



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30 PM CONDUCTED VIA MEETS COMPUTER LINK DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors: I Parr, K Barker, D May, D Kelly, G Birbeck, R Casson and W Shirley**  
**Ward Councillor**  
**Parish Clerk N Morris**

*Before the formal meeting, a representative of a business within Wincham discussed vehicles being parked on a grass verge in Wincham. This discussion, as part of the informal Pre-meeting forum, was not minuted.*

No further concerns were expressed during the public forum.

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 Cllrs Gibbon and Wright, Marshall and PCSO Wiggins  
Resolved that the apologies be accepted  
Proposed: Cllr Barker  
Seconded: Cllr May*

**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.**

*Cllrs Barker and Birbeck declared a disclosable interest in the content of item 16 of the agenda as present members of the Wincham Astronomy Club*

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 20 January 2021.**

*Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 20 January 2021 be accepted as a true and complete of the meeting.*

*Proposed Cllr Barker  
Seconded Cllr May*

**4. There were no matters arising from Previous Meeting.**

**5. No Unitary Councillor was present.**

**6. PLANNING**

**The following Planning matters were considered and noted.**

## A. APPLICATIONS

### I. Site Address: **2 Linnards Lane Wincham Northwich Cheshire CW9 6ED**

Proposal: **Erection of one dwelling**

Reference Number: **20/04849/FUL**

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council make the following comments on this application:*

- 1. There is no evidence that planning notices have been posted outside this property. There are no notices currently on near-by lampposts. The absence of valid notices would invalidate the application process. The Parish Council asks that officers check the situation at their earliest opportunity and also that neighbours of the site have received appropriate planning notices.*
- 2. This is a triangular plot, with the intention that the existing dwelling and the new dwelling would share a driveway. The Parish Council believes the plans provide too little space for a car from the new dwelling to be parked. The junction of Linnards Lane and Shores Green Drive is busy and it would be unsafe to have a car parked close to the junction.*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr May*

### II. Site Address: **Land To The East of New Warrington Road Wincham Northwich**

Proposal: **Erection of 98 dwellings including associated works, access and landscaping**

Reference Number: **20/03068/FUL**

*Wincham Parish Council did not resolve to submit additional objections to this application, but asked that the three Marbury Councillors talk with Officers about why a number of the objections originally raised remain unresolved. Before a decision is made on this application, Wincham Parish Council asks that these matters be addressed.*

- 1. The application states that the location is good for cycling into Northwich and yet the New Warrington Road would not be a pleasant or particularly safe road for cyclists. At a time when CWAC is encouraging cycling, surely more could be done to make the cycle access from the new site to Northwich more viable?*
- 2. When the developers originally spoke to Wincham Parish Council, they agreed to provide pedestrian access from the rear of the site. This would aid children walking to the primary school and also adults wishing to access the nearest railway station in Lostock Gralam. No pedestrian access is included in the present plans.*
- 3. The documentation refers to school projections showing sufficient capacity for the likely number of school children coming to the new dwellings. This is based on currently 13 spare primary school spaces having been identified. No detail is given as to whether these 13 spaces are located in one school (Wincham C P School?) or across several local primaries. Is it sensible to assume that the 13 spaces will always fall in the class years where the new children need to be placed? Since Wincham School is over-subscribed and is the village school, is it not predictable that the new dwellings would put additional pressure on places in this school? No mention is made of s106 money being used for Wincham School, despite it being promised in the original Urban Village application.*
- 4. If any children are expected to apply to Wincham CP School, then the crossroad traffic lights at the old Black Greyhound public house junction will need to be updated to include a facility for pedestrians to cross. This would be the only route for pedestrians to walk from the development to the school and also to the only shop in the village and yet currently there is no green light for pedestrians at this junction.*
- 5. For the same reasons as above, the traffic lights will need to be amended to recognise and change for waiting cyclists.*
- 6. Traffic on the New Warrington Road and also on Chapel Street is of grave concern for both the Wincham Councillors and Wincham residents. The traffic reports accompanying this application are based on a drip-feed of additional cars. This is not realistic. Given the distances and the lack of cycle lanes, parents will drive their children to school. This will create a period of intense additional traffic*

at either end of the school day. New Warrington Road is already busy at peak times. Chapel Street residents are already disturbed by speeding cars and many HGVs. School run cars will make the situation more frustrating and also more dangerous. With the additional dwellings and industrial units being considered on Chapel Street, the traffic situation is only going to deteriorate. No serious consideration seems to have been given to how the problems can be ameliorated.

iii. Site Address: **35 Church Street Wincham Northwich**  
Proposal: **Removal of condition 7 (removal of Permitted Development rights) on planning permission 20/03741/FUL**  
Reference Number: **21/00445/S73**

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council make the following objection:*

*This condition in question was imposed in the original planning permission to prevent additional development without a further planning permission being sought. Nothing has altered to render this less relevant.*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr May*

**7. The fencing around the Chapel Street play area was discussed and in particular the type of fencing they felt would be preferable, with a barrier or chicane either side of the gate. With this protection to help prevent children running onto the road, it was felt that a gate onto Chapel Street was probably the best option.**

**The clerk was asked to communicate these thoughts to the developer.**

**8. The position with regard to the new noticeboard on Chapel Street was reviewed and it was felt best to delay purchasing and erecting the new noticeboard until the works at the play area had been completed. The clerk was asked to keep Mr Roberts informed.**

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

PCSO REPORT MID JAN – MID FEBRUARY

Report of Domestic incident.

