

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4th APRIL 2016

Present:

Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Simon Chettle (Chairman), Cllr Neil Clowes, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Janie Parkinson, Cllr Rob Tindall.

In attendance

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk)

15/66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Ian Burton.

15/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

With reference to items on the agenda, there were no declarations of interest.

15/68 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2016 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/69 MATTERS ARISING

15/60 The Litter Picking event had taken place on 6th March with equipment provided by Ansa under the “Clean for the Queen” initiative. The efforts provided by the volunteers was much appreciated. Cllr Bennion advised that staff from Dagfields regularly collect litter from along the B5071 towards the Boars Head. Cllr Knibbs to check with Highways if it is possible to place signs prohibiting litter in some laybys.

15/47.2 Overhanging hedges on Bridgemere Lane – Clerk to contact Highways. Despite some cutting back, the hedges are still encroaching onto the highway.

15/59.2 Flooding at Walgherton crossroads - Clerk to contact Highways with a view to a permanent solution to the frequent flooding.

15/49.1 Pensions – In order to comply with Pensions legislation, Cllr Chettle had written to the Clerk setting out the pensions options.

15/64.1 ChALC had confirmed that if there are no guidelines for how long transparency information should be kept on the parish website other than in the Local Council Award Scheme which states there should be at least one year’s minutes on the website.

All other matters arising have been completed or are individual agenda items.

15/70 FINANCE REPORT

The finance report had been circulated with the agenda and comprises the full report for the year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, together with items for annual review.

15/70.1 The income and expenditure and bank reconciliation for the period 20th January to 31st March showed a closing balance of £2,556.49 with no unrepresented cheques.

15/70.2 Annual Governance Statement
RESOLVED that this be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

15/70.3 The Local Councils Accounting Statement for 2015/16
RESOLVED that this be approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

15/70.4 Final Spending against budget for 2015/16.
This showed an actual spend of £3390 compared to the budget of £4279, a variance of £889. The variance is mainly due to nil expenditure on neighbourhood planning and lower than expected spend on training, room hire and stationery.

15/70.5 Review of Insurance and insurance provider
The level of insurance cover was confirmed as adequate, noting that the premium had increased to £160.65 mainly as a result of IPT rising from 5% to 9.5%.
RESOLVED that the insurance should remain with Zurich Insurance.

15/70.6 Receipts and Payments Summary and Balance Sheet for the year
These detailed the Council's income and expenditure during the financial year. The opening balance at 1st April 2015 was £2084 and the closing balance at 31st March 2016 was £2556.

15/70.7 Payments authorised at meeting

Payee	Details	Cheque No.	Amount
Cheshire East BC	Room hire Feb/April 2016	375	£50.00
Christine Knibbs	Clerk's net salary*/expenses February/March	376	£263.13
Post Office	HMRC (PAYE) February/March	377	£62.00
Hankelow Methodist Church	Room hire May-July 2015	378	£80.00
ChALC	Affiliation fee 2016/17	379	£135.80
Community Lincs Insurance	Insurance premium 2016/17	380	£160.65

* Annual salary increment to NJC SCP 17 as from 01/03/2016.

15/70.8 Confirmation of banking arrangements and Payment Approval Procedure
The arrangements were reviewed and it was confirmed that they will remain unchanged as defined in the financial regulations.

15/70.9 Risk Schedule

The Council considered the risk schedule which identifies the risk matters, the frequency of review and the minute number relating to the most recent consideration of specific risk items. An additional item relating to Pension Regulator had been added to the register.

15/70.10 Asset Register

This remains unchanged - the auditors have issued guidance that the value of fixed assets should be amended only for additions or disposals.

RESOLVED - that the matters comprising the financial report be approved.

15/71 PLANNING MATTERS

15/71.1 **Planning Log**

The status of current planning applications was noted. The following application had been received after the log was issued.

15/71.2 **16/1284N – First floor extension – 3 Back Lane, Walgherton**

There were no objection to the proposals.

15/72 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

15/72.1 Hatherton Bends – Police accident statistics over the last few years were perused, noting only accidents which the Police attended. The statistics revealed that most accidents had occurred on a right hand bend involving vehicles travelling towards Nantwich and not all the drivers were young or inexperienced. Suggestions for safety improvements included more adhesive surfacing, flashing warning signs, 40 mph limit, removal of protruding concrete grid slope and straightening the bend. Borough Cllr Clowes to report suggestions to Highways who are in the process of a safety review of this road.

15/72.2 A51 and Boars Head Crossroad – following the fatal accident last year, the coroner had asked Highways to investigate possible improvements to this junction. Borough Councillor Clowes and Councillor Chettle had also attended a meeting with Police and Highways and a resident whose fence has been damaged several time by vehicles on the A51. The report from Highways is awaited.

15/73 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Borough Councillor Clowes outlined her new portfolio whereby she retains responsibility for Adult Social Care.

15/74 HS2 PHASE 2 WEST MIDLANDS TO CREWE – SCOPE & METHODOLOGY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – CONSULTATION

Parish Councils in the area had been asked to provide a point of contact in respect of this consultation and Cllr Parkinson volunteered for this role. In addition, Cllr Knibbs and Cllr Brewin (Doddington) would act as contacts for ecological/environmental aspects.

15/75 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Borough Cllr Clowes had nothing new to report, but it was noted that Audlem had held a referendum and other areas are making progress. It will be interesting to see how much weight is given to Neighbourhood Plans in future.

15/76 LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY - GREEN GAP POLICY

Borough Cllr Clowes explained that individual Councils were being urged by The Cheshire Association of Local Councils to support a strong South Cheshire Green Gap Policy. The proposed Green Gap now forms part of the emerging Local Plan Strategy. It was noted that the deadline for responses is 19th April.

RESOLVED that the parish council should respond in support of a strong Green Gap Policy in line with ChALC recommendations.

15/77 UNRECORDED PATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Cllr Knibbs reported for information that this related to pre-1949 rights of way that are not on official maps and must be recorded in the next 10 years or they will no longer be protected. It was suggested that anyone aware of such routes should report them to Cheshire East to include on their official maps.

15/78 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Notice of election of Police and Crime Commissioner – placed on parish noticeboards. Poll to take place on 5th May.
- JDH Business Services - notification of internal audit
- BDO LLP - notice of annual review of accounts

15/79 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15/79.1 Superfast Broadband – Cllr Knibbs to advise Borough Cllr Clowes of any registered businesses in the Birchall Moss area who are currently unable to obtain SFBB as she may be able to bring some pressure to bear.

15/80 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 17th May 2016 - Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 pm followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting - to be held at Hankelow Chapel.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

Chairman
17th May 2016