

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10TH OCTOBER 2007 IN TIM PARRY COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNEXE

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

Also Present: C. Wakefield – Clerk
PCSOs C. O'Brien, S. Mackie
N. Davies (Warrington Guardian)
One member of the public

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence and approve them

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr T. Lewis who was ill, and Cllr L. Lewis. Apologies had also been received from Cllr Williams and from Cllrs K. Gleave, R. Smith, L. Smith and A. Bird who had to attend other meetings but would join the Parish Council meeting as soon as possible. The Chairman asked if the Council was willing to approve the absence of Cllr T. Lewis and this was agreed.

RESOLVED To approve the absence of Cllr T. Lewis
PC/2007/87

The Chairman suspended the meeting at this point to hear a report from the PCSOs. The meeting was then resumed.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th September 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/2007/88 12th September as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 12th September 2007.

3.1 To be reminded of the need to supply instances of the worst roads/paths needing repair to the Clerk for onward transmission to WBC.

The Council was informed that the initial letter had been sent to WBC Highways section and that the Clerk now needed specific instances that needed following through.

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Because 4 Councillors had not yet arrived by this point it was agreed to re-order the agenda so they would not miss items of particular relevance to them. The original agenda numbers are shown in brackets for information

4. (5) To consider the consultation letter regarding the proposed alcohol designation area for Warrington and decide if the Parish Council wishes to support it or suggest any amendments

This had been put on the agenda as Cheshire Police were hoping the item would be fast-tracked by WBC and by this point the Parish Council could formally indicate support or provide comments. However there had been a mix-up and the issue is not yet at that point. There is to be a 12 week consultation period and the Parish Council will be asked for comments then.

The meeting was suspended at this point to take questions from the public. The meeting then resumed.

5. (7) To consider if Standing Orders require any amendment in view of the adoption of the Revised Code of Conduct, and if so to agree the changes

After consideration of guidance from the Standards Board it was agreed that the only amendment needed was to alter the date of adoption of the Code in paragraph 25.1.

RESOLVED **To amend the date in paragraph 25.1 of Standing Orders
PC/2007/89 to 13th June 2007**

6. (8) To be informed of the statutory consultation being undertaken by WBC to close Woolston Community High School and, as a consultee, to decide if the Parish Council wishes to make any comments

The Council discussed this and expressed the hope that the decision which is made will be in the best interests of the children of Warrington. They did not feel it would be appropriate to make any formal comment.

RESOLVED **That it would not be appropriate to make a formal comment
PC/2007/90 on the consultation**

7. (9) To receive a report from WBC about the Playschemes this year and be informed that payment of donation has been made

The Council were happy to hear that the Playschemes had been so well used this year, and also well run. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to WBC.

8 (10) To finalise arrangements for Shadow Parish Council meeting.

The Council was made aware of the latest details for the meeting.

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**9 (12) To consider planning applications received by the Council - Appendix 1
– and consider if any objections are to be raised**

Cllrs Regan and Wheeler left the room before discussions began. Cllrs Gleave, L. Smith and R. Smith arrived at this point.

The Council discussed planning application 2007/11390. Although the Council did not wish to object, there were concerns that the siting of the proposed development may subject neighbouring properties to increased noise levels. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to voice this concern.

RESOLVED **To write to WBC re planning application 2007/11390 to voice
PC/2007/91** **concerns about increase in noise to nearby residences**

Planning application 2007/11447 was also discussed. Cllr R. Smith has been contacted by residents of Edward Road, Henderson Road and Liverpool Road with concerns about insufficient parking spaces being provided which may impact adversely on them. He will represent those views at the Development Control meeting on 7th November. The Council agreed to send a letter of objection.

RESOLVED **To object to planning application 2007/11447 on traffic/road
PC/2007/92** **safety grounds**

Cllrs Wheeler and Regan rejoined the meeting and Cllr Bird arrived.

10. (4) Finance Committee Business

10.1 (4.1) To be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th September 2007 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 2nd October 2007

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

10.2 (4.2) To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 2nd October 2007, to be informed of the items approved for payment at that meeting – detailed in Appendix 3 – and to have the opportunity to question any payments.

The relevant papers had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Gleave asked if there were any questions or comments on them. There were none so the minutes were noted.

10.3 (4.3) To be informed that Finance Committee at the meeting on 2nd October 2007 authorised payments of £4884.84 for net wages and £1342.96 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 1% more than August pay.

The figures were accepted.

10.4 (4.4) To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 2nd October 2007 and decide whether to accept them.

Two recommendations had been made.

FC/121/2007 was a proposal to make a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, part being payment for a wreath for the Remembrance Day Parade. This was agreed unanimously and cheque number 7800 was signed for that purpose.

**RESOLVED To make a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion
PC/2007/93 Poppy Appeal (LGA 1972 s137)**

FC/122/2007 was a proposal to give a donation of £50 worth of Argos vouchers to each of two pre-schools that use the Community Centres who had asked for help to raise funds for their Christmas raffles. The money being raised is for toys and Christmas parties for the children. This was agreed. Cllr Gleave explained that the FC had not done this under their delegated powers as the same groups had asked for donations within the last 12 months because they have got organised a little earlier this year.

