

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULLVERNON  
ON 7 NOVEMBER 2011**

**PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Mr D C Forrest	Chairman
Mr W T Beard	Vice-Chairman
Mr W Barnes	Mr D N Bebbington
Mr I Chenery	Mr K Halford
Mr B Palin	Mr R Hollinshead
Mr L Horne	Mrs L Horne
Mr M McGlone	Mr M Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Borough Councillor M J Simon  
PCSO V McKenna and PC V Pickford  
Mr B MacDonald (For Minute No.474.3)

**APOLOGIES:** Mr D C Forrest (owing to family bereavement)

**DEMONSTRATION: DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS**

Following Members' request on 3 October 2011, Mr R Hussey and Mr R Sharples of the North-West Ambulance Service had been invited to attend the meeting; unfortunately, neither of them were available on this occasion.

They had confirmed that they would attend a future meeting when they would be able to make a presentation outlining the benefits of portable defibrillation units which could be located in parishes to be used in the event of emergency, thus saving valuable time between the time of a heart attack and the arrival of an ambulance.

**472 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests which they had in any item of business on the agenda and leave the meeting prior to discussion of that item, if appropriate.

Councillor M Wilson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Planning Application No. 11/3012N (Marshfield Bank Farm) on the basis that he was the applicant.

**473 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That, as Members had not sufficient time to read the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2011, they be received only, and submitted to the next meeting for approval.

**474 MATTERS ARISING (not detailed elsewhere on the agenda)**

**474.1 Risk Assessment: Annual Inspection of Mature Trees**

The Clerk had asked Green Valley Tree Surgery to submit a quotation for the annual inspection of mature trees at Bradfield Green, Whalleys Green and the field on Moss Lane. The letter had been sent hard copy and via e-mail but no response had been received.

**474.2 Diamond Jubilee 2012**

Cheshire East Council had expressed a willingness to give support to events which town and parish councils may wish to hold to mark the Diamond Jubilee. The Clerk had contacted Cheshire East Council to enquire if the proposed path around the war memorial could be

interpreted as “an event” which in turn might attract funding. Confirmation had been received that this would not qualify for funding.

#### **474.3 Commemorative Path around the War Memorial (Diamond Jubilee 2012)**

At its meeting held on 3 October, the Parish Council had given consideration to a quotation and proposal for the creation of a decorative footpath around the war memorial at Eardswick Lane. In view of the questions raised by Members, Mr MacDonald, who had submitted the quotation, was in attendance and displayed additional detailed drawings of the proposed path.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That approval be granted to the creation of a path around the war memorial, as indicated on the designs submitted by Mr Ben MacDonald [to the October meeting and the instant meeting];

(b) That the cost of £10,500 be approved;

(c) That enquiries be made of Cheshire East Council to establish if a planning application was required; and

(d) That in the event of a planning application being required, the Clerk prepare the application as soon as practicable, in consultation with Mr MacDonald.

#### **475 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 members of the public in attendance and the Parish Council proceeded to its next business.

#### **476 POLICE MATTERS**

PC Pickford and PCSO V McKenna were in attendance and reported on general Police activities in the parish, including anti-social behaviour incidents, three burglaries, nine thefts, two road traffic collisions (RTC), one of which was a chase with a Police car. They also reported on an RTC fatality on Minshull New Road where the driver of the vehicle had died on impact.

#### **477 PLANNING MATTERS**

##### **477.1 Planning Applications**

**RESOLVED:** That no objections be raised to the following planning applications.

11/3538N – 3 Brookhouse Lane, Minshull Vernon: single storey side and rear extension  
Deadline date for comments 1 November. The Clerk has requested an extension of the deadline to 8 November 2011.

11/3012N – Marshfield Bank Farm, Middlewich Road: Installation of roof-mounted solar photo-voltaic array for renewable energy electricity generation comprising monocrystalline silicon panels.  
Deadline date for comments: 23 November 2011

**[Note: Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application No. 11/3012N, Councillor M Wilson withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the application and voting thereon.]**

##### **477.2 Land at Parkers Road – Hybrid Application for up to 400 Homes**

At its meeting held on 19 October, the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board approved the application for up to 400 homes on and off Parker’s Road subject to completion of a S.106

agreement and fulfilment of various conditions. Will Scawn of Carmargue (who had attended a recent Parish Council meeting) would be discussing the conditions and the S.106 agreement with Cheshire East Council in the near future. It was expected that the first phase of the development (for 131 residential units) would commence in 2012.

Mr Scawn would keep the Parish Council updated over the coming months and planned to discuss the second phase of the development (up to 269 residential units) with the Parish Council.

A copy of Mr Scawn's letter to Cheshire East Planning was provided for Members.

The Chairman had attended the Strategic Planning Board and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council. He had also attended a site visit and now expressed his concern that neither the Ward Councillor nor he as Chairman of the Parish Council, were permitted to speak at the site visit and he considered this to be a breach of the Site Inspection Protocol.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Rachel Bailey (Cheshire East Council Cabinet Member) be invited to address the Parish Council to explain the site inspection procedure.

