

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014

PRESENT:

Cllr Neil Clowes (Chairman), Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Simon Chettle, Cllr Barry Dakin, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Don Marshall, Cllr Jean Stainthorpe, Cllr Liz Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Robinson (leaving Parish Clerk), Christine Knibbs (new Parish Clerk)
Borough Cllr Janet Clowes (with apologies for late arrival)

13/34 WELCOME TO CHRISTINE KNIBBS AS PARISH CLERK

13/34.1 The Chairman opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of thanks to Mark Robinson who was standing down after six years as Parish Clerk. Councillors wished Mark well in his future career. Christine Knibbs had been appointed to take over from Mark and was welcomed to the meeting.

13/35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

13/35.1 None received.

13/36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

13/36.1 With reference to items on the agenda, there were none declared.
13/36.2 Cllr Knibbs advised that he is the husband of Christine Knibbs.

13/37 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2013

13/37.1 RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman, noting that items 13.28 and 13.29 had been inadvertently duplicated.

13/38 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

13/38.1 Public Communication

Discussion took place as to whether items which may be of interest to or affect parish residents should be discussed at meetings prior to being circulated. RESOLVED – Clerk to liaise with the Chairman to obtain agreement for information to be placed on the website rather than delay until meetings. Where appropriate, items placed on the website could also be emailed to residents who have opted to receive emails.

13/38.2 Tree Warden Scheme

Cllr Knibbs advised that he is now a Parish Tree Warden. In addition to monitoring the condition of trees generally, his duties may include education and talks to local schools.

13/38.3 Superfast Broadband

Councillors discussed the future availability and options for superfast broadband in the area and how best to keep residents accurately informed.

RESOLVED – Cllr Knibbs to draft an item for the website (in accordance with resolution 13/38.1 above) with a link to the “Connecting Cheshire” website which contains authoritative information on local superfast broadband.

13/39 FINANCE REPORT

13/39.1 Finance Report

The Clerk circulated the Finance Report which provided a bank reconciliation statement and advised spending against budget. The Council’s current bank balance was £4,062

13/39.2 Payments authorised at the meeting

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Sum</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>
Audlem Community Responders (donation)	£200.00	000318
Hankelow Methodist Chapel (room hire)	£210.00	000319
Mark Robinson (Clerk’s salary and expenses)	£267.87	000320
Christine Knibbs (Clerk’s salary and expenses)	£73.10	000321
Rob Tindall (website hosting – for 2 years)	£78.93	000322
Post Office (HMRC – PAYE)	£81.80	000323
ChALC induction training for new Clerk (9 April)	£30.00	000324

13/39.3 Provision of computer equipment for new Clerk

RESOLVED – that the Clerk investigates options for purchasing computer equipment to undertake Parish Council business and submit paper for consideration. It was noted that any VAT paid could be reclaimed.

13/39.4 Parish Noticeboards

Cllr Knibbs reported that the Walgherton noticeboard required maintenance. It was noted that the budget for this purpose had not been spent during the year. Cllr Bennion advised that he would inspect the noticeboard and arrange any repairs as necessary.

13/40 PLANNING MATTERS

13/40.1 The planning log was noted.

13/40.2 13/5241N and 14/0455N – new chimneys and extensions at Laurels Farm, Crewe Road, Walgherton (Heler Cheese)

Borough Cllr Clowes reported that both planning applications had been called-in to obtain clarification on several items of concern including the new gas supply. Cllr Knibbs reported on his recent telephone conversation with Mr Heler and this was discussed. Borough Cllr Clowes confirmed that the call-in will go direct to Southern Planning at their meeting on 9th April or 7th May with reports being issued one week before the meeting. It was noted it would be useful for a Parish Councillor to speak at this meeting.

RESOLVED – The Parish Council were in support of the comments raised by Borough Cllr Clowes and will reiterate these views to the Planning Authority.

It was noted that amendments to the planning rules mean that neighbours only within 100 metres of any proposed development are required to be notified. Cheshire East planners have also erroneously placed this application in the Walgherton area rather than Hatherton so it will not necessarily be picked up by residents seeking information about Hatherton.

