

## HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014

#### **PRESENT**

Cllr Simon Chettle (Chairman), Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Neil Clowes, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Janie Parkinson. Cllr Jean Stainthorpe, Cllr Liz Wilson,

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk),

#### **14/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

14/47/1 Apologies had been received from Cllr Ian Burton

#### **14/48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

14/48.1 Cllr Knibbs declared an interest in item 5.1 (Budget and Precept 2015/15) and will not participate in discussions or vote.

#### **14/49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

14/49.1 The Clerk pointed out an error in item 14/37.1 in the 23<sup>rd</sup> September minutes. The bank balance at 17/09/14 was £3884.15 (not £4084.15). RESOLVED – subject to this correction, that the Minutes of the full meeting held on 23 September 2014 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/49.2 RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the (planning) meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **14/50 MATTERS ARISING**

The following were matters arising from the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September:

##### **14/36.1 Doddington Estate**

Cllr Stainthorpe reported that Audlem Medical Practice have a standard letter which is issued in response to planning applications for additional housing in the area. The medical practice should be informed when the planning application is submitted.

##### **14/36.3 Neighbourhood Planning**

It was noted that Tom Evans (Principal Planning Officer, Spatial Planning, CE Council) will speak on Neighbourhood Planning in the Borough at the Crewe & Nantwich Area/ ChALC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Borough Cllr Clowes and Cllr Chettle will attend this meeting and disseminate information to other Councillors.

Borough Cllr Clowes provided an update about the local plan, which may require re-submission taking into account latest calculations. The planning inspector has stated that if major changes are required these must be done within six months.

**14/36.5 14/0455N and 14/2550N (Helers)**

Clerk to contact CE Planning to confirm that conditions of approval were being met, in particular to ascertain the results of the noise evaluation survey.

All other action points have been completed or are separate agenda items.

**14/51 FINANCE REPORT**

**14/51.1 Income & Expenditure and Bank Reconciliation**

This was noted and showed a bank balance of £3458.06 at 20<sup>th</sup> November. According to the latest bank statement, the cheque for £200 issued to Wybunbury PCC on 18<sup>th</sup> August had not been presented, although their treasurer had acknowledged receipt and thanks on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**14/51.2 Payments authorised at meeting**

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Sum</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>
Scottish Power (electricity)	£79.76	000340 (issued 27/10/14)
ChALC	£30.00	000341 (issued 27/10/14)
Post Office (HMRC)	£56.00	000342
Clerk - Salary/expenses (Oct/Nov/Dec)	£276.87	000344
Audlem Community Responders	£200.00	000345

Gift for Mr Marshall still to be presented by Cllr Clowes.

**14/51.3 Spending against budget**

The current figures were noted.

**14/51.4 Approval for overspends**

The Parish Council is asked to approve the following expenditure which has gone over budget:

Hire of rooms: Currently £60 over budget due to extra meetings  
Stationery: Currently £80 over budget, mainly due to printing costs  
Training: Currently £60 over budget due to new Clerk/Councillor

RESOLVED – that the budget overspends be noted and approved.

**14/51.5 Draft Budget for 2015/16**

The Council considered the draft budget for 2015/16 which is in the sum of £3,679, noting small increases across a number of items where next year's costs are still to be set. The end of year bank balance is projected to be £1652. The Clerk was requested to add extra budget lines for Wybunbury PCC if an annual payment is to be made, and to allow extra costs for Neighbourhood Planning.

RESOLVED – that, subject to including these items, the budget for 2015/16 be approved.

The Clerk had been requested to provide an analysis of time spent on Council business since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 as there had been additional meetings and a considerable increase in email traffic. The analysis had

identified that the Clerk spends approximately 4 hours per week on Council business. The Chairman had sought advice from ChALC and the Clerk's contract of employment does allow for additional hours to be paid provided that a record is kept for audit purposes.

RESOLVED – that the Clerk should be paid for an additional 1.5 hours per week, and her contract of employment should be amended. This to be reviewed in 12 months' time.

**14/51.6 Income/Expenditure comparisons with previous years**

This showed declining income and increasing expenditure over the last three years, resulting in bank reserves dropping from £3978 in 2012/13 to an estimated £1652 in 2014/15.

**14/51.7 Precept Recommendations**

Cheshire East had advised that the tax based for the parish is likely to be 242.46, with an estimated Council Tax Support Grant of £40. In view of the importance of maintaining a reasonable bank reserve, it was recommended that the parish precept be raised to £3639 equating to an estimated Band D precept payment of £15.01.

