



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21
APRIL 2021 at 7.30 PM**

Present:

Parish Councillors: I Parr, K Barker, D May, G Birbeck, R Casson and W Shirley

Ward Councillor P Marshall, L Gibbon, N Wright

Parish Clerk N Morris

Before the formal meeting, a public pre-meeting forum, was held, but not minuted.

A member of the public consulted the Parish Councillors.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually, with the public invited to log on to watch and listen.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan and Unitary Cllrs Marshall, Gibbon and Wright and PCSO Wiggins

Resolved that the apologies be accepted

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Barker

2. Declarations of any

(a) disclosable pecuniary interests or

(b) other disclosable interests

As are required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 were invited.

No declarations were received.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 17 March 2021.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 17 March 2021 be accepted as a true and complete of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Parr

Seconded Cllr May

4. Matters arising from Previous Meeting.

It was noted that it was over a year since PCSO Wiggins has been able to attend a Parish Council meeting. Cheshire Constabulary are precluded from joining Google Meets.

5. No Unitary Councillors were able to access the meeting, but the following comments were reported to the meeting:

i. All the Marbury Councillors are opposing proposed increase to the TATA operation;

ii. Officers are minded to recommend approval of the application to build 102 new dwellings.

6. PLANNING

No new applications, approvals or rejections had been received since the last parish council meeting, but the following existing Planning matters were considered and noted.

A. APPLICATIONS

i. Site Address: Land Off Heath Lane Wincham Northwich Cheshire

Proposal: Construction of 14No industrial/office units and associated roads and parking

Reference Number: 20/03447/OUT

Case Officer: Mr Ben Greenwood

Resolved that the Parish Council make the following comments and objections:

- 1. The access route of Heath Lane is insufficient, as is highlighted by the CWAC Highways Department report. Heath Lane is too narrow for light industrial traffic.*
- 2. Mention is made of rerouting the public right of way, but there is no documentation to show that this has been done. It would be unacceptable for pedestrians to have to share Heath Lane with industrial traffic and so the public right of way would need to be rerouted before Planning permission was granted. There is no evidence that the Rights of Way Officer has been consulted.*
- 3. As it stands, the public right of way goes down Heath Lane and this is unacceptable if there are to be industrial vehicles using this route to service the industrial units. The level of traffic from the industrial units would be far higher than from any farm and so it would not be the case that the proposed use would be similar to the current use.*
- 4. No documentation has been provided for drainage. This is unsatisfactory for a new development on green land that has been subject to significant flooding in the past. United Utilities state that they require a surface water report. Wincham Parish Council is especially concerned about how new demands on the drainage system could affect existing properties. This should be explored before Planning permission is considered.*
- 5. The documentation shows that an acoustic barrier is considered necessary for the proposed new development of dwellings to shield the residents from the impact of this proposed development, but no mention is made of the acoustic impact of this development on existing dwellings that are geographically closer. Existing residents are entitled to continued reasonable enjoyment of their property and it is clear that the noise impact assessment suggests this will be affected by this proposed development. Appropriate acoustic shielding is necessary for residents in neighbouring properties.*

Proposed Cllr Barker

Secoded Cllr May

ii. Planning Consultation 19/04229/FUL – Land at Chapel Street Wincham

Resolved that the Parish Council make the following comments and objections:

- 1. Space should be reserved at the corner of the plot for a footpath/cyclepath. This would keep open the possibility of the disused railway being made into a cyclepath at a later date.*
- 2. Any permission should include a Planning Condition that a legal agreement is necessary to sign over the right to make a cyclepath to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Without a legal agreement, the possibility will be lost in time.*
- 3. The disused railway is a reserved route within CWAC policy. It also serves the local area as both local heritage and amenity.*
- 4. It would be desirable to create a new cycleway now, along the disused railway, to link with the cycling aspirations of the new proposed housing development off New Warrington Road.*

Proposed Cllr Barker

Secoded Cllr May

III. Planning Consultation 20/03256/FUL for 6 houses on Chapel St Wincham

Resolved that the Parish Council make the following comments and objections:

- 1. The changes made do not resolve the issues previously made by the Parish Council. These still stand.*
- 2. There appears to be no footpath. The Parish Council does not believe that it serves pedestrian safety to force those on foot to walk on the road.*
- 3. In the light of the level of hard standing (the new roads, houses and extending the road access), a significant of land has been lost to natural soak away and so the Parish Council would want drainage to be addressed. What will be the effect of the development on the drainage and potential flooding for neighbouring properties? Where will the run-off from this development go?*

There appears to be a difference in levels between the new properties and the existing neighbouring properties.

