

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016

Present:

Cllr Simon Chettle (Chairman), Cllr Barry Dakin, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell.

In attendance

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes, Christine Knibbs (Parish Clerk)

Present as observers

Dr John Bache, Mr Nigel Dibben

16/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Simon Chettle be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

16/02 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Chris Knibbs be elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

16/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr Janie Parkinson, Cllr Rob Tindall.

16/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16/05 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2016 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/06 MATTERS ARISING

15/60 Litter signs in laybys – Clerk to write to CE highways requesting signs be provided.

15/47.2 Overhanging hedges - Clerk to write to CE Highways requesting action.

15/59.2 Flooding at Walgherton –Clerk to request CE Highways to contact the landowner and request action to prevent surface water and soil run-off the field.

15/79.1 Superfast Broadband – Cllr Knibbs reported that he was aware of four registered businesses in the Birchall Moss area. This area has a maximum broadband speed of 6 mbps due to the nearest fibre cabinet being 2 km away. Borough Cllr Clowes offered to provide the relevant form so these businesses can be recorded which may provide some pressure on Connecting Cheshire. Cllr Chettle noted that there had been delays in connecting SFBB in other parts of the parish due to overhead trees and damage to ducting. Borough Cllr Clowes reported that overall service is patchy in this and surrounding parishes.

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

16/07 FINANCE REPORT

16/07.1 Finance Report

The finance report showing income and expenditure and bank reconciliation had been circulated with the agenda and showed a bank balance at 20th April of £3645. The first instalment (50%) of the precept of £1819.50 and Council Tax support grant of £20.00 had been received.

16/07.2 Spending against budget

The current spend against budget for 2016/17 was noted.

16/07.3 Payments authorised at meeting

Information Commissioner	£ 35.00	cheque no 381
Clerk's net Salary & Expenses (April/May)	£289.25	cheque no 382
HMRC (PAYE for April/May)	£ 62.60	cheque no 383
JDH Business Services Ltd	£129.00	cheque no 384

16/07.4 Internal audit report for 2015/16

The internal auditors confirmed that the council's system of internal control is in place, adequate for purpose intended and effective. The following recommendations were made:

Issue 1: The reimbursed expenditure incorrectly included in staff costs in the annual return should be reclassified as "Other Payments" in the annual return.

Issue 2: A rounding error of £1 should be corrected.

Issue 3: In future bank statements should be provided for audit which cover the whole financial year.

The Clerk was requested to query the 20% increase in the internal audit fee.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees to the recommendations set out in the internal auditor's report and that JDH Business Services continue to act as the internal auditor in 2016/17.

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

16/08 PLANNING MATTERS

16/08.1 The status of current planning applications was noted. Borough Cllr Clowes agreed to follow up on an outstanding item. The following application had been received after the log was issued.

16/08.2 16/2200N and 16/2201N - Broomlands Farm - barn conversion and garages. This is a re-application based on approvals granted in 2008 and 2011. There were no objections.

16/08.3 Neighbourhood Planning - Borough Cllr Clowes confirmed that a website is being established, a leaflet is to be printed, and public consultation meetings arranged. It is likely that the plan will focus on planning, historical resources, the rural economy and ecology. Persons with expertise in these areas will be welcome to contribute.

16/09 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- 16/09.1 Hatherton Bends – the Highways safety review report is awaited. A number of suggestions to improve safety had been made at the last meeting (i.e. more adhesive surfacing, flashing warning signs, 40 mph limit, removal of protruding concrete grid slope and straightening the bend). Borough Cllr Clowes agreed to invite a Highway Officer to the 25th July meeting of the parish council. Clerk to send road safety improvements suggested at the last meeting to Highways.
- 16/09.2 There had this evening been a serious accident on the A529 near the junction with Bridgemere Lane which had resulted in the closure of the road. Cllr Knibbs agreed to contact Highways regarding the trimming of trees which were obscuring the junction.

16/10 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

- 16/10.1 HS2 – Environment Impact Consultation. Borough Cllr Clowes had submitted a response, as had all local parish councils, thus providing some weight to the consultation responses. The main item of contention was a potential viaduct which would bring noise issues to all surrounding parishes, with a tunnel being the preferred option.
- 16/10.2 Green Gap – a combined submission by all parish councils in the south of the borough had been made in support of the strategic green gap proposed in the September 2014 iteration of the local plan, as supported by ChALC.

16/11 WYBUNBURY UNITED CHARITIES

Cllr Chettle reported that Mr Michael Gear wished to resign as a trustee of this organisation and a replacement trustee was sought for Hatherton, noting that Cllr Ian Bennion was trustee for Walgherton. Borough Cllr Clowes outlined the background to the charity and the support it provides.

RESOLVED that Cllr Steven Mitchell should take on this role.

16/12 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 16/12.1 Request from Cheshire East for agenda items for the first Town and Parish Council Conference of 2016. No specific items were identified but it was noted that these conferences are usually of interest and value. The clerk will circulate details of the conference when they become available.
- 16/12.2 Notification of EU referendum – notices had been placed on parish noticeboards.

16/13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 16/13.1 Waste Management Hub at Middlewich – the proposals for biomass and anaerobic digester were noted.
- 16/13.2 Training – Clerk to check with ChALC about training for new councillors.

16/14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 25th July 2016 - to be held at Hankelow Chapel.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman
25th July 2016