

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12th DECEMBER 2007 IN TIM PARRY COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNEXE

Present: A. Litton (Deputy Chairman)
Councillors: J. Regan H. Leigh L. Smith
P. Hudson K. Gleave R. Smith P. Carey

Also Present: C Wakefield – Clerk
PCSO L. Carroll
C. Pratt (WBC)
1 member of the public

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence and approve them

Apologies had been received from Cllrs V. Hudson and J. Wheeler. Cllr Litton (Deputy Chairman) therefore chaired the meeting.

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

2. To be introduced to Chris Pratt, WBC Street Scene Enforcement Manager, and to discuss with him the Dog Fouling Policy, the particular problems with dog fouling at the Tim Parry centre, and the enforcement measures which WBC can deliver.

Chris gave some background to the Dog Fouling Policy and explained the progressive measures his enforcement team can use in areas which are subject to dog fouling. He then took questions from Councillors and discussed the particular problems at Tim Parry Community Centre and various other sites. He agreed to look into the possibility of WBC providing and servicing more rubbish bins in the area of Sankey Valley Park and the park at Thorntondale Drive, areas owned by English Partnerships. The Chairman thanked him for addressing the meeting.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 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/2007/109 14th November 2007 as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 14th November 2007

4.1 To be informed of progress on the 3 casual Council vacancies

The vacancies had been advertised and no poll was called. They have therefore now been advertised for co-option. Interested parties have been

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asked to write a letter of application to the Council by 21st December and the co-option will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

4.2 To be informed of a problem in carrying out resolution PC/2007/102 and what is being done about it

This resolution concerns the purchase of bicycles for the PCSOs. Before the order could be placed the Police (in reaction to an accident in Manchester) had decided that bikes have to be up to a set specification, however it has not yet been possible to obtain the specification. Urgent efforts to get it are now being made.

5. Finance Committee business

5.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6th November 2007 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 4th December 2007

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted without change.

5.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 4th December 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

There were no questions or comments.

5.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 4th December 2007, authorised payments of £5492.37 for net wages and £1556.24 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 1% more than October. This month included some arrears, and also some paid training time for the new member of staff

The figures were noted.

5.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 4th December 2007 and decide whether to accept them

Five recommendations were made at the Finance meeting on 4th December. One is to be dealt with under agenda item 6.

Of the others FC/140/2007 recommended that the hire rates for the Community Centres remain unchanged in 2008, but that increased useage is promoted. This follows a review by the Committee which concluded that increasing the rates could jeopardise some of the local user groups, which would mean a loss of amenities for people in the area. The recommendation was proposed and seconded and the Council voted to accept it.

RESOLVED To keep the same hire rates for Community Centres through PC/2007/110 2008 and encourage more local users (LGA 1976 s19).

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FC150/2007 recommended that the Parish Council and partners take over the lease of the CCTV at Hood Manor, subject to all the details being resolved in a satisfactory manner. However since making the recommendation it has emerged that the situation is far more complex than the Finance Committee had been led to believe in terms of the lease agreements. After discussion it was agreed that whilst the Parish Council agree in principle to the lease being taken on they must have more finalised arrangements to decide on. The Finance Committee was tasked with working out all the details with the various organisations concerned and then bringing it back to the Parish Council.

- 6. To consider the recommendation to accept the 2.475% pay award from 1 April 2007 for Parish Council staff, as being paid by WBC according to the NJC settlement.**

FC/141/2007 recommended implementation of the 2.475% pay settlement, backdated to April 2007, as being paid by WBC. This was proposed, seconded and agreed.

RESOLVED **To implement a pay increase of 2.475%, backdated to 1/4/07**
PC/2007/113 **in line with WBC (LGA 1972 s111)**

- 7. To review the draft Local Checklists provided by Warrington Borough Council (part of the planning application process) and decide if the Council wishes to make any comments on them.**

The Council looked at the Checklists (which had been circulated with the agenda) and decided they did not wish to comment on them.

- 8. Proposal from Cllr Bird - To review the "shadow Parish Council event" and to consider what needs to be done to follow up the success of the event.**

As Cllr Bird was not at the meeting it was decided to hold this item over until he could present it in person.

Clerks note: Cllr Bird contacted her after the meeting to explain he had been caught in traffic caused by a motorway accident and could not get to the meeting.

- 9. Proposal from Cllr Bird - GSPC allocated a small budget towards helping young people in the community, which has not yet been utilised. Many local groups have a legal requirement for their members to be CRB checked (as volunteers this is free) but increasingly they are required to attend a child protection module as well. This costs approximately £22. Would the Council consider paying for this course for the first 100 applicants to encourage local groups involved with children? Would the Council also consider allowing such groups to use the community centres free of charge to facilitate these courses?**

This item was also held over to the next meeting.

- 10. Proposal from Cllr Bird - Would the Council consider encouraging local councillors to arrange an event at each of our centres to encourage a**

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community spirit e.g. a cheese and wine evening during the first quarter of 2008?

This item was also held over to the next meeting.

- 11. Proposal from Cllr Regan – It may be possible that the Warrington Wolves Community Learning and Sport Foundation could work with the Parish Council to help young people in the Parish. Would the Council like a presentation from someone from the Foundation to explore the possibilities, and if so when?**

The Council agreed it would like a presentation and the Clerk was asked to invite Neil Kelly to attend the February meeting.

RESOLVED PC/2007/114 To invite a representative from Warrington Wolves Community Learning and Sport Foundation to address the Council at the February meeting.

- 12. Proposal from Cllr L Smith – Liz Gaughran from the Probation Service has asked if the Council would like a presentation on Local Crime – Community Sentence. This lasts for approximately one hour and requires a minimum of 12 attendees for the presentation (which is interactive) to be effective. Would the Council like to have this presentation and if so when?**

After discussion it was agreed that the proposed presentation would not be appropriate and so the proposal was withdrawn.