4. *There are different specifications between this proposed development and the neighbouring one relating to light industrial units: the other development includes acoustic barriers to protect the dwellings in this application. Why does this application not mention these acoustic barriers? The Parish Council is particularly concerned that no size is given for the proposed boundary fence for this development. Will it be 6ft or higher? The Parish Council would want this clarified. If these dwellings need acoustic barriers (from the existing scrapyards or from the prospective industrial units), CWAC need to go back for further consultation.*

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr Birbeck

- IV. Planning Consultation 20/03068/FUL Residential development off New Warrington Road

Resolved that the Parish Council make the following comments and objections:

Transport and access

Wincham Councillors have local knowledge of the area and roads and fundamentally disagree with the anticipated level of traffic disruption given in the application. The New Warrington Road is busy and Wincham Council does not feel that the application makes sufficient arrangements to ameliorate the detrimental effects on traffic flow, given the single access point. The application makes an unrealistically low estimate of the number of cars this level of dwellings would generate and does not consider that many/most of these cars are likely to leave/return to the development from this single access point at the same busy times of day. The proposed road modifications are insufficient for the disruption likely both in the short and medium term.

Local facilities, including schools

It is likely that most of the primary school children would be driven to school and that they would apply to go to school within the village, to Wincham Community Primary School. This was recognised in the Outline Planning Permission on which this current application is based, but mention is now omitted to that. No mention is now made in the application of any s106 moneys or other funding being directed towards the enlargement or other changes that will be necessary at Wincham CP School to accommodate the extra children. Wincham Parish Council objects to this current Planning Application because no provision is included to assist with schooling the children who will move into the area as a result of the development.

Inaccuracies in the application with regard to cycling

The developers make reference to cycle paths and cycling tracks in their application that do not exist. Wincham Parish Council has been pressing for years for the route between Wincham and Northwich to be made friendly to cyclists, but this has not been done. There is no cycle path between the site of the proposed development and Northwich, along a very busy and congested road. There is no cycle path between the site of the proposed development and the only shop in Wincham or Wincham C Primary School. Not only this, but the traffic lights at the dangerous interchange at the site of the former Black Greyhound public house do not register the presence of a bicycle. Cyclists are forced either to dismount or to wait for a motorised vehicle to trigger the traffic lights.

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr May

B. APPROVALS

None

C. REFUSALS

None

7. No report on CHAIN was available

8. The clerk read out the follow report from PCSO Wiggins:

- *Report of suspicious male in the area.
- *Report of cars razzing on industrial park .
- *Report of concern for safety .
- *Report of RTC.
- *Report of youths climbing on new hut on the REC.
- *Report of criminal damage to sign on REC.

Area has been patrolled .
Speed enforcement carried out.
Police surgeries held.
Speed monitoring carried out.
Passing attention given to local REC.
Visit to local School regarding any issues or concerns that they may have.
Passing attention given to Green Lane / Linnards Lane re: parking on passing there has been no concerns.
Local intel submitted.

The clerk was asked to highlight problems at The Spar shop to PCSO Wiggins, in particular the verbal abuse suffered by staff on a daily basis. The Parish Council wants a meeting with the police sergeant responsible for the area.

9. The Parish Council reflected on the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and any arrangements in contingency for any deaths of national figures in the future.

The statement posted by the Chair on the village Facebook page was commended.

Mr Ian Fishwick was thanked for playing The Last Post after a minute's silence had been observed beside the Wincham War Memorial. White tulips had been laid as a mark of respect for the Duke.

It was felt that the Duke would not have wanted events to have been cancelled because of his death and so the Scarecrow Trail had continued.

