



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 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 P Marshall  
Parish Clerk N Morris**

No 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.

The meeting formally began at 7.36pm.

**1. Apologies for absence**

*Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan  
and Cllrs Gibbon and Wright and PCSO Wiggins  
Resolved that the apologies be accepted*

*Proposed: Cllr Barker*

*Seconded: Cllr Kelly*

**2. Request for Dispensation**

- i. Members who had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any items on the agenda (*other than the Precept*) were invited to an application for dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to enable members to participate in discussions and voting.  
*No applications were made*

- ii. Requests for dispensation were invited, noting that in January 2013 the Parish Council resolved the following:

“The Council grant a general dispensation under s33 the Local Government Finance Act 1992. to speak and vote to all Members serving on Wincham Parish Council who

- a. have a Disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the parish council where that business relates to the functions of the parish council in respect of setting a budget and a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and who
- b. have applied for such a dispensation in writing

The period of the dispensation to be for Members' remaining period of office.”

*All current Parish Councillors were covered by this resolution.*

*Written requests for dispensation under this resolution were received from all Parish Councillors present at the meeting.*

**3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 18 November 2020 and Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee on Wednesday 11 January 2021.**

*Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 18 November 2021 be accepted as a true and complete of the meeting.*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr Kelly*

*Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of Finance Sub-Committee on 11 January 2021 be accepted as a true and complete of the meeting.*

*Proposed Cllr May*

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

**5. The Unitary Councillors made the following report:**

- I. There are open CWAC Consultations on green spaces and play areas;*
- II. The new CWAC Report It App covers all reports residents would want to make;*
- III. The CWAC website has regular updates on COVID-19 infections and vaccinations across the borough;*
- IV. The national Census will take place between March and April, but much of it will be online.*

*Cllr Marshall left the meeting.*

**6. The continued complaints received from residents regarding the opening hours of Northwich Recycling Centre were noted and it was observed that fly tipping has increased. The Parish Council will continue to press for longer opening hours for the Northwich Recycling Centre.**

**7. PLANNING**

The following Planning matters were considered and noted.

**A. APPLICATIONS**

None received.

**B. APPROVALS**

**i. 20/03330/FUL**

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing single storey conservatory, two storey rear extension

**Location:** 19 Beechwood Drive Wincham Northwich CW9 6EY

**Approval**

**ii. 19/04270/FUL**

**Proposal:** Demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a new dwelling.

**Location:** Cranmore Earles Lane Wincham Northwich Cheshire CW9 6EA

**Approval**

**iii. 20/01955/FUL**

**Proposal:** Part ground floor / part first floor rear extension ; External alterations at front of house to convert garage to a habitable room

**Location:** 40 Shores Green Drive Wincham Northwich CW9 6EE

**Approval**

**iv. 20/02221/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey extension to front of detached garage

**Location:** Mere View 57 Pickmere Lane Wincham Northwich Cheshire CW9 6EB

**Approval**

**v. 20/03136/FUL**

**Proposal:** Construction of Agricultural Access

**Location:** Land Off New Warrington Road Wincham Northwich

**Approval**

**vi. 20/02467/FUL**

**Proposal:** Drop kerb and resurface area outside 31 and 33 Pickmere Lane

**Location:** 31 and 33 Pickmere Lane Wincham Northwich CW9 6EB

**Approval**

**vii. 20/00273/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension and new pitched roof to existing front porch

**Location:** 24 Pear Tree Drive Wincham Northwich Cheshire CW9 6EZ

**Approval**

## **8. How a current planning application may affect the Chapel Street play area was discussed**

*It was noted that the land does not belong to the Parish Council and there is no lease covering the play area.*

*The developer/land owner intends to move the entrance gate to the front of the site, onto Chapel Street. Concern was expressed over children running onto the road. The land owner will be asked if a chicane can be built. The gate could be moved back to the side of the site at a later date, but the land owner has indicated this would be at the expense of the Parish Council. Councillors wanted to know whether there would be a pathway on the side road or whether the gate would open straight onto the road.*

*The landowner will erect temporary fencing, but has invited the Parish Council to discuss permanent fencing. One of the Councillors agreed to consider what would be most appropriate.*

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

PCSO REPORT MID NOVEMBER – PRESENT

Report of theft of vehicle.

