

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11TH APRIL IN TIM PARRY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ANNEXE

Present: A. Bird (Chairman)
Councillors: P. Hudson A. Litton V. Hudson J. Wheeler
P. Carey K. Gleave L. Smith J. Regan
R. Smith

Also Present: C Wakefield – Clerk
PCSOs L. Carroll, N. Giles
Mr M. Moore, Mr H. Leigh, T. Wood

Clerks Note

Cllrs Bird, Litton & Regan were delayed at the start of the meeting. Cllr V. Hudson therefore took the Chair and started off the meeting with agenda item 2. Cllr Bird arrived partway through and resumed the Chair after the presentation was finished, starting at item 1. For ease of use, these minutes have been kept in agenda item order.

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence and approve them

Apologies were received from Cllrs T. Lewis and P. Ryan who were ill, Cllr L. Lewis who was attending Cllr T. Lewis. Cllrs Litton and Regan had sent apologies to say they would be late arriving.

The Chairman asked if the Council was willing to approve the absences of those members who were unwell and this was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED PC/2007/35 To accept the absences of the Councillors who tendered apologies for this meeting who were ill.

2. To hear a presentation by Bron Kerrigan of Cheshire Community Council on Parish Plans, to have the opportunity to ask questions and then to decide if the Council wants to take the issue further.

Ms Kerrigan gave a very interesting presentation and answered numerous questions on what is a complex and lengthy process. She also left some handouts for the Councillors. The Chairman thanked her for attending. Because the process is so involved it was agreed that it should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting which would give Councillors the chance to reflect on the talk and the contents of the handouts before making a decision.

The meeting was suspended at this point to hear a report from PCSOs Natalie Giles and Lisa Carroll. Cllrs Regan and Litton arrived during this report. There were then questions from the public.

The meeting then resumed.

PC/2007/18

Chairman's signature and date.....

3. **Casual vacancy for a Councillor (Sankey South Ward). No Poll has been claimed by electors so the vacancy must be filled as soon as possible by co-option. Councillors should therefore be ready to consider applications and nominate candidates. If there is more than one candidate Councillors will vote to select the co-optee.**

There were 2 candidates to consider. They withdrew while the Council debated. Mr Moore was proposed by Cllr Carey and seconded by Cllr Wheeler. Mr Leigh was proposed by Cllr L. Smith and seconded by Cllr Litton. The Council were impressed by both candidates and discussed their suitability. When put to the vote, Mr Leigh gained a majority. Upon returning to the room, Mr Leigh was invited to join the Council. Mr Moore was thanked for his application and the Council expressed the hope that he will stay in touch and perhaps become involved in community activities. Mr Leigh was given a pack of information to read, including the Code of Conduct. He will be asked to sign a declaration of acceptance at the next meeting when he has had a chance to read the Code.

RESOLVED To invite Mr Harvey Leigh to be co-opted onto the Council.
PC/2007/36

4. **To nominate and elect a Councillor to fill the place on the Employment Group vacated by Cllr Lynn.**

Mr Leigh was asked if he would like to join the Employment Group and he agreed. This item will therefore be carried over until the next meeting when he signs his declaration of acceptance.

5. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th March 2007.**

The Chairman asked if the Council were willing to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and acceptance was agreed.

RESOLVED To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday
PC/2007/37 14th March as a true and accurate record.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 14th March 2007.**

There were no matters arising.

7. **Finance Committee Business**

- 7.1 **To be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6th March 2007 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 3rd April 2007**

The Council noted the draft minutes had been accepted as a true record.

- 7.2 **To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 3rd April 2007, to be informed of the items approved for payment at that**

PC/2007/19

Chairman's signature and date.....

meeting – detailed in Appendix 3 – and to have the opportunity to question any payments.

The relevant papers had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments so the minutes were noted.