The more general question of whether the village should have a flagpole will be examined by a new Memorial Working Party, which will report back to full Council, in due course.

10.

- i. **No dates for any sub-committee meetings were known to be required before the next Council Meeting.**
- ii. **The Grounds Maintenance Working Party updated the meeting on:**
 - a) **tabling of an invoice for £200 from Mrs Lu Crawford relating to the preparation of the site plan for the proposed Fit Track, in accordance with an authorisation for such expense voted upon at the February 2020 Wincham Parish Council meeting**

Resolved to pay Mrs Lu Crawford £200 in accordance with what had previously been quoted

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr May

- b) **the problem of residents climbing on the roof of the teen shelters and on the War Memorial was noted; approval in retrospect was considered for the purchase of both self-adhesive and rigid aluminium No Climbing signs; whether any additional action is required was discussed**

Resolved to:

- a) *remove 2 sections of the old teen shelter roof for safety reasons because there is damage and someone climbing on the roof might be injured.*

- b) ask Caloo, who installed the new teen shelter, for a price for a new roof for the old shelter; ask Northwich Town Council for the cost of repairing the roof;
- c) mention in the next Wincham Word the dangers of climbing on the roof of the shelter;
- d) to approve in hindsight the purchase of the adhesive and the rigid No Climbing signs.

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr May

c) anchoring the picnic benches in Linnards Lane was considered;

Resolved to have the picnic benches anchored

Proposed: Cllr Birbeck

Seconded: Cllr Barker

d) quotations for the repair/replacement of the damaged basketswing and tunnel in the Linnards Lane Play Area were discussed

Resolved:

- a) *To await the annual ROSPA report before deciding whether the damaged footboard on the infant equipment needs attention for safety;*
- b) *To ask HAGS for a quotation for a rope tunnel to replace the metal tunnel;*
- c) *To approve purchase of the HAGS basket swing as quoted with the alternatives quotes*

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Barker

e) It was noted that an order for a pair of 5 a-side goalposts and nets has now been submitted and that these will be held without charge by Northwich Town Council until erection; when to install the goalposts and whether to hold an official opening were discussed

It was felt best to work on improving the drainage before installing the new goalposts.

f) drainage problems at Linnards Lane Playing Field were discussed

Mr R Seymore has promised to investigate the drainage of the field.

g) the separation of the old and new wet pour under the play equipment was noted and discussed

In some places, the new wetpour is lifting and bending back on itself.

h) the layout and gate for the Chapel Street playing field were discussed

The clerk was requested to:

- a) *thank Zak McCombie for the fine entrance, but ask him to remove the old, tatty original gate;*
- b) *ask CWAC for a barrier to prevent children wandering into the road.*

i) Councillors were invited to raise any additional issues relating to the Linnards Lane and Chapel Street Playing Fields

- a) *The ROSPA report will comment on whether the equipment at Chapel Street is sufficiently well spaced for safety purposes;*
- b) *A price is awaited for the new noticeboard for Chapel Street.*
- c) *Zak McCombie has kindly agreed to remove the old noticeboard and erect the new one.*

- iii. **There was no update from the IT Working Party**
- iv. **An update on the Pickmere Lake Working Party would be given at the next Parish Council meeting.**
- v. **No updates were received from other Working Parties.**

10. The rota was noted for the voluntary inspections of the playing fields at Linnards Lane and Chapel Street.

17/3/2021	Cllr Shirley
21/4/2021	Cllr May
19/5/2021	Cllr Barker
16/6/2021	Cllr Parr
14/7/2021	Cllr Birbeck

11. Renewing membership of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (£646.28) was discussed.

Resolved that Wincham Parish Council renew membership of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr May

12. It was noted that a CIL payment of £1,594.09 has been allocated to Wincham and should be received within the next few months. This money must be spent on either:

- a) **the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or**
- b) **anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.**

Infrastructure is defined as: social infrastructure e.g. art and culture, sports halls, education, health, social care, emergency services, community centres, village halls; physical infrastructure e.g. pavements, cycleways, flood defences, highways, transport links or green infrastructure e.g. play areas, public open space, woodlands.

