

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2015

Present:

Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Ian Burton, Cllr Simon Chettle (Chairman), Cllr Neil Clowes, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Jean Stainthorpe

In attendance

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk)

15/41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Dakin, Tindall, Mitchell and Parkinson.

15/42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

15/43 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2015 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/44 MATTERS ARISING

14/36.5 and 14/52.1 (14/0455N and 14/2550N) – Borough Councillor Clowes reported that she had not yet received confirmation from Cheshire East that the conditions of planning approval had been met. She will continue to chase this matter.

15/32.4 Solar tariff subsidies – Borough Councillor Clowes understood that as from 09/01/2016 solar subsidies will be discontinued for developments not already running or registered. She will double check if this applies to both domestic and commercial installations.

15/32.8 Minutes from the Whittaker's Green Liaison Meeting held on 17th September are awaited.

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

15/45 PLANNING MATTERS

15/45.1 Wybunbury & District Neighbourhood Planning - update

Borough Cllr Clowes advised that she will draft an introductory newsletter to residents explaining what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why we need one. This will be followed up by information sessions for residents to view maps and confirm what they would like to include. Some residents may wish to set up a sub-group for areas of particular interest. It was noted that the Parish Council will need to formally minute approval of the geographical area of the Neighbourhood Plan.

15/45.2 Planning Log

The status of current planning applications was noted and the following new applications discussed.

15/45.3 **15/5102N - Rear Extension Pine Glen, Hatherton**

There were no comments.

15/45.4 **15/5019 – Retrospective Approval for Gate Access onto B5071
– 1 The Meadows Walgherton**

There were concerns about the proximity of this access to the B5071/A51 crossroads which is a recognised accident blackspot. It was also felt to be unacceptable that mature oak trees and hedgerow had been removed to create a new access to an area which has existing access from the applicant’s property.

RESOLVED to object to this application and recommend that the area be restored with significant replanting to replace the mature trees and hedgerow which were removed.

15/45.5 **Hough Mill Quarry**

Councillor Knibbs reported on the joint parish councils meeting on 16th November with Richard Lee Planning Consultants and the site owners, which he and Councillor Parkinson attended along with the Ward Councillor and parish councillors from Wybunbury and Doddington. The proposals for future development of a country park include “enabling development” of about 100 houses and/or a mix of industrial units. The site is currently being returned to farmland and has a condition that it should be restored to public open space.

It was noted that there was an example of good practice of quarry restoration near Whitchurch.

15/46 FINANCE REPORT

15/46.1 The finance report showing income and expenditure and bank reconciliation had been circulated with the agenda and showed a bank balance at 20th October of £3,610.65.

15/46.2 Payments authorised at meeting

Payee	Reason for expenditure	Amount	Cheque No.
ChALC	Training – Cllr Parkinson (Planning) and Cllr Chettle (Pensions)	£35.00	366
Scottish Power	Electricity for street lamp	£79.76	367
Cheshire East BC	Bridgemere School - room hire	£50.00	368
Post Office - HMRC	PAYE for Oct-Nov 2015	£61.20	369
Christine Knibbs	Salary/Expenses (Oct-Nov 2015)	£254.55	370
Audlem Community Responders	Donation	£200.00	371

The Clerk was requested to ascertain if there is a cheaper tariff available for the street lamp or if it could be replaced with an energy efficient lamp.

15/46.3 Overhead Projector

The purchase of overhead projector was supported and Cllr Ian Bennion advised that Dagfields would be willing to sponsor the cost (approximately £110).

15/46.4 Spending against Budget

The current spend against budget for 2015/16 was noted.

15/46.5 Proposed Budget for 2016/17

The Council considered the draft budget for 2016/17 which is in the sum of £4,325, noting some small increases across a few items where next year's costs are still to be set and that the contingency figure is £300 (not £200). Cllr Burton advised of a 3p/resident increase in the ChALC affiliation fee and recommended that the Parish Council should remain in ChALC. The end of 2015/16 year bank balance is projected to be £1798.

RESOLVED – that the budget for 2015/16 be approved.