The Clerk asked if another payment could be authorised. The refurbishment of the main hall at Tim Parry Community Centre is currently underway and user groups had belatedly asked if more electrical sockets could be fitted (there is only one at present). The kitchen fitter had agreed he could do this work for payment of £100. The Clerk had canvassed the Finance Group by e-mail about this and they had agreed it was a good price and would be cost-effective to have the work done now. The Council also agreed and authorised the work to be done. Cheque number 7580 was therefore signed in the amount of £100 for that purpose.

RESOLVED PC/2007/38 To authorise the Clerk to pay Ian Cantello £100 to fit extra electrical sockets in Tim Parry main hall kitchen (LGA 1976 s19)

7.3 To be informed that Finance Committee at the meeting on 3rd April 2007 authorised payments of £5311.41 for net wages and £1401.11 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 16% on February wages, but that is because February wages were low because of half term. It is only 2% different to June, which was a more typical month.

The figures were noted and the explanation accepted.

7.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 3rd April 2007 and decide whether to accept them.

Two recommendations had been made.

FC/53/2007 recommended payment of the annual subscription to ChALC for 2007/08 for the amount of £928.94. The Committee felt they had got value for money in 2006/7 through training provided; introductions to MACAW and Utilities Warehouse; information provided on legislation changes etc; assistance with website and other queries answered. The Council agreed to continue the subscription.

RESOLVED PC/2007/39 To pay an affiliation fee of £928.94 to ChALC for 2007/08 (LGA 1972 s111)

Finance Committee resolution FC/55/2007 recommended payment of £100 grant to the Penketh and Sankey Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Association for their Spring Show. Normally the Committee would have authorised this themselves but delays in receiving requests mean that 2 have arrived within 12 months and that is beyond the Finance Committee's delegated powers. It was agreed to make the donation.

PC/2007/20

Chairman's signature and date.....

**RESOLVED
PC/2007/40**

To award a donation of £100 to Penketh and Sankey Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Association for the Spring 2007 show (LGA 1972 s137)

- 8. To hear feedback from the WBC workshop re possible extra responsibilities for Parish Councils on 31st March 2007 and decide if there is any action for the Parish Council to take at this time.**

Cllrs P. Hudson, L. Smith and R. Smith had attended and so had the Clerk. It was reported that the workshop had been a disappointment, very little tangible had come out of it, although some feedback sheets are still awaited. It was found that Birchwood Town Council are conducting a test run on sharing responsibilities, which involves the Town Council, the Borough Council and a private firm liaising over grass cutting. However this is at a very early stage. There is no further action at this stage until the Borough Council organise more meetings.

- 9. To be informed of the start up of the group "Friends of Dorchester Road Parks", and be appraised of the groups aims. To consider if the Parish Council wishes to give any financial support to this group.**

Cllr Litton informed the meeting that a number of residents have joined together to form a group with the aim of renovating the park at Brentnall Close and other little park areas nearby. This has been a good facility, but is now neglected and the residents want to refurbish it using recycled materials. They are setting up a properly constituted committee and hope to involve the Mersey Groundwork Trust to manage the project, starting with a feasibility study, and raise funds. There will be a startup cost of £12,000 to get the Mersey Groundwork Trust involved, and they wondered if the Parish Council might want to make a contribution.

There was a discussion and general feeling of support, but it was agreed that a formal approach needed to be made, in writing, via the Finance Committee. This should involve a breakdown of the costs, plus more information about the organisation of the group, so that the Committee could be assured that any money given would be properly spent. Cllr Litton will convey that back to the group and get the ball rolling.

- 10. To consider a proposal from Cllr L Smith to institute a fund, paid for by contributions from Councillors, for the purchase of gifts to show the appreciation of the Council. To decide on the administration arrangements for such a fund, if agreed.**

There was much debate on this proposal, with many advantages and disadvantages explored. A comment was made that in some other Councils a Chairman's Allowance is used for the purpose of making payments for which there is no other statutory power. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should explore the possibilities around this option, and report back to the full Council before any decision is made on the proposal.

PC/2007/21

Chairman's signature and date.....

