

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007 IN TIM  
PARRY COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNEXE

**Present:** V. Hudson (Chairman)  
**Councillors:** J. Regan J. Wheeler H. Leigh T. Williams  
P. Hudson K. Gleave A. Bird

**Also Present:** C Wakefield – Clerk  
PCSOs C. Cheshire, S. Grady. L. Patten, Sgt G. Jack  
N. Davies (Warrington Guardian)  
2 members of the public

**1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence and approve them**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs A. Litton, R. Smith and L. Smith.

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

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 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/2007/97** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007 as a true and accurate record.

**3. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007.**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To be informed of the death of Cllr Peter Ryan, and to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect. To consider proposal to make a donation from the Chairman's discretionary allowance to a charity designated by Mrs Ryan instead of funeral flowers.**

The Chairman asked for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Cllr Peter Ryan and to mark the gratitude of the Council for his service. This was observed by all. Cllr Ryan's family had asked for donations to his favourite charities rather than funeral flowers, and the Chairman proposed a donation of £50 from her discretionary allowance to Hosanna House, a charity Peter supported which helps local disabled people to go to Lourdes. This was agreed and cheque number 7828 was made out for that purpose. The Chairman said she would pass it on to Cllr Ryan's family along with the condolences of the Council.

PC/2007/57

Chairman's signature and date.....

**RESOLVED**                    **To make a donation of £50 to Hosanna House, through Mrs**  
**PC/2007/98**                    **Jane Ryan, in memory of Cllr Peter Ryan (LGA 1972 s137).**

- 5.    To be informed of the resignation of Cllr Terry Lewis, and the resignation of Cllr Lorna Lewis and consider a proposal to make a small retirement gift to each, funded from the Chairman's discretionary allowance. To be informed of the progress on actions being taken to fill all 3 vacancies**

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to both Terry and Lorna Lewis. Terry had been elected to the Council in May 2004 and had served on the Employment Group until ill-health prevented him. Lorna was elected in April 2005 and was active in the group that oversaw the refurbishment of the Community Centres. Sadly Terry's health problems and Lorna's role as his carer now meant they could no longer be active on the Council and so they had both resigned. The Chairman proposed that the Council express its gratitude with a small gift to each, in the shape of £25 worth of Argos vouchers each, to be taken from the Chairman's discretionary allowance. This was agreed. A card was also signed by the Councillors present.

**RESOLVED**                    **To purchase a £25 gift voucher each for retiring Councillors**  
**PC/2007/99**                    **Terry and Lorna Lewis from the Chairman's allowance.**

All three vacancies have been advertised and the Clerk is waiting to hear from WBC if any polls are required. She will keep Councillors informed of any developments.

- 6.    To elect a Councillor to take Cllr Ryan's place on the Finance Committee**

It was agreed to defer this item until more Councillors are available.

- 7.    To be informed that the Audit for 2006/07 has been concluded and GSPC were given a clean report.**

Councillors were pleased to note the satisfactory conclusion of the 2006/07 Audit. Cllr Gleave expressed his thanks to members of the Finance Committee and particularly to office staff.

- 8.    Finance Committee Business**

- 8.1    to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

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

- 8.2    To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 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**

PC/2007/58

Chairman's signature and date.....



**RESOLVED**            **To purchase 2 bicycles for the PCSOs from Geddes at a cost of £220, plus 2 sets of lights for them at £10 per bike (LG and R Act 1997 s31).**  
**PC/2007/102**

- 9        To consider the consultation letter regarding the proposed Borough wide Alcohol Designation Order and answer the questions posed in the letter and decide if the Parish Council wishes to provide any other comments**

The Council agreed the wording in answer to the questions posed, which in brief was that it does support the proposal and that it has no objections to the order.

**RESOLVED**            **To reply to the consultation letter that the Parish Council does support the proposed Boroughwide Alcohol Designation Order (L G and R Act 1997 s31)**  
**PC/2007/103**

- 10      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**

After some discussion the Clerk was asked to write to English Heritage to ask for Whittle Hall to be included as a statutory listed building on the grounds that

1. it is a reminder of the historical past of the area,
2. there is not much else in the vicinity to recall the heritage of the area, so this should be protected.

- 11      To approve the draft of the next edition of the Parish newsletter, and decide if it is now ready for printing. To consider draft posters for the “What can the Parish Council do for you “ campaign and decide on a format and numbers for printing one.**

It was agreed that the Newsletter was ready and could go to print, with 1100 copies needed.

The Council considered 3 draft posters and came up with a composite which combined the best elements of 2 of them. It was agreed that 2 sizes are needed for different locations, so the Clerk was authorised to order 50 at A4 size and 20 at A3 size.

The e-mail suggestion box has been set up and Councillors were given a sheet advising on its address and how they can access it, plus how the office will be dealing with it.

**RESOLVED**            **To approve printing of 1100 copies of Vol 2 issue 2 of the Newsletter, 50 copies of an A4 size poster, and 20 copies of an A3 size poster. (LGA 1972 s 142)**  
**PC/2007/104**

- 12      To consider a proposal to publish on the website a running record of attendance by Councillors at Parish Council meetings (including full Council, Finance and Employment meetings) starting from the beginning of the current financial year.**

PC/2007/60

Chairman’s signature and date.....

After some consideration it was agreed to put this information on the website, in broadly the same format as it had been printed with the Annual Report, but starting from April 2007.