#### **478 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **478.1 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 7 (month ended 5 November)
£52.40	HM Revenue & Customs – tax in respect of the Clerk's salary for Month 8 (month ended 5 December)
£372.00	Audit Commission – audit for 2010-2011 (£285.00 + £25.00 vat)
£76.50	Travel claim for attendance at 5 meetings. 34 miles x 45P x 5 = 76.50  Mrs C M Jones – travel expenses for the period January 2011 – October 2011. Mileage rate as set by NALC – 45P tax neutral Audlem-Minshull Vernon return – 34 miles. Attendance at 11 meetings  24 January                      7 March                      18 April 16 May                            4 July                        18 July (extra-ordinary) 15 August                        5 September (extra-ordinary) 3 October (re-arranged from 26 September)  <u>Planning Committee Meetings</u> 20 June                            25 July

##### **478.2 Budget Meeting of the Parish Council – 14 November 2011**

Copies of the agenda and budget papers were tabled at the meeting for discussion on 14 November 2011.

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

##### **479.1 Report on the Speed Watch Scheme**

Councillor Les Horne reported on recent activities, commenting that at present there was a shortage of volunteers. He referred to some water-damage of the equipment and this was being repaired, free of charge, by TWM Traffic Management Systems, which had supplied the equipment.

#### **479.2 Location of Trailer when not in use**

- (i) The trailer-mounted unit had been located at an address in Hough, when not in use; this was the home of a relative of Councillor Les Horne. Councillor Horne had advised that the relative was moving house and would be unable to store the unit at her new home. Councillor Horne had agreed that the unit, when not in use, could be stored on his own premises and would be wheel-clamped and lit by security light. The insurance company had been advised of this change.
- (ii) During discussion of this item, Councillor Les Horne took the opportunity to outline the arrangements for the use of "Little SID" which was owned by Cheshire East Highways but was on semi-permanent loan to the Parish Council. The Borough Council was kept apprised of the way in which the equipment was used and its locations in the parish.

#### **479.3 Vehicle Speed Display Posts – Leighton School and Mablins School**

The Parish Council was updated on progress in respect of the purchase of posts for location outside the two primary schools.

#### **479.4 Quotation for Mini 300 Vehicle Activated Speed Sign and Speed Display Unit**

The Parish Council was invited to consider a quotation from TWM Traffic Management Systems for –

- 12v solar powered Mini 300 Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (£1,745.00 each);
- 12v solar powered Mini SDU Speed Display Unit (£1,900.00 each)

There was no budget provision for this in the current year. If the Parish Council was minded to approve the quotation, the expenditure would need to be *vired* from reserves.

As requested at the previous meeting, a letter had been sent to the Chief Fire Officer enquiring if a contribution could be made towards this scheme. There was no funding available.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That approval be granted for the purchase of 2 x solar-powered Mini SDU Speed Display Units at a cost of £1,900 each from TWM Traffic Management Systems;

(b) That a sum of £3,800 be vired from reserves to fund the purchase;

(c) That the signs be located at each end of the area of Whalleys Green; and

(d) That Councillor Les Horne be authorised to discuss the locations with TWM Traffic Management Systems Ltd.

#### **479.5 Risk Assessment – Trailer Mounted Vehicle Display Unit**

The risk assessment for the trailer-mounted vehicle display unit would be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

### **480 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

It was noted that an e-mail had been issued to Members on 9 October 2011 enclosing a briefing note, staffing structure and other information about the new partnership between Cheshire East Highways and Ringway Jacobs.

### **481 CREWE AND NANTWICH LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS (LAPs)**

Representatives reported on recent LAP activities.

The suggested extension of the 30 mph speed limit from outside the community hall in the Middlewich direction was to be submitted to the Nantwich LAP for consideration. The Nantwich LAP might also be able to provide funding for signage.

Councillor Beard reported on the Crewe LAP activities. The schemes in the minor improvements programme had been considered.

**482 RESIGNATION OF MEMBER**

It was reported that Ian Williamson had resigned from the Parish Council, with immediate effect.

**483 BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cheshire East Councillor Margaret Simon reported on highways matters in the parish, including the Connect 2 Phase III which had been re-routed.

The Road Safety Partnership had now been subsumed into an Area Partnership which would meet on 6 December.

There were cracks on Parkers Road bridge and Bleasdale Road on the footway. These had been reported to Cheshire East Council and a response was awaited.

**484 CHESHIRE EAST REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the Borough Council's proposal to re-locate the polling station which was currently at St Peter's Community Hall, to Church Minshull.

In view of the poor bus service to Church Minshull, Members **AGREED** that St Peter's Church should be retained as a polling station with Church Minshull as an alternative rather than a replacement. Whilst voters could apply for a postal vote, many voters preferred to vote in person.

**485 ITEMS REQUESTED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS**

- **Advertising Signage on Street Furniture (Item requested by Councillor Les Horne)**

Councillor Horne invited the Parish Council to consider if it wished to form a view about a specific sign, the owner of which had been granted permission by Cheshire East Council to display it on a temporary basis for a period of 6 months, following which the Borough Council would make a determination about whether it could remain as a permanent sign.