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

The Committee discussed planning application 2007/11868. There had been a problem with receipt of this application from WBC and also with receipt of the Ward lists, so the Council did not know this application had not been sent until alerted by a Parishioner. After discussion, the Council decided they did not want to make any objection.

Cllr Gleave gave an update on planning application 2007/11262, which has now been withdrawn.

The Council also discussed planning application 2007/11773. Some concerns were raised that land used previously for exercise would now be lost, but on balance the Council felt that the potential benefits outweighed this and decided not to make any objections.

- 14. 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.

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Item 2 – letter from Parishioner re traffic lights at Asda. There was a great deal of discussion about this issue. Cllr Gleave was able to give some information about measures being considered by WBC. The Council decided to write to WBC to express its concerns and ask what progress is being made. The Clerk was asked to send a letter and also to keep the Parishioner informed.

Item 9 – Two letters of complaint about driving at Tim Parry centre and draft reply. Two parents were concerned about people driving too fast up the path to the Tim Parry centre when dropping off children and had complained. The clerk had drafted a letter in reply to the one which had given their name, outlining some action she would take but also asking the parent to help by taking the number of any cars doing this so the PCSOs could be informed and asked to speak to the drivers. The Council asked for one amendment to the draft, and then approved the letter and action being taken.

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

Cllr Liz Smith reported that she had contacted the Extended Schools Cluster Programme to see if the Council Youth group can work with them.

Cllr Regan reported that a number of children from the 2 High Schools in the Parish had attained the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards. He asked if the Council would consider sending a letter of congratulations to the schools. This was agreed, the Clerk will send the letters.

Cllr Regan also raised the issue of a serious problem being experienced by Sycamore Lane School with their roof. Cllr P Hudson declared an interest at this point and took no part in the ensuing discussion. Cllr Regan explained that the school urgently need major repairs doing to the roof on safety grounds, but that they seem to be experiencing problems with getting WBC to do the work. He circulated an email from the Chair of the School Governors which explained the situation. He asked if the Parish Council would agree to write to WBC to support the urgency of the request from the school. It was discussed and agreed, and the Clerk was asked to send a letter on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Leigh reported that an area at the back of Shiggins Close is being used as a dumping ground. He is concerned that the rubbish will attract vermin, or that concrete blocks left there could be used as weapons. After discussion the Clerk was asked to report it to Street Scene, through Chris Pratt, on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Gleave reported that Old Hall School are going to set up a walking bus scheme again, to try to alleviate parking problems.

He also reported that Mary Ann Meadows has become a hotspot for underage drinking on Friday nights, and the resulting behaviour is causing a nuisance problem for residents. It has been reported to the Police and they are looking into it.

Cllr Phil Hudson asked for an update on the footpath behind Mayfair Close. He was told that the application for a Right of Way has been submitted but that it is a lengthy process.

He reported that Cllr Veronica Hudson had visited Lorna and Terry Lewis with their retirement gifts. They were very touched and sent their regards to all the Council.

Cllr Hudson asked that the Council consider a proposal which had been put by the Chairperson by email prior to the meeting, to use money from the Chairman's discretionary allowance to purchase a small Christmas gift (a tin of biscuits) for each member of staff. This was discussed and seconded and the majority of the Councillors present voted in favour (Cllr Gleave voted against). The Chair will liaise with the Clerk to carry this out.

RESOLVED **To use a small sum from the Chairman's discretionary allowance to pay for a Christmas gift for staff.**
PC/2007/115

Cllr Carey reported he had received a complaint from a parishioner about a lack of transport links to Sankey station. He asked if the Parish Council would be willing to write to WBC to express concern about the transport situation, and it was agreed. Cllr Carey will liaise with the Clerk over a letter.

Cllr Litton raised the issue of the proposed alleygating of the footpath between Heath Road and Highfield Road. He noted that Penketh Parish Council was protesting strongly about the proposal but that at previous meetings Great Sankey PC had been in favour of this move. He gave a brief recap of the situation, i.e that this had been a recommendation of a study done by the Crime and Disorder Partnership as a means of reducing antisocial behaviour problems in this and other areas. During discussion of the issues it emerged that other Councillors had also received representations from members of the public in favour of closing this route. It was noted that this matter will go to a public enquiry but in the interim it was agreed that the Council should write to Doug Ryan to express support of this alleygating. The Clerk was to draft a letter for approval by Cllr Litton.

RESOLVED **To write to the Crime and Disorder Partnership to express support for alleygating the path between Heath Road and Highfield Road**
PC/2007/116

16. To receive report of Employment Group meeting held on 3rd December 2007

The minutes had been circulated and the resolutions were noted.

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.

This was proposed and agreed and the public left.

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- 18. To decide whether to accept the recommendations involving staff made by the Employment Group at the meeting on 3rd December 2007.**

The Employment Group had recommended that the Parish Council restructures the Admin Assistant post to Trainee Clerk, starting January 2008, with pay at point 15 on the NJC scale rising by annual increment (first increment due 1/4/2009) as far as the top of band 3, then to be reviewed again. There were no objections raised to this, but it was agreed that the proposal should be considered formally by the Finance Committee, as other pay matters have been. This was agreed. It was also agreed to delegate the authority to Finance Committee to make the decision on this matter, rather than have to refer it back to full Council.

**RESOLVED To delegate authority to Finance Committee to decide
PC/2007/117 whether to accept and implement Employment Group
resolution EG/2007/08**

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

It was determined that the working group on Wroxham Road need to meet with Ian Langton to discuss remaining issues. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting.