

MINSHULL VERNON AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
(Minshull Vernon, Leighton, Woolstanwood)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2010 AT
ST PETER'S CHURCH, MINSHULL VERNON**

PRESENT: Mr D C Forrest Chair
Mr W Barnes Mr Les Horne
Mr W T Beard Mrs Linda Horne
Mrs P K Butterill Mr R Hollinshead
Mr D Preece Mr J Whittingham
Mr M Wilson

APOLOGIES: Messrs D N Bebbington, K Halford, B Palin and M McGlone

IN ATTENDANCE: Rev. P Goggin (St Peter's Church)
PCSO V McKenna

318 GRANT APPLICATION

The Reverend Philip Goggin was in attendance for this item.

The Parish Council was invited to consider a request from the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church for a contribution towards a shortfall in funding on the new community hall. The shortfall was £4,500 and the Parish Council was invited to consider if a contribution, either in whole or part, should be made.

RESOLVED: That a sum of £4,500 be authorised as a grant to the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church to enable completion of the community

319 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr W T Beard declared a personal interest in the planning applications on the basis that he was a member of Cheshire East Council's Southern Planning Committee. No other declarations of interest were made.

320 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (13 SEPTEMBER 2010)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment –

Minute No. 312.3 Fencing Costs, stated –

“Mr M McGlone reported that the cost of repairs to the fencing (materials only) was £111.73 and the invoice would be presented for authorisation in due course.”

At the meeting held on 13 September, the payment had been authorised and a cheque issued to Mr McGlone. In view of this, the minute should be amended to list this as an authorised payment.

321 MATTERS ARISING/OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Members were informed of the current situation in respect of the following items –

- **Bus Stop/Bus Shelter, Eardswick Lane**

The Parish Council had requested the creation of a footpath to facilitate access to Minshull Nurseries which had replaced the former Grenson's Garage as a "village shop". The cost of the work would be in the order of £15,000-17,000. The work could be programmed in, if the Parish Council wished to fund the project.

It was suggested that this be considered at the budget meeting in November as a potential item for next year's budget.

Members were not minded to fund the cost of the footway from within its budget, commenting that this would be an additional tax burden on local residents. The Clerk was asked to contact Cheshire East Highways again to stress the importance of Minshull's Nurseries as a village shop and to ask for its inclusion in its programme for 2011-2012.

- **Maintenance of bus shelter (annual contribution by Parish Council)**

The Parish Council previously contributed to the maintenance of the bus shelter, to the former CCC. The Clerk had contacted CEC to enquire if a continued contribution was required. A response was awaited.

- **Hedge-cutting – Minshull New Road**

The Clerk had written to CEC requesting hedging on both sides of road to be cut back to enable pedestrian access. It was confirmed that this would feature as part of the maintenance schedule.

- **Drainage – Bradfield Green**

The Clerk had been asked to write to all occupiers/owners of land in the vicinity requesting that ditches within the curtilage of their land, were cleared as soon as reasonably practicable.

Field grid references had not yet been provided and the Clerk had not, therefore, made any contact.

During discussion, it was **AGREED** that the most pragmatic approach would be for the Clerk to write to Mr Jinks who owned the land referred to; Mr Hollinshead undertook to provide contact details for the Clerk.

- **Car Parking on Minshull New Road**

The Clerk had asked Cheshire East Highways about the feasibility of building a lay-by on Minshull New Road, subject to the landowner being willing to sell a portion of his land.

It was reported that if this was private land, then a planning application would need to be submitted (by the landowner) and it CEC had advised that it was unlikely that planning permission would be granted for this purpose at this location.

- **Traffic-calming – A530**

Cheshire East Highways had marked this down for a surveyor's inspection and report back. It could examine "hot spots" but as this was a red route which already had soft traffic-calming measures on the route, any other measures, such as lining and signing, would need to be examined after checking the road collision statistics.

Mr Terry Beard reported on the financial situation at Cheshire East Council, as a result of the government's austerity measures proposed for the public sector. He commented that any proposed traffic-calming measures would be unlikely to be included in the budget for 2011-2012.

PCSO V McKenna agreed to check the collision statistics on this route.

- **Removal of old notice-boards**

Cheshire East Highways had been asked to consider removing the old Parish Council notice-boards.

- **Branding of new notice-boards**

Whitehill Direct, which had supplied the notice-boards, had quoted £70 per notice-board for specialist branding. This would cost approximately £280.

The Parish Council **AGREED** that in view of the cost of the notice-boards, a bespoke sign, rather than a typed notice, would be more in keeping with the quality of the new notice-boards. The Clerk was authorised to ask Whitehill Direct to provide a sign for each notice-board.

