

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S CHURCH, MINSHULLVERNON
ON 19 DECEMBER 2011**

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

Mr D C Forrest	Chairman
W T Beard	Vice-Chairman
Mr K Halford	Mr Les Horne
Mrs L Horne	Mr R Hollinshead
Mr B Palin	

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor M Jones [Cheshire East Council Cabinet Member]
PCSO V McKenna [For Minute No. 497 only]

APOLOGIES: Mr D Preece, Mr I Chenery

496 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.

497 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO V McKenna provided an update in respect of police matters within the parish which included a reported slight increase in thefts, a normal trend for December. PCSO McKenna was thanked for her contribution and she withdrew from the meeting.

498 MINUTES [7 NOVEMBER AND BUDGET MEETING 14 NOVEMBER 2011]

498.1 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 7 November and 14 November 2011 respectively be approved subject to the following amendment:

Minutes – 7 November 2011 Delete Mr D C Forrest's name under "Apologies".

498.2 Minutes of Meeting held on 3 October 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2011 had been submitted to the meeting held on 7 November. However, as they had been issued late, it was agreed that to allow Members sufficient time to read the Minutes, they be received only and re-submitted to the December meeting for approval.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2011 be approved as a correct record.

499 MATTERS ARISING (not detailed elsewhere on the agenda)

499.1 War Memorial (Footway Project – Diamond Jubilee 2012)

It was reported that planning permission was required for the Diamond Jubilee footway. The application cost was likely to be £85 which was a reduced fee for a parish council.

499.2 Policy on Street Furniture Advertising

The Clerk provided an extract from Cheshire East Council's website regarding the policy on advertising on street furniture. The matter had arisen as a result of Cheshire East Council granting permission for temporary signs, for a six-month period, for a business in the locality. It was agreed that no action be taken and the matter be reviewed after the six-months had elapsed.

499.3 Assets Register

At the budget meeting held on 14 November 2011 it was agreed that a review of the Assets Register was required. In the absence of Councillor M McGlone, it was agreed that this matter be deferred to the January 2012 meeting.

500 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.

501 PLANNING MATTERS

501.1 Planning Applications

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

11/3997N	Listed building consent and
11/3996N	Consent
Address:	Woodside Farm, Brookhouse Lane – Installation of solar photo voltaic panels to barn roof

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

501.2 Site Inspection Protocol

At the previous meeting, Members expressed concern about the site visit for the hybrid application relating to 400 homes on Parkers Road. It had been agreed that Councillor Rachel Bailey, as the appropriate Cheshire East Cabinet Member, be invited to address the Parish Council on this matter. It was reported that Councillor Bailey was unable to attend this meeting but would be available for the January meeting. In the meantime, a copy of the Site Inspection Protocol was submitted for information.

501.3 Localism Act 2012

It was reported that the Localism Bill had now been enacted. Under this Act there was provision for town and parish councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans which gave more direct power to plan the areas in which they lived. Neighbourhood Plans could be used to:

- Develop a shared vision for the neighbourhood
- Set planning policies for the development and use of land
- Give planning permission for development which the community wants

Neighbourhood Plans could only be prepared by parish and town councils or neighbourhood forums. The local planning authority would be expected to give assistance and advice on how to prepare such a plan but it could not control the preparation process, nor could it produce a plan on behalf of the local community.

A Neighbourhood Plan could inform the Local Plan which was the appropriate time for town and parish councils to seek to influence development. The Plan could not be used to prevent development which the local planning authority had already identified as being needed in the Local Plan.

This report was provided for information and in the event of the Parish Council wishing to consider this at a future date given that it had previously expressed an interest in preparing a Parish Plan for the area.

502 FINANCIAL MATTERS

502.1 Budget Proposals – 2012-2013

A copy of the revised budget proposals (as agreed on 14 November 2011) was submitted, together with the Clerk's report. The deadline for notification of a precept request to Cheshire East Council was 13 January 2012. The Parish Council was asked, therefore, to agree its budget at this meeting.

Members took the opportunity to discuss arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee event in June 2012. Suggestions made included a joint event with St Peter's Church, possibly a fair to be held in the grounds of the community hall. The Parish Council could contribute £6,000 with match-funding being provided by St Peter's Church. Alternatively, the event could take the form of a "big Jubilee lunch" an event which was being promoted by Buckingham Palace. Other suggestions included purchasing a commemorative China mug for each school pupil at the schools of Leighton Primary and Mablins Lane Primary.

Borough Council Cabinet Member, Councillor M Jones, who was in attendance, stated that a fair was not the model which was being given an official "seal of approval", but an event such as a "big meal" could be supported.

No conclusions were reached and it was agreed that a small Working Group of Members be established to consider the details of an event to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

The proposals submitted amounted to £36,910. The addition of a maximum sum of £10,000 for an event to mark the Diamond Jubilee (possibly a joint event with St Peter's Church) brought the total costs for 2012/2013 to £46,910. Following calculations made in the meeting, this would require a precept of £37,800 calculated as follows:

	£	£
Forward year proposals:	46,910	
ADD Working balance	3,000	49,910
LESS Estimated balance available on 1 April 2012	(12,092)	37,818

Precept rounded down to **£37,800**.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk be authorised to request a precept of £37,800 from Cheshire East Council, subject to the outcome of a re-calculation of the proposals;

(b) That in the event of an adjustment being required, the Clerk be authorised to amend the precept request, in consultation with the Chairman, up to a maximum increase of £5,000, or a reduction to the same extent, in accordance with S.101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972;

(c) That a Working Group comprising Councillors D C Forrest, Les Horne and Linda Horne be established to meet with Church representatives at an early opportunity, to give initial consideration to arrangements for a joint Diamond Jubilee event between the Parish Council and the Church;

(d) That Parish Councillor R Hollinshead be thanked for his offer to make initial contact with one of the key members of the Parochial Church Council; and

(e) That the Parish Council be notified of the precept requested at its next meeting.