Report of highway disruption in area due to flooding .

Report of theft on Business park

2 alarm activations at business park ( False alarm )

Report of suspicious activity on business park .

Report of concern for safety.

Report of fraud.

\*Visible patrol when on duty.

\*Police surgeries held on social media.

\*Speed enforcement carried out in the area.

\*Reassurance visits to elderly and vulnerable in the community.

\*Contact calls to elderly / vulnerable in the area. Making sure that they are ok and not in need of anything.

\*All tasks actioned and updated.

\*Wincham School visited to make sure that they have no issues or concerns.

\*Visits to The Spar were conducted to discuss and advise regarding customers refusing to wear masks.

\*Liaised with residents on Ash Wood Park :re concerns regarding rouge traders.

\*Liaised with regulatory services regarding untaxed vehicle parked on foot path. They will attend and deal accordingly.

**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) The Ashgate Lane hedge; this has been cut well. Mrs Yates has purchased some holly bushes on behalf of the Parish Council and will kindly plant these in the Linnards Lane play area. A reminder not to eat holly berries will be included in the next newsletter.
  - b) The Caloo teen shelter; this has been erected and is being used.
  - c) The memorial bench: there was nothing further to report on this.
  - d) The Fit Track. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party will consider the specifications for the construction material for the track. It was noted that the intention was to separate the scooter track from the main paths in the park.
  - e) Drainage on the Linnards Lane Playing Field was discussed, and it was felt that any drainage works could be installed when the Fit Track was laid. The possibility of asking the Football Foundation to review drainage issues should be explored, although the cost of this was unknown.
- 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.

**11. The current situation regarding the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake was discussed.**

*It was agreed that the clerk should confirm/clarify the following with the Ranger:*

- *If there were to be a path, the base would most likely be hard core, with some form of Ph neutral topping stone and the costs would be shared between the landowner and CWAC. The Ranger does not anticipate problems with run-off from the hard core chemicals entering the Lake.*
- *If the Parish Council wanted a timber like-for-like boardwalk, 100% of the cost would come from the Parish Council or local fund-raising.*
- *If the Parish Council chose a boardwalk made from sustainable/durable recycled materials, then the split of the cost would be 50/50 between the Parish Council and CWAC.*
- *What is the length for the boardwalk? The Councillors would like to obtain a cost estimate for a new boardwalk.*
- *From a technical point of view, what happens at the end of the 6 month closure of the boardwalk? Can the period just be extended or are there rules/restrictions in play?*

**12. No current action was felt necessary relating to the Wincham War Memorial.**

**13. There was nothing to report on impact of the pandemic on Wincham and Wincham Parish Council.**

**14. Recent developments notified by CHAIN were discussed.**

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council make the following objections:*

- i. *At the original public enquiry, it was stated that the majority of the materials would be transported by rail, but this commitment has been dropped. Since the public enquiry, the prospect of HS2 has been agreed and will mean that there will be significant additional road traffic. This new application would add to the problem very significantly.*
- ii. *The original planning permission was for a very different plant from what is now planned. The technology and the scale have changed so significantly it makes an entirely new planning application essential.*
- iii. *In 2012, planning permission was granted on the grounds that this was infrastructure of National Significance urgently needed. Nothing has been built, showing that the grounds of urgency were false.*

Proposed Cllr Barker  
Seconded Cllr Parr

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

<b>24/2/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Morgan</b>
<b>17/3/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Shirley</b>
<b>21/4/2021</b>	<b>Cllr May</b>
<b>19/5/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Barker</b>
<b>16/6/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Kelly</b>
<b>14/7/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Birbeck</b>

**16. Councillors considered a donation request from the Astronomy Club.**

*Cllrs Birbeck and Barker left the virtual meeting during this item.*

*No grant had been received by the Astronomy Club from the Police Commissioner's Fund, but Cheshire West and Chester Council were offering £150 as a donation, if it could be match-funded by the Parish Council.*

*The village of Wincham does not have many clubs or associations, but this is located in the village and is open to all ages. This donation would allow the club to buy a telescope that could be lent to a village resident who did not have their own telescope.*

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council donate £ 250 to Wincham Astronomy Club*

