

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25TH JULY 2016****Present:**

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

In attendance

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk)

Present as observer

Mr Nigel Dibben

Present for item 4 on agenda (Highways Safety Review)

Audlem Parish Council: Cllr D Higham, Cllr G Seddon, Cllr D Siddorn, Cllr M B Consterdine, Mr J. K Holt, Mr G Poole, Mr E Bridge

16/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Steve Mitchell, Dr John Bache

16/16 Co-option of new Councillor for Hatherton

As Dr Bache was unable to attend this meeting, his co-option will take place in September. It was reported that Cllr Ian Burton had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council, therefore a vacancy still exists for Hatherton, also for liaison with ChALC and the Police Alerts. The Clerk will request ChALC and the Police to forward correspondence to her in the interim.

16/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16/18 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Members of Audlem Parish Council and local residents were welcomed to the meeting. Borough Cllr Clowes and Cllr Chettle had met with Highways for an update on the highways safety review of the A529 and the A51. Borough Cllr Clowes reported on the outcome of the meeting.

16/18.1 **A529** – The Police statistics and a map showing where accidents have occurred were distributed. The majority of accidents were on Hatherton bends in the direction from Audlem towards Nantwich. The Police statistics identify no significant common factors causing these accidents other than excess speed. Cllr Clowes explained the rationale behind Highways' intention undertake a full safety review of the A529 from Stapeley to Audlem, not just Hatherton bends, and that Highways intend to consider a range of options to improve safety. It is planned that the safety review will be completed by the autumn. Highways will be requested to present their proposals to a joint Parish Council meeting.

Standing orders were suspended to allow comments and questions from Councillors from Audlem. It was pointed out, and acknowledged, that there are many more accidents than those recorded by the Police. A number of points/suggestions for road improvements were noted by Borough Cllr Clowes.

Although not recorded by the police, it was thought that most of the accidents involve local people.

The situation regarding the bridge at Artle Brook was raised. Traffic cones had been in place on the bridge for about two years and repairs were long overdue. This was a serious hazard especially for cyclists and motorcyclists. Borough Cllr Clowes agreed to raise this with the department responsible for bridge repairs.

- 16/18.2 **A51** – Borough Cllr Clowes reported on a number of planned safety improvements, including better signage, road markings, chevrons and bollards. A flashing “slow down” sign will operate to alert vehicle travelling over 40mph. Regarding the Boars Head crossroads, efforts were being made to improve visibility, and BT had been requested to reposition the telegraph pole.

Mr Bridge, whose property is vulnerable to accidents on the A51, felt reassured by the proposals and thanked Councillors and Highways for their efforts.

Standing orders were restored and Borough Cllr Clowes was thanked for her report on the highways safety review.

16/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2016 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/20 MATTERS ARISING

- 15/60 Litter signs in laybys – Highways have confirmed they are unable to provide free-standing signs. This has been referred to Ansa.
- 15/47.2 Overhanging hedges - CE Highways to contact owner with a view to further cutting back of hedge.
- 15/59.2 Flooding at Walgherton – Highways have referred this to their flood relief team with a view to possibly put in a silt barrier (which requires land-owner consent). In the meantime, floods will be attended to on an ad hoc basis.
- 15/79.1 Superfast Broadband – Regarding 841 telephone numbers, SFBB should be connected by Christmas, although it was noted there are a number of postcodes which will be unable to receive SFBB. Regarding 811/812 telephone number properties that are situated too far from the existing cabinet, Cllr Knibbs is investigating alternative solutions. Borough Cllr Clowes advised that the form to record businesses is no longer relevant.
- 16/07.4 Internal audit report for 2015/16
The internal auditors had confirmed the 20% rise in their fee was due to an increase in their fee rate and the time taken to conduct the audit. They did not anticipate a similar increase next year.

Regarding the internal auditor’s recommendation that reimbursed expenditure incorrectly included in “Staff costs” in the annual return should be reclassified as “Other Payments”, the Clerk confirmed this had been done correctly in the first

place and the audit return did not require amendment. This had been confirmed by the auditors.

- 16/09.2 Accident on the A529 near the junction with Bridgemere Lane - Cllr Knibbs had contacted Highways suggesting trimming back of trees at this the junction.to improve visibility, but had received no response. He will take up with the officer responsible for roadside trees.

16/21 COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillors were reminded of their duty to attend meetings. Should they be unable to attend, they should contact the Clerk with an apology and an explanation. If councillors do not attend any meetings for six months, they will automatically fail to be a councillor unless their absence was due to some reason approved by the council before the end of the six-month period.

16/22 PLANNING MATTERS

- 16/22.1 The status of current planning applications was noted. Members were surprised to note that Planning does not automatically notify Highways when new road entrances are created.
- 16/22.2 16/2930N – Grain Store Whittaker's Green Farm. A number of material concerns to be forwarded to Planning.
- 16/22.3 Activity on A529 near Chapel Farm – Notices Ref 16/00371E and 16/00384E had been raised.

16/23 FINANCE REPORT

- 16/23.1 Finance Report
An updated finance report was circulated showing income and expenditure and bank reconciliation with a balance of £3,133.39 at 20th July.
- 16/23.2 Spending against budget
The current spend against budget for 2016/17 was noted.
- 16/23.3 Grant to Wybunbury Parochial Church Council
It was agreed that the grant will be made this year and that it should be reviewed annually.
- 16/23.4 Payments authorised at meeting
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| Clerk's net salary/expenses June/July | cheque no 385 | £293.74 |
| HMRC (PAYE) June/July | cheque no 386 | £63.80 |
| Wybunbury Parochial Church Council | cheque no 387 | £200.00 |

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

16/24 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

- 16/24.1 Waste Management Hub - this is to be built at Middlewich and the Pym's Lane hub will be closed and sold to Bentley, but the household recycling point will remain.

16/24.2 Local Plan Examination – Borough Cllr Clowes has been invited to speak to the Inspector in September. A combined submission by all parish councils in the south of the borough in support of the strategic green gap proposed in the September 2014 iteration of the local plan had been made, as supported by ChALC.

16/24.3 Neighbourhood Plan – The website is now up and running. Public meetings are to be organised and help with delivering handouts will be appreciated.

16/25 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

16/25.1 Letter from David Keane, Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire regarding consultation with communities.

16/25.2 “Scam Aware” notice to go on parish noticeboards.

16/26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16/26.1 Pensions Regulator – Declaration of Compliance made and acknowledged on 20th July.

16/26.2 Doddington Estate – it was understood that public Open Days are listed on their website.

16/27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 26th September 2016 - to be held at Hankelow Chapel.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm