

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S CHURCH, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 25 FEBRUARY 2013**

PRESENT: Councillor Les Horne Chairman
Councillor I Chenery Councillor K Halford
Councillor Linda Horne Councillor B Palin
Councillor M Wilson Councillor P Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor M J Simon
Michelle Bromhead Candidate for Co-option
(In attendance from Minute No. 797)

APOLOGIES: Councillors W T Beard, D N Bebbington and M McGlone

DEATH OF HONORARY FREEMAN MARSHALL CHARLESWORTH

Prior to the start of the meeting, Members stood for a few moments in silence, as a mark of respect for Honorary Freeman Marshall Charlesworth, a former parish councillor, who had died recently aged 87 years.

788 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any non-pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interests in any item of business on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

789 MINUTES – 25 FEBRUARY 2013

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2013 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Minute No. 770 Flooding: Bradfield Green

Delete First sentence
Replace with “*Councillor McGlone reported on two recent major flooding incidents on the Eastern side of the A530.*”

Minute No. 779 Report from Members Appointed to Outside Bodies

Delete Second sentence
Replace with “*Councillor Les Horne reported that he had collected one snow kit and four winter warmth kits.*”

Minute No. 782 Correspondence

Under Cheshire East Council correspondence, line 3, insert –

“*together with Borough Councillor M E Jones and Councillor Les Horne*” after the words
“.....Kevin Melling (Head of Highways)...”

790 MATTERS ARISING

790.1 Clerk's Contract of Employment

At the January meeting, the Clerk had submitted a contract of employment for approval. Members considered that it required review to reflect the part-time nature of the Clerk's employment and to this end, a Working Group comprising Councillors Les Horne, K Halford

and M McGlone, had been set up to review the contract. The Working Group had not yet concluded its review. The Clerk was asked to provide copies of the various Model documents referred to in the contract.

The matter was deferred for decision at the March meeting.

791 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, members of the public were able to ask questions.

Questions were asked on the following topics:

- HS2 rail link
- Bloor Homes development

792 ADOPTION OF STREET LIGHTS

Further to previous reports in respect of the adoption of the street lights (by the former Cheshire County Council) the Clerk had checked all documentation which had been transferred to her from the previous Clerk. There was no adoption certificate; however there was a copy of a paid invoice for £5,719.61 in respect of the upgrading which had been undertaken by Cheshire County Council to enable it to adopt the lighting.

The Clerk had made further contact with Cheshire East Highways. An Officer from Ringway Jacobs had responded to the effect that he would be recommending that Cheshire East Highways take over the adoption of the street lights with effect from 1 April 2013. A consequence of this was that the Parish Council remained liable for the unmetered electricity charges between 2008 and 31 March 2013. The outstanding amount was £563.35.

RESOLVED: (a) That payment of £563.35 in favour of Scottish Power be authorised; and

(b) That the Clerk arrange for the street lighting to be added to the insurance schedule until the lighting was adopted by Cheshire East Highways.

793 KEEP IT GREEN CAMPAIGN

In the absence of Councillor Bebbington, there was no progress to report on the Keep It Green Campaign.

Members discussed the terms and conditions of the grant application form and the Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary of the Campaign to inform her that the Parish Council wished to inspect the accounts.

794 BUS SHELTER – SMITHY LANE

Cheshire East Council had contacted the Clerk again about the proposal to demolish the bus shelter on Smithy Lane. Despite enquiries, and based on Members' own local knowledge, there was no evidence to suggest that this bus shelter was owned by the Parish Council. In view of this, it was –

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council raise no objections to Cheshire East Council demolishing the bus shelter on Smithy Lane, on the understanding that no costs would accrue to the Parish Council.

795 FINANCIAL MATTERS

795.1 Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: That the following payments be authorised:

£12.49	Councillor P Wright – ink cartridges and paper
£80.00	HMRC – tax on Clerk’s salary
£31.20	Mrs C M Jones – postage
£1,218.23	Zurich Municipal – insurance premium for the period commencing 1 April 2013.
£60.00	Cheshire Association of Local Councils Code of Conduct training for Councillors Les and Linda Horne 31 January 2013 (£30) General Power of Competence training for Councillors Les and Linda Horne – 7 February 2013 (£30)

795.2 An invoice for £420 (Sign Studio) was submitted for payment. The invoice related to the Honorary Freeman board which was now affixed in the hall. Members were dissatisfied with the finish, commenting that it did not accord with the specification which had been for a stained board. The board on display appeared to have been painted and there were visible brush strokes, together with colour variations.

It was **RESOLVED:** (a) That payment of the invoice from Sign Studios be withheld; and

(b) That the Clerk make arrangements with Sign Studios for the proprietor to meet with the Chairman to discuss measures which could be taken to bring the board up to an acceptable standard.