*Proposed Cllr Kelly  
Seconded Cllr Shirley*

*Cllrs Birbeck and Barker re-joined the virtual meeting.*

**17. Arranging the distribution of the VE Commemorative mugs to the children of Wincham CP School was discussed, but it was felt that distributing the mugs would be impracticable during the pandemic. The clerk was asked to put this item on the agenda for the June 2021 meeting.**

**18. Renewing the hiring of the PCSO room for £300 for the year was discussed.**

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council renew the hire of the PCSO room in the Community Centre for another year*

*Proposed Cllr Barker  
Seconded Cllr Birbeck*

**19. Problems with cars parking on the grass verges on Green Lane and Chapel Street were discussed.**

*Fewer vehicles have recently been parked on the verges on Linnards Lane, but the grass on Green Lane is very muddy.*

*The situation will be monitored.*

**20. The Financial Calendar was considered was noted.**

**WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2021/22**

**FINANCIAL CALENDAR**

1 APRIL 2021 – beginning of financial year

MAY 2021 – Note the final bank reconciliation statement

- Expected date of Internal audit

JUNE 2021 – Complete and approve Annual Return

- review the Internal Auditor's report and agree a suitable action plan

JULY 2021- External Audit

- advertise for members of the public to view the Annual Return

SEPTEMBER 2021 – Review and publish the External Auditor's report and agree as suitable action plan

JANUARY 2022 – prepare a budget and agree precept for next financial year

FEBRUARY 2022 – review all risk, financial risk and governance policies and compliance thereof

31 MARCH 2022 – end of financial year

**21. The Wincham Parish Council Financial Risk Assessment was read, noted, considered, examined for risks and approved**

*Resolved that the Wincham Parish Council Financial Risk Assessment was read, noted and considered, examined for risks and approved*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr Casson*

**22. The Wincham Parish Council Health and Safety Policy was reviewed.**

*The clerk was asked to review the Policy in the light of the pandemic and also to ensure it covers sub-contractors being responsible for supplying adequate risk assessments for health and safety matters.*

**23. The Wincham Parish Council Risk Assessment was reviewed**

*The clerk was asked to add reference to the Chapel Street play area.*

**24. Review of the Wincham Parish Council Governance documents including the Code of Conduct was postponed to the next meeting.**

**25. Village Communication.**

- The newsletter – this has been very well received**
- The village website – no changes**
- Facebook is thriving.**

**26. Accounts:**

- The following payments were considered:**

*Resolved to settle the following accounts:*

Accounts to settle

1. i.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4507 dated 01/10/2020	£526.00		
	VAT	£105.25		£631.50
ii.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4750 dated 31/01/2021	£175.50		
	VAT	£35.10	£ 210.60	£841.85
1.	Simon Roberts printing the Wincham Word			£495.00
2.	Wincham Community Centre hire of PCSO room <i>*to be confirmed at the meeting</i>			£300.00*
3.	Allan James for cutting Ashgate Lane hedge			£395.00
4.	Cllr Parr for bird feeder			£10.00
5.	Cllr Parr reimbursement for cash used from the Chair's Allowance			£15.00
6.	Cllr Barker for reimbursement of 123-reg			£71.86
7.	Clerk:			
	i. reimbursement for stationery		£28.29	-*
	ii. salary for February 2021 35 hours @ £11.76/hour		£411.60	

*Proposed: Cllr Birbeck*

*Seconded: Cllr May*

ii. The following balances were noted:	
Current Account as at 5.2.2021	£200.00
Business Reserve Account 1. as at 5.2.2021	£39,951.41
Business Reserve Account 2. as at 5.1.2021	£12,046.09

## 27. Correspondence

1. Emails relating to the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake.
2. Emails and telephone calls relating to flooding in Earles Lane.
3. Emails relating to the Earles Lane Working Party.
4. Telephone calls and emails relating to flooding on Linnards Lane
5. Emails and telephone calls relating to parking on the grass.
6. Emails relating to parking.
7. Emails relating to HGVs.
8. Emails relating to the new teen shelter.
9. Emails relating to planning issues.
10. Emails relating to dog fouling.
11. Emails relating to issues of street and park maintenance around Wincham.
12. Emails relating to whether an ice cream van is permitted to trade during lockdown.

## 28. Any Other Business.

- i. *Cllr Parr reported that he had attended a virtual meeting on flooding across Marbury. Residents had complained about a dearth of sandbags and so a facility storing sandbags for emergencies is to be opened locally..*
- ii. *Cllr Parr reported he also attended a virtual meeting with Pickmere Residents' Association who were very interested in the boardwalk and might be ready to fundraise for a replacement.*
- iii. *Cllrs Barker and May are discussing recycling and waste management with CWAC.*
- iv. *Cllr Casson reported a water leak on Green Lane. The clerk will write to United Utilities.*
- v. *It was noted that tractors have been speeding through the village.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 10.06pm**

*Naomi Morris*  
1.03.2021