Resolved that the CIL funds should be used for the purchase of the new basketball court

Proposed Cllr Parr

Seconded Cllr Barker

13. Developments concerning the public right of way beside Pickmere Lake and the boardwalk were discussed

- a) *The clerk was asked to arrange a site visit for all concerned parties;*
- b) *It was noted that the definitive map shows the right of way much higher up the field, away from the Lake and away from any birds nesting in the reed beds;*
- c) *There is no guarantee that if the residents raised half of the approximately £80,000 for a new boardwalk made of sustainable materials, that CWAC would have their half of the necessary funds. There could be a long delay raising the voluntary contribution, and then another delay waiting for CWAC to produce their share;*
- d) *CWAC have suggested that it would be for Wincham PC to negotiate the installation of a new boardwalk direct with the landowner, whereas CWAC would deal with him over the creation of a hard path;*
- e) *It was stressed that a new path would have to be constructed of materials that would not harm the environment and*
- f) *That the Parish Council reserved the right to demand a different solution if the new path proved unsatisfactory and impassable in the winter.*

14. It was noted with sadness the death of Roy Mainwaring, a long-standing former Councillor and Chair of Wincham Parish Council.

Resolved that the Parish Council would like to create a new bench in the Chapel Street play area to honour the late Roy Mainwaring.

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr May

15. The resignation of Councillor Debra Kelly was accepted and the Parish Council thanked her for her contribution to the Parish Council and the village of Wincham.

It was noted that Debra Kelly had made a significant and impressive impact on the village and the Parish Council.

16. An application to join Wincham Parish Council was considered

Resolved that Mr Paul Fitzsimmons be co-opted onto Wincham Parish Council

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr Shirley

17. The membership and remit of the Committees and Working Parties was reviewed and revised

Resolved that the Wincham Parish Council membership of committees and working parties has been reviewed and revised in accordance with the new list of members held by the clerk and open for inspection by any Councillor or member of the public

Proposed Cllr May

Seconded Cllr Shirley

18. The impact of the pandemic on Wincham Parish Council was discussed, including:

- i. Whether to amend the Parish Council Standing Orders to allow Wincham Parish Council to decide itself whether to continue with virtual meetings whilst the majority of Councillors consider this necessary, including provision as to how often this decision should be reviewed;**

It was felt that there should be an audit trail of the deliberations of Councillors in their attempt to find the safest and most practicable method for discussing issues and making decisions.

Not knowing what the lessening of restrictions due on 17 May will be and with the pandemic still uncertain, flexibility was essential.

Resolved that the Wincham Parish Council Standing Orders be altered to allow the Parish Council power to decide on a month by month basis whether to meet in person or virtually

Proposed Cllr Parr

Seconded Cllr Casson

- ii. Whether Wincham Parish Council wishes to meet in person from May 2021 onwards or whether to continue with virtual meetings for the meetings for May, June and July 2021 was discussed**

Resolved that virtual meetings should continue until the Parish Council votes that in person meetings are safe and preferable

Proposed Cllr Parr

Seconded Cllr Casson

19. The success of the village Scarecrow Trail was noted and the Parish Council thanked Cllr May for organising this and noted and approved her anticipated expenses for the prizes.

Over 1500 people viewed the Facebook page relating to the Scarecrow Trail and visitors had travelled from outside the village. It had been a family activity possible during the pandemic and had been a resounding success.

Resolved to approve Cllr May's expenses of approximately £90 for the Scarecrow Trail and to thank her for organising the event

Proposed Cllr Casson

Seconded Cllr Parr

20. Whether to hold the Picnic in the Park in 2021 was discussed.

Wincham School is not holding a Summer Fayre in 2021 because the Government is discouraging large gatherings.

Linnards Lane Playing Field is being used by residents, but the Parish Council should not be promoting a large gathering.

21. Whether or when to hold other Parish Council events including the Unsung Heroes was discussed.

The Unsung Heroes celebration is a smaller event, but it is held indoors. Numbers can be controlled because it is ticketed.