15/46.6 Precept Recommendation

Cheshire East had indicated that there may be a slight tax base increase but that the Council Tax Support Grant may cease from 1st April 2016. The Cheshire East tax base for 2016/17 is to be fixed by resolution on 17th December.

RESOLVED - The Council agreed the precept should remain at £3639 for 2016/17.

15/46.7 Procurement of Audit of Smaller Authorities

As a result of changes to audit requirements, from 2017 smaller authorities with a turnover of less than £25,000 have the option to appoint auditors through a “sector-led body” (formed by NALC and SLCC) or opt out of such arrangements and appoint auditors locally. Should opt-out be preferred, the SLB have to be informed by end of January 2016.

RESOLVED – that the parish council should participate in the SLB arrangements and not opt out.

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

15/47 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

15/47.1 It was suggested that individual councillors may wish to complete the CE Highways Satisfaction Survey using the (amended) link provided. Borough Councillor Clowes and Councillor Burton had already completed the survey and reported that, due to the survey limitations, there were a large number of questions they were unable to answer meaningfully. It was felt that most questions did not relate to rural roads and that there should be a separate survey for these.

15/47.2 A resident had reported damage to their car wing mirror caused by hedges overhanging the highway on Bridgemere Lane near the bend at the junction with the A529 where there is insufficient room for two vehicles to easily pass. The Clerk was requested to write to residents of the properties concerned requesting them to prune back their hedges.

15/47.3 It was noted there had been two recent accidents in the parish:

- At the crossroad of B5071 and Park Lane/Hunsterson Road on 29th November which resulted in road closure.
- At Oakes Corner on the A529 where the fencing has been demolished. Damage noted on 29th November but the date it occurred is not known. Borough Cllr Clowes to obtain incident numbers from the police.

15/47.4 As noted previously, residents had reported concerns about the speed of traffic on the A529 Audlem Road particularly around Artle Brook, Borough Cllr Clowes confirmed that Highways will conduct safety checks along the A529 and produce a safety plan and this is scheduled for 2016/17. Safety checks are to be carried out on the A51 and Checkley Lane.

15/48 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

15/48.1 HS2 –The recent announcements on HS2 will have an impact on the Local Plan and also need to be taken into consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan.

15/49 PENSIONS - UPDATE

15/49.1 Cllr Chettle had attended a recent lecture organised by ChALC on the responsibilities placed on parish councils by recent pensions legislation. In the case of Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Council, the Clerk is the sole employee but her working hours and salary are below the level at which the council is required to financially contribute. However, as Chairman, Cllr Chettle is required to make the offer of a pension and this offer has to be repeated every three years or on any change in employment conditions. Paper files have also to be kept. RESOLVED that the Chairman should write to the Clerk in accordance with the pensions legislation.

15/50 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

15/50.1 **Correspondence received**

- Email from Cheshire East inviting councillors to attend the Town and Parish Council Conference on 10th December.
- Apologies to be given as no Councillors are available to attend.

15/51 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15/51.1 Superfast Broadband

Cllr Stainthorpe reported that a resident of Birchall Moss had recently had SFBB installed and was very happy with it, the ordering and installation being quite straightforward. She will try to ascertain what speeds are being achieved. On broadband generally, it appears full rollout in the parish is unlikely before next summer. If businesses in the area can be identified this may give additional leverage.

15/51.2 Resignation

Cllr Stainthorpe announced her resignation from the parish council as she is moving house. She distributed various papers to other councillors including a couple of items for the next parish newsletter.

Cllr Chettle placed on record his thanks for Cllr Stainthorpe's support and efforts during her time as parish councillor.

15/51.2 Defibrillators

Cllr Stainthorpe gave details of the Patient Participation Group of Audlem Medical Practice offer to place defibrillators in various locations. If a suitable location could be found for one in Hatherton and Walgherton, we must apply for a grant before the end of March 2016.

15/52 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Proposed dates of Meetings during 2016 (all Mondays except 17th May):

- 1st February
- 4th April
- 17th May (Tuesday) - Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting
- 25th July
- 26th September
- 5th December

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Chairman.....

1st February 2016