13/40.3 13/5090S - Solar Park (Green Switch Solutions)

Cllr Knibbs reported on his recent visit to the site. It was noted that environmental impact assessment and reports from various agencies had still to be completed. Evaluation of the energy likely to be produced and the conduits for that energy may also be required. It was noted that, as yet, no solar parks have been approved in Cheshire.

13/40.4 13/4214N - Chapel Farm (J Roach)

Noted this had been refused on a delegated decision and had now gone to appeal. Attention was drawn to the previous correspondence and the Parish Council comments in support of the planning officer's objection in response to the appeal. Regarding the previous developments on this site, Cllr Marshall provided the relevant details to Borough Cllr Clowes.

13/40.5 Bank House (illegal caravan)

RESOLVED – Borough Cllr Clowes to pursue further with the enforcement planning officer as it was felt their recent response was inadequate. Other issues noted concerned damage to the drive opposite Bank House and possible developments which may require planning permission.

13/40.6 Keeping residents informed of planning applications

In view of the 100 metre notification range and the relative sparse population of the area, it was discussed how residents could be kept informed of planning proposals which may affect them.

RESOLVED – planning information be notified to residents via the parish website and email, providing the link to the Cheshire East planning portal if they wished to be kept informed of planning applications in the area.

13/40.7 Cheshire East Local Plan

The Local Plan was tabled by the Clerk. An extraordinary meeting of the full Borough Council had taken place on 28th February at which the core strategy was submitted and strategic sites approved. The Plan sets out the case for sustainable economic growth and the strategy that will manage development in Cheshire East up to 2030. There is a formal representation period from 14th March to 25th April. Councillors noted that Hatherton and Walgherton are designated as “open countryside” and “prime agricultural land”.

13/41 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

13/41.1 Cllr Chettle reported:

- New signs had been erected at Anions corner to try to slow traffic.
- Hatherton bends have been re-white lined.
- Boars Head crossroads have been re-white lined.

13/42 LITTER PICK

13/42.1 Cllr Knibbs queried if this initiative should continue this year and, if so, he sought volunteers. This was agreed and Cllrs Marshall, Stainthorpe and Chettle offered to help and Cllr Knibbs agreed to coordinate this activity. It was felt some local residents may wish to be involved, as last year.

13/43 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following matters were reported for information.

13/43.1 Whittakers Green Waste site liaison meeting on 30th January 2014

Cllr Stainthorpe reported that the meeting commenced with the waste site operators stating that from the point of view of Bridgemere Parish Council the neighbours of the waste site had no issues. The operators also stated that the erosion of verges is not as a direct result of the green waste site traffic but because the road is too narrow. The extended winter operating times have been implemented but there have been fewer movements this winter because of bad weather. They had decided that additional signage is unnecessary. They stated that concerns raised about scrap around the perimeter of the waste site were not appropriate for discussion at the liaison meeting. It was agreed that there would not be another meeting until an annual review. It was considered that there was no need for a liaison meeting unless required by the residents or the Parish Council.

Borough Cllr Clowes reported on an unpleasant incident for the neighbours of the waste site which had occurred prior to the liaison meeting. This incident concerned blocked road access and had required solicitors to resolve.

13/43.2 Police Liaison

An invitation had been sent to Parish Councils to attend an evening event in Macclesfield on 8th April looking at improving community safety. Cllr Wilson is not proposing to attend but if anyone else wishes to attend she will send them the details.

13/43.3 Police Cluster Meeting

Cllr Wilson reported that there is a police cluster meeting in April and requested Councillors to advise her if there were any items to be raised.

13/44 FUTURE DATES OF MEETINGS

13/44.1 The following dates were confirmed:

Monday 28th April 2014 – to approve the accounts and the annual audit form.

- (Borough Cllr Clowes tendered her apologies in advance)

Monday 19th May 2014 (Annual meeting and Annual parish meeting)

Monday 21st July 2014

Monday 29th September 2014

Tuesday 9th December 2014 (Precept)

The meeting, which commenced at 7.45 pm, concluded at 10.15 pm, with thanks once again and best wishes to Mark Robinson.