502.2 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:

£52.40	HM Revenue & Customs – tax in respect of the Clerk's salary for Month 10 (month ended 5 January 2012)
£47.89	Mrs C M Jones - Ink cartridges and printer paper and postage

£25.00 Councillor D C Forrest – reimbursement for purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday

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

503.1 Report on the Speed Watch Scheme

Councillor Les Horne reported on an “engagement day” held at on 17 November with the Police. Some speeding motorists had opted for undertaking training whilst others had agreed to accept a fixed penalty notices.

During discussion of this item, it was noted that “Little SID” was to be returned to Cheshire East Council. The Council had been unwilling to continue to insure it and the possibility of the Parish Council insuring it had been raised. As it was not an “insurable asset” of the Parish Council, this was not appropriate and the Parish Council’s insurers would be unlikely to agree to such a proposal.

503.2 Vehicle Speed Display Posts – Leighton School and Mablins School

The Parish Council was updated on progress in respect of this scheme. Permission from Cheshire East Council was required before the posts could be installed.

Borough Councillor M Jones gave an undertaking on behalf of Cheshire East Borough Council, that the Parish Council could proceed with the installation of posts at each of the primary schools, without seeking permission from Cheshire East Highways. He would arrange all the necessary permissions.

503.3 Risk Assessment – Trailer Mounted Vehicle Display Unit

In the absence of Councillor M McGlone, this matter was deferred to the January 2012 meeting.

504 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

Councillor Michael Jones reported that the Borough Council had now reduced its expected deficit of £16m and had balanced the budget.

He asked the Parish Council to consider if it would wish Moss Lane to be a one-way route for traffic. No decision was taken at the meeting and it was suggested that local residents could be asked for their views.

The Nantwich Local Area Partnership (LAP) was to be asked to consider extending the 30 mph speed limit on the A530 from St Peter’s Church up to the lay-by in the Middlewich direction. Councillor Jones would add this to his list of highway priorities.

505 ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

505.1 Joint event with St Peter’s Church to Mark the Diamond Jubilee 2012

This item had been requested by Councillor Richard Hollinshead who had asked the Parish Council to consider the organisation of a joint event with the church to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The matter had been fully debated at Minute No. 502.1 above.

506 NOTICE-BOARDS – HEADERS

At its meeting held on 7 November the Parish Council accepted a quotation of £700 from Whitehill Direct for the provision of headers to be installed on each of the four new notice-boards. Whitehill had provided images showing the proposed finished product.

Owing to staff sickness, the company could not install these until the New Year and this was, therefore, an opportunity for Members to comment on the style/design of the headers. Copies were provided.

Two design drawings were presented, together with a photograph of a notice-board previously installed by the company. Members agreed that the photograph displayed was the most appropriate design. The wording was confirmed as "Minshull Vernon" in the arched part of the header, with "& District" underneath in a straight line, and "PARISH COUNCIL" in upper case on a line on its own, with the website address underneath, but in a smaller font.

507 CREWE AND NANTWICH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS

There were no matters to report on this occasion.

508 CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cheshire East Council was conducting a review of Community Governance arrangements in Crewe and was currently consulting stakeholders and local organisations in the Crewe area.

A letter and two leaflets were submitted; these provided information about the review. Further information was available on the Borough Council's website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk.

The Parish Council agreed to support the creation of a Town Council for Crewe if that proved to be the view of the residents of Crewe.

509 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- **Cheshire East Council** correspondence:
 - (i) Nantwich Christmas Events
 - (ii) Nantwich LAP Rural Transport Group

- **Cheshire Association of Local Councils** correspondence
 - (i) Newsletter
 - (ii) Consultation on the Technical Reform of Council Tax
 - (iii) Ordnance Survey Local Councils Survey
 - (iv) E-bulletin
 - (v) Update on Localism Bill
 - (vi) Rural Issues Summary Document Consultation
 - (vii) Notification from NALC that Town and Parish Councils will not be capped in 2012-2013 as a result of the Localism Act 2012

510 SHARED INFORMATION

Parish Councillors were invited to share information or request items to be included on the next agenda.

- It was reported that Ben MacDonald had planted 500 of the daffodils provided by Cheshire East Council. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Mr MacDonald.

- Fly-tipping – Moss Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Borough Councillor Rod Menlove (Cabinet Member) to enquire into the liability of companies which disposed of debris/refuse in an unauthorised manner.

511 AWARD OF HONORARY FREEMAN STATUS (S.249 LGA 1972)

At the previous meeting, it was resolved that Honorary Freeman Status be conferred upon two former parish councillors, namely Marshall Charlesworth and John Whittingham.

Initial consideration was given to the arrangements and the following were agreed:

- A special meeting of the Parish Council be held on an evening in March at the community hall.
- Each of the recipients to be invited to be accompanied by a small number of family members.
- Following the meeting a buffet to be served, with wine or other alcohol.
- An exemplar certificate which would be framed and given to each of the recipients, be provided for the next meeting for consideration by the Parish Council.

512 NEXT MEETING

16 January 2012¹

513 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 which would reveal the identity of an individual(s) and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

514 DERELICT HOUSE

This item had been requested by Councillor Les Horne who had been in discussion with Cheshire East Council about potential enforcement action which might be taken. Councillor Horne had raised a number of points about the situation; the Clerk had relayed these issues to a Housing Officer at Cheshire East Council, and the report submitted provided responses to each of the points raised.

Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire East Council to enquire if a suggested course of action could be undertaken.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm

¹ The date was subsequently re-arranged to 30 January 2012