It was felt too early to decide whether this event could go ahead. The Parish Council should discuss it later in the year and maybe hold it in November 2021.

22. Continued concern about speeding vehicles through the village was explored, including and any action that might tackle this.

It was noted that Cheshire East are currently training residents to use a speed gun.

Wincham residents could be encouraged to put their names down for training once Cheshire West and Chester Council have resumed training.

23. The Wincham Parish Council Website Policy, signed in March 2019 was reviewed.

Resolved that the current policy should continue until after the new website is live

Proposed Cllr Shirley

Seconded Cllr Casson

24. Whether the Parish Council would like a presentation from Hourglass, a charity establishing a base in the North West of England to tackle abuse of older people, was discussed.

Although the aims of Hourglass are admirable, they do not fall within the remit of the Parish Council.

25. Reports of events attended by Councillors or the clerk in an official capacity were invited

Cllr May attended training on Planning.

26. Village Communication.

i. The newsletter will be printed in the near future.

ii. The village website – Cllr Kelly has been removed and Cllr Fitzsimmons will be added.

iii. Facebook is very busy.

27. Accounts:

i. The following payments were considered:

Resolved to settle the following accounts:

Accounts to settle

1. Northwich Town Council Invoice 4824 dated 25/03/2021	£122.50		
VAT	£24.50	£147.00	
Invoice 4856 dated 31/03/2021	£175.50		
VAT	£35.10	£210.60	£357.60
2. ChALC invoice for training for parish clerk			£30.00
3. ChALC annual membership*			£646.28
* confirmed at the meeting			
4. Mrs Lu Crawford for preparing the site plan for the Fit Track			£200.00
5. Reimbursement for stationery for Cllr D May			£15.99
6. Clerk:			
i. Reimbursement for 8 sticky No Climbing signs	£34.84		
ii. Reimbursement for 4 aluminium signs	£73.97		
iii. salary for April 2021 35 hours @ £11.76/hour	£411.60		
iv. working from home allowance @ £26/month	£26.00		£546.41

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Birbeck

ii. The following balances were noted:

Current Net Balances

Current Account as at 1.4.2021	£200.00
Business Reserve Account 1. as at 1.4.201	£26,324.33
Business Reserve Account 2. as at 1.4.2021	£12,46.39

iii. It was noted the Precept for 2021/22 £30,400 has been credited to Business Reserve Account 1 since the above balances were recorded.

28. Correspondence

1. Emails and telephone calls relating to the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake.
2. Emails relating to the over-flowing litterbins on Earles Lane.
3. Emails relating to buses and generally about Earles Lane.
4. Emails and telephone calls relating to in person Parish Council meetings.
5. Telephone calls and emails relating to the Chapel Street play area.
6. Emails relating to a van parked on a grass verge.
7. Telephone call and emails relating to HGVs and traffic.
8. Emails relating to graffiti.
9. Emails and telephone calls from the internal auditor.
10. Emails relating to the external auditor.
11. Emails relating to protocol after a royal death.
12. Emails relating to the football pitch and goal posts.
13. Emails relating to the picnic benches.
14. Telephone call complaining about the Northwich recycling centre.

15. Emails and telephone calls relating to commercial vehicles parking on the grass.

16. Emails relating to planning issues.

17. Emails relating to issues of street and park maintenance around Wincham.

29. Any Other Business.

- a) *Vehicles continue to be parked on the grass under the tree on Linnards Lane. Cllr Barker declared an interest because he is employed by Weavervale Housing Association which owns this land. Weavervale have tried, but failed, to prevent vehicles parking on this grass in the past;*
- b) *Wincham School will be issuing a notice asking all people in Wincham to work together to abide by COVID-19 restrictions;*
- c) *Additional help with the gardening around the village would be very helpful;*
- d) *There are continued problems with water pressure across Wincham;*
- e) *Cllr Shirley volunteered to wash the old noticeboard on Chapel Street, following a complaint from a resident;*
- f) *A request has been made that an additional name be added to the Wincham War Memorial. This will be discussed at the next meeting.*

The meeting was declared closed at 10.44 pm

*Naomi Morris
17.05.2021*