11. To formalise the membership of the Youth Group

Cllr L. Smith said she thought the Youth Group should be limited to Great Sankey and this was agreed. It was further agreed that Cllrs L. Smith, R. Smith, Bird, Gleave, Litton and Wheeler would be members of the Group. In addition it was agreed that Brenda Bradley and Mr Moore should be invited to join the Group and Cllr Gleave said he would contact them about it. It would also be useful to have PCSO Steve Grady and other police representatives involved, and to include representatives from the Youth Parliament. Cllr L. Smith will contact interested parties to set up the next meeting.

12. To consider if the Parish Council wish to give their support to the WBC application for WREN funding to refurbish the pond area between Freshwater Close and Whitwell Close.

Also to consider if the Parish Council wish to contribute financial support as well, towards the shortfall in WREN funding.

Cllr R. Smith expanded on the information in e-mails that had been circulated with the agenda. Residents and Parish Councillors had wanted something doing with this pond for a long time. The Council agreed that refurbishment would be good for the Parish, and it was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter on behalf of the Council giving moral support. The question of ongoing maintenance was raised and it was confirmed that WBC will maintain the area when it has been refurbished. It was also asked if the Parish Council would be willing to make a financial contribution towards the element of funding which will not be supplied by WREN. There was interest in this, but more information is required before a decision could be made. The Clerk was directed to inform Mr Abernathy that he should write to the Finance Committee to request a donation, giving details of the shortfall and what other partners are contributing.

RESOLVED PC/2007/41 To write to WBC to give moral support for the refurbishment of the pond between Whitwell Close and Freshwater Close

13. To consider planning applications received by the Council - Appendix 1 – and consider if any objections are to be raised

Cllrs Wheeler and Regan left the room at this point.

The Council discussed application 2007/10273 and agreed this would be an improvement to the premises.

Application 2007/10376 was also discussed – a covered area outside a public house. While the Council saw no grounds to object to this development there were concerns that it would cause an increase in noise levels for surrounding properties and there have already been some complaints from local residents about existing noise. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Planning Section and express their concerns about noise.

Cllrs Wheeler and Regan returned to the room.

14. To consider correspondence received by the Council and consider if any action is required.

A list of correspondence and copies of letters had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council considered and noted all the items. The following caused further discussion.

Item 5 – letter from Information Commissioner. The Council noted that the Commissioner had confirmed that their approach to not releasing personal data to the public is correct. The Commissioner now wished to know the current position with the lease for Wroxham Road. The Clerk had finally got agreement from WBC that this could be viewed by the public and the Parish Council also agreed to this. The Clerk will inform the Commissioner.

Item 6 – letter from a potential user asking for a reduced rate of hire of a centre. The Parish Council did not wish to make comment on the letter and asked the Clerk to refer it to the Finance Committee for consideration.

15. To receive reports from Councillors and consider if any action is required

There were no reports.

16. To hear update on position with premises licences

There was nothing further to report, and it was agreed that this could be discharged as a standing agenda item.

17. Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and Press leave the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items

Because the next two agenda items potentially involved disclosing personal information about users and staff it was resolved to exclude the public and press.

RESOLVED PC/2007/42 To exclude the press and the public from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

18. To be informed of the action being taken by the Finance Committee over clients in arrears

Cllr Gleave explained that the Finance Committee and Clerk have been concentrating on clearing client arrears. The office is now geared up to dealing with arrears on a shorter timescale and the Committee will be reviewing the position monthly.

PC/2007/23

Chairman's signature and date.....

19. To consider the 2007 pay review and decide if the Council wishes to take any action

The Clerk has been trying to find the percentage pay rise for WBC staff from 1 April 2007 but this has not yet been agreed. WBC are doing a pay and grading review as well. The Council decided they would wait until the WBC cost of living increase has been announced and will await the outcome of the WBC review to see if it would be appropriate to take any further action. The Clerk is to let staff know the reason for the delay and that the increase will be backdated to 1/4/2007.