**RESOLVED PC/2007/105 To publicise record of attendance at meetings on the website.**

**13 To consider if the Council wishes to take action on ways to tackle Climate change in general, and if they wish to adopt any specific practises from the list collated from individual suggestions – Appendix 4**

Three lists had been collated:

- suggestions for individual Councillors
- suggestions to encourage the Community to take up
- suggestions for what the Council can do as a corporate body

It was agreed that the first 2 lists would be treated as advisory only, and the meeting concentrated on the third list, things it could actually do. Going through each suggestion listed the Council decided the following:

|    | <b>Proposal</b>   | <b>Decision</b>  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | Fit low energy lightbulbs   | already started, complete replacing bulbs as soon as possible                            |
| 2  | Use timers/sensors on lights where possible                         | No, expensive to fit, and Caretakers are briefed to turn lights off when not in use      |
| 3  | Replace boiler with more efficient one                              | This has been done in all centres except those with modern boilers already               |
| 4  | Recycle paper in office   | Staff already re-use paper as scrap when possible, new waste firm will recycle paper     |
| 5  | Consider energy suppliers - green energy                            | refer to Finance Committee to consider   |
| 6  | Look into recycled photocopy paper                                  | Clerk to try recycled paper to check if suitable   |
| 7  | Install water meters & monitor consumption                          | properties already metered, office to check consumption figures                          |
| 8  | Monitor temperature/heating timers at CCs                           | heating already timed for bookings, Clerk will lower temp to see if viable               |
| 9  | Reduce paper consumption for meetings                               | Correspondence will be scanned and emailed where possible, paper list will still be circ |
| 10 | Use laptops for meetings  | Not a viable option on cost grounds  |
| 11 | Buy "fair trade products"   | Not a viable option on cost grounds  |
| 12 | Shred Cllrs papers & recycle  | Office will do this if Cllrs want to leave them papers                                   |
| 13 | Consider how far products have travelled - buy local where possible | Agreed to do this as far as possible   |

**RESOLVED PC/2007/106 To implement the changes listed above as soon practicable.**

PC/2007/61

Chairman's signature and date.....

- 14 To consider proposal from Cllr Regan that the Parish Council puts up a small prize fund for each of the Junior schools in the parish to run an art competition, the competition being to do the best drawing/painting/collage of what goes on, or what activities children would like to go on, in their local Community centre. So St James would do Hood Manor, Park Road would do Tim Parry, Old Hall Road would do Bewsey Barn etc. The intention is that the Council would get some original artwork to brighten up the centres but more importantly that young children would be encouraged to get involved with the centres, and learn to respect them as a facility for their future use.**

There was a lot of discussion of this item which was received enthusiastically. Councillors present were in favour of going ahead with the scheme but recognised that a lot of detail needed to be worked out. It was agreed that the Clerk would draw up a framework document to go to the Finance Committee who could then consider the financial aspects and make a detailed recommendation for the Council to vote on.

**RESOLVED To support the idea of an art competition and refer it to the  
PC/2007/107 Finance Committee to come up with detailed proposals.**

- 15 To consider the percentage pay award for WBC staff from 1 April 2007 and decide whether to implement the same rate for Parish Council staff (if known by the date of the meeting)**

Cllr Gleave informed the meeting that the WBC pay award had not yet been agreed and so the Council decided to hold this over until such time as it had been agreed.

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

Cllr Wheeler left the meeting at this point (Cllr Regan did not as he is no longer on the Development Control Committee).

Cllr Gleave updated the meeting on application 2007/11262. This went to Development Control last week and has now been deferred for 6 weeks to give the parties involved a chance to explore a mutually agreed solution to their problems.

It was also reported that 2007/11662 will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Wheeler rejoined the meeting.

- 17 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.

PC/2007/62

Chairman's signature and date.....

Item 5 – letter inviting comments on draft checklists for the Planning process. It was agreed that the Council would like this on the agenda for the next meeting, to consider more fully.

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

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter of thanks from the mayor for the invitation to the Shadow Parish Council meeting, which she had enjoyed. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a copy of the letter to the schools involved.

Cllr Bird asked if there could be an item on the agenda of the next meeting to review the Shadow Parish Council meeting. This was agreed.

Cllr P. Hudson reported that he had undergone some training as a School Governor; this was the reason he could not attend the November Finance Committee meeting.

Cllr Wheeler reported that a further piece of play equipment in Sankey Valley Park had been destroyed by arson (the Slide). The Parish Council had previously written to WBC about the other play equipment lost to vandalism (the Pirate Ship and Spiders Web) and been told it would not be replaced. She now asked if the Parish Council could write to the Warrington Guardian and express its concern that the area will deteriorate further unless something is done. It was agreed this would be helpful and the content of the letter was discussed. The Clerk was instructed to draft the letter, and let Councillors see it for comment before sending it on.

Cllr Wheeler also reported that the planning application concerning Bewsey Old Hall had gone to Development Control, but had been deferred to give the Developers time to provide more architectural details. The application to change Furniture World into a restaurant had also been deferred pending a site visit.

**19 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.**

This was proposed and agreed and the members of the public left.

**RESOLVED**            **To exclude members of the public and press due to the**  
**PC/2007/108**           **commercial in-confidence nature of the business to be**  
                                 **discussed.**

**20 To be updated on progress with Wroxham Road centre.**

Cllr Gleave reported that he had spoken to Cllrs Smith and Carey about an e-mail from Ian Langton and asked them to contact Mr Langton.

PC/2007/63  
Chairman's signature and date.....