795.3 Receipts and Payments Statement – 1 April – 31 December 2012

A Receipts and Payments statement for the period to 31 December 2012 was submitted.

RESOLVED: That the Receipts and Payments statement for the period to 31 December 2012 be received and noted.

796 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO CONFER HONORARY FREEMAN STATUS ON FORMER PARISH COUNCILLOR MAJOR (Rtd) DOUGLAS C FORREST, MBE (THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2013)

It was noted that the agenda for the Special Meeting to be held on 28 February 2013 had been issued and Honorary Freeman Barnes and Whittingham had also been invited.

797 THE LOCAL PLAN – CONSULTATION

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the Draft Development Strategy and Policy Principles, issued by Cheshire East Council. The consultation period which had commenced in January would conclude on 26 February.

RESOLVED: That the following be submitted as the Parish Council’s observations on the two Cheshire East Council consultation documents issued under the banner of “Shaping Our Future”¹

“The Parish Council welcomes the underlying principles contained in the two documents and has the following specific comments to make:

- i. Supports the retention, in its entirety, of the strategic open spaces (ie green gaps) and in particular to the south and west of Leighton.
- ii. The main concern is the infrastructure, comprising drainage and highways. One of the most important aspects of planning, and often neglected, is the infrastructure. It is crucial that adequate drainage and highway improvements are considered as developments are approved. The Parish Council

¹ Although the Parish Council approved, in broad terms, the comments to be submitted to Cheshire East Council, the resolution represents the detailed observations formulated by the Clerk after the meeting. These comments will be subject to confirmation by the Parish Council at its meeting on 25 March 2013.

- considers that there should be a more in-depth study/survey of the drainage system in the parish. This must be a priority.
- iii. There is a lack of school places for both primary and secondary school age pupils.
 - iv. Traffic-impact assessments are required in the area of Minshull New Road, Bradfield Road, Parkers Road, Smithy Lane, Flowers Lane and the A530 (Minshull Vernon).
 - v. The widening and/or realignment of Smithy Lane was welcomed as an improved access to Leighton Hospital for emergency vehicles.
 - vi. Leighton West
The proposals are for a new sustainable neighbourhood to support and complement Leighton Hospital and this includes provision of 750 homes, a mixed-use centre which will include a public house and restaurant. The Parish Council considers that the area is well-served in terms of commercial activities such as public houses and restaurants and doubts the need for additional facilities.”

(Note: Michelle Bromhead arrived at this point on the proceedings.)

798 CO-OPTION TO CASUAL VACANCIES

Following the Crewe Community Governance Review, the Borough Council had advertised the four parish councillor vacancies in the Leighton Urban Ward of the Parish and the Parish Council was able to fill these vacancies by co-option.

Michelle Bromhead, who was in attendance, had declared herself as a candidate and the Parish Council was invited to co-opt her. Ms Bromhead explained her reasons for wishing to enter public life, following which her nomination was proposed and seconded and it was –

RESOLVED: That Michelle Bromhead be co-opted onto the Parish Council, representing Leighton Urban ward of the Parish Council.

799 PLANNING MATTERS

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

13/0531N – Weaver Bank Farm, Nantwich Road, Minshull Vernon
Two-storey extension to rear of house.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to planning application NO. 13/0531N.

800 REPORT FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no matters to report.

801 SPEED WATCH SCHEME

Councillors Les Horne and P Wright updated the Parish Council on speed watch activities.

During discussion of this item, it was reported that Cheshire East Council had confirmed that the DayBright Retro-Fit LED illumination equipment could be fitted by TWM Traffic Control Systems and that all future maintenance costs would be met by Cheshire East Council (Highways) Street Lighting Section. CEC Highways had further stated that this would be treated as a trial site at this time and that CEC would retain the right to change any specification in the future without prior notice should this equipment not withstand a reasonable time period.

A Member commented that the wording was equivocal and the Clerk was asked to seek a clearer statement that Cheshire East Highways would be solely responsible for the maintenance and that no financial burden would fall to the Parish Council.

802 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor M J Simon reported on Cheshire East Council matters of interest.

803 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- CVS Cheshire East – training courses

Cheshire East Council

- Articles invited for next PACE newsletter
- HS2 Briefing
- Highway Schemes in progress and planned
- Nantwich LAP commences on Local Plan
- Town and Parish Councils Conference – 20 March 2013 (Councillors Les Horne and Halford would attend.)

Cheshire Association of Local Councils

- Local Plan Consultation “At Home” – 20 February.

804 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

25 March 2013

805 SHARED INFORMATION

Members shared information and it was **AGREED** that “Portable Defibrillator Units” be added as an agenda item for the March meeting.

806 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 item and the public interest would not be served by disclosing the information.

807 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

The Clerk reported on receipt of a request under the Freedom of Information Act. The request had been received on 7 February and had been responded to in full. A copy of the reply had been provided to Members.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 8.45 pm