**RESOLVED To give a donation of £50 worth of Argos vouchers to each
PC/2007/94 of 2 pre-schools who had requested help (LGA 1972 s137)**

11. (6) To consider the letter from WBC re inclusion of Whittle Hall in the list of Statutory Listed Buildings, and advise the Clerk on information to send to English Heritage

This was discussed but because of the delay since it was first brought up it was agreed to defer it to the next meeting in order to give time for Councillors to have a look at the building and for the Clerk to circulate to them a copy of the minutes first dealing with the issue (October 2004) and a list of listed buildings.

12. (11) To consider whether and in what manner to make approaches to the Parishioners to try to get ideas for what can be done short term to improve the Parish.

Cllr Gleave had requested this agenda item which grew from a conversation he had had about items in the Newsletter. He is conscious that the Council has set aside funds for pro-active projects to benefit Parishioners and he feels the Council should canvass Parishioners to get ideas for what would benefit them. Any responses could have spin-off benefits in terms of getting people interested in doing a Parish Plan. The original idea was to have an item in the Newsletter inviting Parishioners to submit ideas for what the Parish Council could do to improve the local area. The Council agreed the principle and, in discussion, other ideas emerged.

It was agreed to progress the following:

1. put the invitation to submit ideas into the Newsletter and on the website
2. put a special "flyer" about this into the copies of the Newsletter sent to the schools

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3. have posters about this made to go up in the Community Centres/schools etc.
4. set up a separate e-mail address (with access for all Councillors) to be used as a post box for ideas
5. obtain media publicity for the campaign

RESOLVED **To invite Parishioners to submit ideas for improvements to the Parish to the Council, and to authorise the Clerk to take the agreed measures to progress this (LGA 1972 s137)**
PC/2007/95

13. To consider correspondence received by the Council – Appendix 2 - 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 1 – letter and booklet from DEFRA “Ways to tackle climate change”. This sparked off a lively discussion as most Councillors seemed to be in favour of taking action and many had examples of good practise to offer. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the November meeting. It was further agreed that, to facilitate the meeting in November, Councillors who had ideas for practises to adopt should send them to the Clerk who would compile a composite list to circulate with the agenda. Council can then vote on each suggestion at the meeting.

Item 4 – letter from WBC about Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Council felt it was not clear from the letter what action was expected. The Clerk was asked to contact Keith Doughty to ask if he would come to the Council and clarify.

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

Cllr R. Smith reported that the application for a public right of way on the path at the back of Mayfair Close was being submitted that day.

Cllr Regan reported that there are problems with anti-social behaviour in specific areas around Hood Manor (Helmsdale Lane, Mapplewell Crescent, Birdwell Drive were specifically mentioned). Liaison is happening with the Police, but he urged the Parish Council to continue to look at helping to provide facilities for the young people in the area – possibly through the Youth Group.

Cllr Litton stated that the police are looking at tracking the movement of youths causing disorder around the area and taking action to stop this. One of the measures is the possible alley-gating of the path through Penketh High School.

Cllr Gleave spoke about efforts being made to improve attendance at Whittle Hall CAM meetings. The one at Bewsey Barn was not well attended, but

agreement has now been reached with Asda to run a CAM there. He will supply details when finalised, to include on the website.

Cllr P. Hudson reported that he and Cllr Regan and Cllr V. Hudson had attended an Army Presentation evening which had been very interesting although of more immediate relevance to the Borough Council.

Cllr Bird also spoke about the CAM meeting at Bewsey Barn. He felt that the venue had been suitable but it was probably the time and lack of leafleting in the relevant area which had contributed to the poor attendance.

Cllr Carey reported that the section of Whittle Brook behind Alderbank Road had not been maintained for some time and the banks are overgrown. He asked that the Clerk should find out who is responsible for maintenance and request that they give this area some attention. This was agreed.

- 15. 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**

It was resolved to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED **To exclude the press and the public from the remainder**
PC/2007/96 **of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business**
 to be transacted.

- 16. To be updated on progress with Wroxham Road centre.**

There was no progress to report. The Clerk will follow this up with WBC.

- 17. To consider the actions and behaviour of some Community Centre users and decide on any action to be taken.**

There have been problems at one of the centres with one group parking in such a way that they inconvenience other users (and the Caretaker) and also block the access route to the centre for emergency vehicles. Letters to the group, and the hatching of the access route have not solved the problem, and the Clerk had now had letters of complaint from 3 user groups. There had also been an incident with a member of the group being abusive to a Councillor. The Clerk had written again and Cllr Gleave had been to see the Club Secretary. The Secretary has tried to get group members to park properly already, but he promised to take a stronger line with them, and to follow up the incident which led to abusive behaviour. He asked to be informed by e-mail if there are any further incidents. The Clerk will do this and keep a record of incidents. There was discussion of further action and Councillors volunteered to go to the Club managers' meetings to reinforce the point. The Clerk was asked to set this up. The Council will monitor if any improvements are made.

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