- **Possible retrospective contribution to trailer-mounted vehicle display unit**

Cheshire East Council had been requested to consider a retrospective contribution to the cost of the trailer-mounted vehicle display unit. This was being pursued by Malcolm McCuaig (of Cheshire East Highways) on behalf of the Parish Council; he had put forward a case that the Parish Council had acted in reliance on receipt of a financial contribution from Cheshire East Council and this should be honoured.

322 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to ask questions. There were no members of the public in attendance and the Parish Council proceeded to its next item of business.

323 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO V McKenna was in attendance and updated the Parish Council on police matters within the parish.

323 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

323.1 Chris Shields, the Area Highways Manager, had written to Town and Parish Councils regarding "Winter Resilience" matters. Cheshire East Council was offering salt storage bins to allow residents to self-help where possible.

The Clerk was asked to request salt bins to be located outside Leighton Primary School, Mablins Lane Primary School, and, if possible, outside St Peter's Church and the United Reformed Church.

323.2 Pedestrian Safety Issues

Mr W T Beard had requested the inclusion of this item on the agenda.

The item related to pedestrian safety issues at Smithy Lane, adjacent to the Bradfield Road roundabout and also further around at Parkers Road. Cheshire East Highways had received correspondence from a local resident about safety concerns at this location.

The Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire East Council requesting the provision of a safe pedestrian route from Parkers Road to Minshull New Road.

324 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to the following planning applications –

10/3428N – The Croft, Bradfield Road, Leighton

10/3904N – Spring Farm Business Centre, Moss Lane, Minshull Vernon

10/3108N – Hole House Farm, Warmingham – part of Hole House Farm reinforcement project and incorporates an above-ground installation to connect the new high pressure gas pipeline to the existing NTS network and EDF Hole House Farm Gas Storage facility.

10/368W – British Salt Ltd, Cledford Lane, Middlewich – time extension for brine Extraction etc.

325 FINANCIAL MATTERS

325.1 Receipts and Payments Statement for the period 1.April.10 – 30.Sept.10

RESOLVED: That the Receipts and Payments Statement for the second quarter of the financial year be approved.

325.2 Authorisation of Payments

The Parish Council was asked to approve the following payments. It was noted that a cheque for £600 for tree-felling, had already been issued to Green Valley and the Parish Council was asked to ratify the payment.

RESOLVED: (a) That the following payments be authorised:

£141.00 A Micklewright (£120.00 and £21.00 vat) – field work in June, July and September.

£38.412 Mr L Horne: ink cartridges associated with the Speed Watch scheme.

£211.50 RWL Services

(b) That the payment of £600 to Green Valley be ratified.

326 PROJECTS

326.1 The Parish Council was invited to consider if the Street Sports programme should be extended for another year at a cost of £1,360. Details of the scheme were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the Street Sport Scheme, operated by Cheshire East Council, be authorised for continuation for another year, at a cost of £1,360.

326.2 Local Area Partnership (LAP) Meetings

The Parish Council was informed in changes being made to the way in which the LAPS were being organised.

326.3 Speed Watch Scheme/Traffic Management

Mr Les Horne reported on recent activities under the Speed Watch scheme and the new Traffic Management Scheme.

It was agreed that a copy of the statistics tabled be submitted to Malcolm McCuaig.

327 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

The Parish Council was updated on the meeting held on 7 October at the Civic Hall, Nantwich, when Councillor Howard Murray addressed representatives from town and parish councils in Cheshire East.

In summary, those services which were statutory would either continue to be provided by the Borough Council, or would be devolved to town and parish councils. Those services which were discretionary, were likely to cease, or be transferred to town and parish councils.

The original proposal had been for devolution/transfer of services to take place with effect from 2011-2012, but it was understood that this had been deferred for another 12 months.

328 CORRESPONDENCE

Spring Bulbs: Each year, the Borough Council offered, free of charge, approximately 1000 Spring bulbs to each parish council willing to take them and plant them in their parishes. The Clerk had accepted the offer, on behalf of the Parish Council and Mr Les Horne had collected them. These were available to those Members who wished to participate in the planting around the parish.

Sexual Entertainment Venues: The Parish Council was consulted on Cheshire East Council's proposal to add new categories of sex establishment to the list of "sexual entertainment venues" which were subject to regulation under Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council support the proposed regulation of the new categories of sexual entertainment venues.

Poppy Appeal The Royal British Legion had sent a letter of appeal. The Clerk was asked to order a wreath for laying at the Borough Council service.

329 SHARED ITEMS

Members were invited to share information or request the inclusion of items on the next agenda.

330 2011 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

At the previous meeting, Members agreed dates for Parish Council meetings in 2011 (see Minute No. 313.2). However, there was a gap of 10 weeks between the 7 March meeting and the Annual Meetings on 16 May and it was suggested that a meeting be held on the 18 April.

RESOLVED: That an additional Parish Council meeting be held on 18 April 2011, to avoid a 10 week gap between the March and May meetings.

331 NEXT MEETING

Budget Meeting – 15 November 2010.