It was understood that the correct procedures had been followed. Members asked if a copy of the policy on this matter could be provided.

- **Issuing of Press Releases by Parish Councillors (Requested by Councillor Bebbington)**

Councillor Bebbington had raised this issue in respect of letters sent by parish councillors to the local press. The councillors had signed their name as "Councillor..." followed by "Minshull Vernon Parish Council". This implied that the parish councillor was speaking on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk commented that Members could write to the local press as individuals but could not represent the views of the Parish Council. Not only was it not good practice for parish councillors to speak to the press purporting to represent the Parish Council, but Standing Order No. 27 prohibited such action. All official communications with the local media should be sent by the Parish Clerk.

**486 CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was reported.

- Cheshire East correspondence:
  - CEC Letter inviting parish councils to identify events to mark the Diamond Jubilee (2012) to be included in a calendar for dissemination across Cheshire East.
  - CEC Highways Service – Information Pack following the award of the contract to Ringway Jacobs which took over the majority of the highways service from 6 October 2011 for a 5 year period. (see also item 10 above)
  - New management structure for the “Places and Organisation” directorate
  - Polling places review by Cheshire East Council (see also item 13 above)
- Boundary Commission – Parliamentary boundary review 2013
- Town and Parish Council Conference on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, will be CONGLETON TOWN HALL.
- Letter from local resident in respect of proposed gypsy and travellers site on Parkers Road, **Coppenhall**. The objections were raised in respect of traffic issues. This site was outside the parish council area but would have implications for the parish.
- How to respond to planning applications – guide by CPRE
- The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee: The Guide to Taking Part. Publication from the Pageantmaster – the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons

**487 SHARED INFORMATION**

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

- The Chairman reported on a recent ChALC meeting at which time it was reported that the possibility of splitting between north and south was being explored. The borough council area of Cheshire East was so large as to make meetings unwieldy; parish and town councils in the north had little interest in matters encountered in the south and vice-versa. A change would be beneficial for all.
- Planning application Nos. 11/3151N and 11/3135N (as noted on the weekly planning lists) had not been submitted to the Parish Council for comment. Councillor Bebbington commented that as Ward Councillor he had not been notified of the applications.
- Bunbury Police Cluster Meeting. The main priority which emerged at the cluster meetings was speeding traffic. The Police appeared to have scaled back their enforcement. This matter was being taken up with Andy Smythe of the Nantwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit.
- The Parochial Church Council of St Peter’s had agreed to install a plaque in the community hall to commemorate the Parish Council’s financial contributions over many years.

**488 NEXT MEETING**

14 November Budget meeting

**489 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2012**

**489.1** The Parish Council had now approved revised Standing Orders. Standing Order No. 2 (xv) stated that the Parish Council would agree its calendar of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year at its annual meeting in May. In view of this, the Parish Council was asked to agree the following dates for meetings up to and including the annual meeting in May 2012, at which time, the Parish Council would be presented with a calendar for the following municipal year.

**489.2 Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings were currently held approximately every 6 weeks with a Planning Committee meeting slotted in between these dates. The Parish Council was invited to consider if meetings should be held on a monthly basis. This would probably avoid the need for a separate Planning meeting, and, in view of the amount of business on each agenda there was some merit in more frequent meetings. The following dates were based on monthly meetings held on the third Monday each month.

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the following dates be approved for Parish Council meetings:

16 January, 20 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May (Annual Meetings)

(b) That meetings commence at 7.00 pm with effect from the January meeting; and

(c) That the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council continue to be held on the same evening.

**490 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 is of a confidential nature and the public interest would not be served in disclosing the information.

**491 AWARD OF FREEMAN STATUS (S.249 LGA 1972)**

This item had been discussed at the previous meeting at which time it was reported that only principal authorities were able to confer Freeman or Alderman status on former councillors.

The Cheshire Association of Local Councils had provided a Legal Note which indicated that the 2009 Act amended provisions in the 1972 Act and the Parish Council could, if it wished, confer freeman status (but not alderman status) on those who had distinguished themselves through "eminent service" in the view of the Parish Council.

In the case of honorary aldermen, Cheshire East Council had defined "eminent service" as:

"a minimum of 12 years' service, whether consecutive or otherwise. Where a Member had served on one or more predecessor authorities of Cheshire East, whether concurrently or otherwise, including the shadow authority, the service with each authority should be taken into account separately for the purpose of determining eminent service."

**RESOLVED:** (a) That the Parish Council introduce a Roll of Honorary Freemen to confer the title of Honorary Freeman on former parish councillors who, in the opinion of the Parish Council, had distinguished themselves through eminent service which would include having served as a parish councillor for a minimum of 12 years;

(b) That the title of Honorary Freeman be conferred upon former parish councillors John Whittingham and Marshall Charlesworth;

(c) That detailed arrangements be made for a special ceremony to be held at which time Mr Whittingham and Mr Charlesworth, together with their guests, would be invited to attend; and

(d) That the detail arrangements be discussed further at a future meeting.

.....Chairman