RESOLVED

- (i) The Council agreed the precept of £3639 for 2015/16.
- (ii) A newsletter for residents to be prepared in the New Year, which Cllr Stainthorpe agreed to take forward. This to include information about the precept.

**14/52 PLANNING MATTERS**

**14.52.1 Planning Log**

The Planning Log was noted.

**14/1702 – Bank House Farm**

It was reported that the completed side extension did not appear to conform to the approved plans. The Clerk was requested to raise concerns with the Enforcement Officer (Craig Wilshaw).

**14/2786N – Lea Forge Trout Farm**

It was noted that this application is in the Lea parish, although it has a Walgherton address. An application has been submitted within the last week to convert barns into warehouses on the A51 which is on the parish border.

**14/52.2 Planning Process**

Cllr Chettle circulated a paper at the meeting outlining options to set up a standard process for effectively reviewing planning applications. It was agreed that:

- All planning applications should be circulated to all councillors.
- A planning committee should be created to meet as necessary to decide the council's response and circulate this to all councillors.
- The planning committee to consist of the Vice Chairman, Cllrs Bennion and Parkinson, with Cllr Tindall in reserve.
- Cllr Chettle to draft a standing order to cover the process.

- Borough Cllr Clowes to provide training material which she has available via Cheshire East Planning.

RESOLVED – planning committee to be formed and standing orders amended.

**14/52.3 Doddington Estate update**

The developers had decided to submit an application for the hall, castle and star barn only and not housing at this stage. This is to obtain a more accurate cost of the overall project, after consultation with Cheshire East and English Heritage. The business case will set the number of houses they will require which will be subject to separate planning permissions. To date, no applications for housing had been submitted. Cllrs expressed concerns this may lead to uncertainty over enabling development and the level of funding required.

**14/52.4 14/4296N – Solar Park at Hatherton Lodge Farm**

The Planning portal had incorrectly indicated this was to be decided on 10/12/14. (Subsequently advised that this had been postponed to the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 Strategic Planning Committee as Landscape Reports had not been received).

**14/52.5 Hough Mill Quarry**

Cllr Knibbs advised that 10/1149W is the existing planning consent for Hough Mill Quarry to complete tipping and restoration works which have been in progress for four years. Fields created in phases 1 and 2 had produced crops. Phases 3 and 4 have yet to be completed. The planning consultants, Richard Lee Project Planning, had written to the clerk to request a joint meeting with representatives of the three affected parish councils to discuss the proposals, which they say will include an element of “enabling development”. It was recognised that this area is very important from an ecological perspective. The Clerk has requested RLPP to provide some hard copies of the Landscape and Design Appraisal document.

The Clerk to check if Doddington Parish Council have invited a member of CE Planning to their meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**14/53 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The following points were noted:

- It was agreed that we should accept Wybunbury PC’s offer of the loan of their SID (Speed Information Device) to act as a speed deterrent on the A51. After much debate, it was agreed this should initially be placed near to the Boar’s Head crossroads within the 40mph boundary. **Action Cllr Chettle.**
- Recent road works activity in the area was discussed and it was noted there had been a change of highways officer at Cheshire East.
- Cllr Knibbs reported that field drains are leaking onto the road at Hatherton bends which is a significant safety concern in freezing conditions.  
**Action: Cllr Chettle to report to Highways.**

**14/54 WYBUNBURY CHARITIES**

It was reported that Mr Mike Gear is stepping down from his role as trustee for Hatherton. Cllr Bennion will discuss this item with Mr Gear and report back to the next meeting.

**14/55 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The Clerk had received an email letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees for Nantwich Museum requesting that the parish council consider a financial contribution to support the continuing work of the museum.

RESOLVED – the parish council is unable to provide a financial contribution to the museum.

**14/56 HANKELow CHAPEL REFURBISHMENT**

Hankelow Chapel had requested that local residents and councillors complete a questionnaire about the future use of the chapel which may help in their application for grant funding. However, the deadline for submission of the questionnaire is 15<sup>th</sup> December and there is no facility to submit it electronically.

**14/57 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**14/57.1 Date of next meetings**

The proposed dates of the fourth Tuesday in the month were not convenient for some members with Mondays being preferred. The Clerk was requested to check with Doddington and Wybunbury Parish Councils the dates of their meetings in 2015 and identify alternative dates around these.

**14/57.2 Walgherton noticeboard**

The Clerk had circulated details of a second-hand noticeboard in good condition which had become available. It was agreed not to pursue this further.

**14/58 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Revised dates to be circulated once the Clerk has identified suitable dates.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Chairman.....(signed) *Simon Chettle*.....

16<sup>th</sup> February 2015