posts around Bradfield Green

The Clerk had asked Willis Drainage in Sandbach to contact the Chairman about this matter to arrange a site visit. No action had been taken and the Clerk was asked to follow up the

matter. The Chairman reported that he had discussed the proposal with Cheshire East Highways which had given approval to the proposal.

(f) Members' Expenses

The issue of Members' Expenses had been raised at the previous meeting. The Clerk's report and draft Scheme was submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Scheme of Members' Allowances be adopted as a quadrennial scheme, with immediate effect; and

(b) That the Scheme be reviewed in September 2016.

(g) Diamond Jubilee Memorial Footpath and Plinth

Ben MacDonald, who carried out the work on the Diamond Jubilee footpath had spoken to the Chairman and suggested the following to bring the project up to an acceptable standard.

- Remove the top of the plinth and replace the upstand with brick to the sides and front to match existing.

It was understood that this would require additional minimal cost, but the Parish Council would need to approve such expenditure in due course.

RESOLVED: (a) That Mr McGlone arrange to meet with Mr MacDonald on site to discuss the type of materials to be used; and

(b) That the cost of the additional work be reported to the Parish Council for consideration.

(h) Parish field – unauthorised dumping of waste

The Clerk was asked to report to Wolvern Housing the dumping of food waste and other vegetation on the parish field. This problem had occurred on a previous occasion.

674 REPORT FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members appointed to outside bodies were invited to report on any meetings. No recent meetings had taken place.

675 PLANNING

The Parish Council was invited to make observations on the following planning applications.

- **12/3328N – Hole House Gas Storage Facility – application for brine transfer project.**

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised.

- **12/2764N – Pool View, Bradfield Green, Eardswick Lane – demolition of shippon and construction of two new houses and one detached garage; alterations to existing access and new septic tank.**

RESOLVED: That the Local Planning Authority be informed of the Parish Council/s concern in respect of the potential inadequacy of the drainage system.

- **12/3383N – 18 Mossfields, Leighton – two storey extension and conversion of garage to playroom**
- **12/3521N – 43 Thornfields, Leighton - two-storey side extension**

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to these planning applications.

676 RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

It was reported that parish councillor Byron Evans had resigned with immediate effect.

677 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

It was noted that there were currently 12 vacant seats on the Parish Council and although there was a post on the website, inviting interested residents to put themselves forward as candidates, no interest had been shown. Notices had also been displayed on the notice-boards from time-to-time.

The Police Commissioner elections were to be held on 15 November 2012 and the Borough Council canvassers would be delivering polling cards during October. Subject to the agreement of the Elections Office, the Parish Council was invited to consider preparing a “flyer” which could be distributed to each household by the canvassers who delivered the polling cards. The fee would be approximately 16P per poll card.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk pursue with the Borough Council the possibility of canvassers delivering a flyer to each household advertising parish council vacancies;

(b) That the Clerk issue a press release to the local media advertising the vacancies; and

(c) That at the next meeting, the Parish Council consider holding an Open Evening to promote the Parish Council’s activities in an effort to attract candidates for co-option.

678 SPEED WATCH SCHEME

Messrs Les Horne and Paul Wright updated the Parish Council on speed watch matters.

679 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

In the absence of Borough Councillors the Parish Council proceeded to its next item of business.

680 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

681 SHARED INFORMATION

Parish Councillors were invited to share information or request the inclusion of items on the next agenda. The following matters were raised:

- Hedge-cutting alongside the church boundary and adjacent to the parish field, to be undertaken by participants in the Community Pay-Back scheme.
- Location of the Honorary Freeman Board. The Clerk was asked to pursue this with the Parochial Church Council.
- Disused notice-board near to the Co-operative Store (owned by Cheshire East Council). The Clerk was asked to contact CEC to arrange removal of the board
- Whalleys Green Notice-Board to be re-located to Woolstanwood. Steps would be taken to arrange for a local tradesman to re-locate the board.

Members were reminded that if they wished to add items to an agenda, these should be notified to the Clerk at least five clear days before the meeting [Standing Order No. 4(a)].

682 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22 October 2012

683 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items, for the reasons given, and the public interest would not be served by disclosing the information.

684 QUOTATIONS FOR STRIMMER (for use on parish field)

At the previous meeting, Mr McGlone undertook to seek quotations for the cost of a strimmer or similar equipment, to enable him to carry out additional maintenance work on the parish field. No quotations were available and Mr McGlone suggested that this item be withdrawn from the agenda. He would contact the Clerk again, in due course, when he had acquired quotations.

Reason for exclusion:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Parish Council.

685 STAFFING MATTER – PAY ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING REVIEW OF CLERK’S CONTRACTED HOURS

The Parish Council considered a briefing note which set out new arrangements for the Clerk’s salary with effect from 1 September 2012 in respect of the change in contracted hours as agreed at the meeting held on 20 August 2012.

RESOLVED: (a) That a revised bank mandate be submitted to the October meeting for approval; and

(b) That, in the meantime, a cheque in the sum of £109.69, payable to Mrs C M Jones, be authorised as the difference between her former monthly net amount (£210.10) and the revised net amount £319.79.

Reason for exclusion:

Matters relating to the personal details of the Clerk’s employment.

686 DERELICT HOUSE

The Chairman had been invited to attend a meeting with Housing Officers at Cheshire East Council and the owner of the house which had been the subject of previous discussion at Parish Council meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council reiterate its position as stated in Minute No. 551 (27 February 2012), viz that no further action be taken but that the Borough Council Officer be requested to update the Parish Council as and when appropriate.

Reason for exclusion:

Likely to reveal the name of an individual.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.50 pm