Report of theft of machinery .

Ambulance requested to member of public collapsed in area.

Report of insecure premises.

\*Speed monitoring and enforcement has been carried out in the area.

\*Local school visited – reassurance .

\*Police surgeries held .

\*All areas patrolled .

\*Checks made on elderly vulnerable persons in area.

\*REC to be monitored after reports from Parish council stating that children are using memorial as climbing frame.

\*Local shop visited – reassurance .

\*Social media updated .

\*Checks made on Earles Lane re: parking no issues as expected due to the cold weather.

\*Ashwood park patrolled on a regular basis.

\*Local industrial units patrolled – during tour of duty.

*It was noted that the Spar staff have been encountered problems with certain shoppers refusing to wear masks and being abusive. Larger supermarkets can afford security guards. It was agreed that the PCSO should be asked to monitor the situation. It was also suggested that the CCTV might record the relevant car registration numbers.*

## **10.**

**i. i. No dates for any sub-committee meetings were known to be required before the next Council Meeting.**

**ii. It was noted that the Finance Sub-Committee met on 11 January 2021:**

- a) *The proposal of the Finance Sub-Committee was considered to set the Precept for 2021/22 at £30,400.00 (this year there will be no Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant (£309 for 2019/20)). A precept of £30,400.00 was chosen after due consideration of the recommendations of ChALC to budget for an increase in costs of 4% but also because there is considerable financial pressure on many residents. The proposed Precept would mean a Band D precept charge of £39.78, an increase of £0.30 due to a change in the local tax base.*

*Resolved that the precept for 2021/22 be unchanged at £30,400.00*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr Birbeck*

**iii. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party updated the meeting on:**

- a) A recommendation for a contractor to cut the hedge on Ashgate Lane (the options were listed in the Appendix F quotations);**

*Resolved that the quotation from Allan James be accepted for the work necessary on the hedge on the basis that his quotation was competitive, he was a local contractor, had done good work for the Parish Council in the past and had spent time thinking about what was best in this situation*

*Proposed Cllr May*

*Seconded Cllr Kelly*

- b) The Parish Council is awaiting a decision from the resident on his proposed for a memorial bench.**

- c) The Caloo teen shelter is due to be installed during January.**

- d) The repairs to the wetpour have been completed and look excellent.**

- e) The outstanding repairs to the basket swing and play tunnel are awaiting prices from the clerk.**

- f) An initial drawing has now been produced for the proposed Fit Track. The next stage is to draft a project plan, diving the aspects into different sections. These need not all be implemented at the same time.**

**iv. The IT Working Party reported that the new website has been created, but is not yet live.**

**v. No updates were received from other Working Parties.**

**11. The implications of the pandemic including any action necessary in the parks were discussed.**

*Individuals and family groups are still permitted to use the park. It was noted that groups tend to gather on the basketball court, but there are notices posted,,emphasising the requirement for social distancing.*

*Drainage on the field is a long-term problem. Installing land drainage when the earth work was done for the Fit Track was discussed.*

**12. The present position of the Wincham War Memorial was discussed, but no changes were agreed, at this time.**

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

<b>20/1/2021</b>	<b>Cllr Casson</b>
<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>

**14. Christmas events in Wincham were reviewed and the Parish Council considered whether to make a donation to the Round Table after their efforts bringing Father Christmas to the village.**

*The Christmas trees in the two play areas were lit over the Christmas period.*

*The Christmas Lights Competition went ahead and was much appreciated by everyone involved. Small prizes were distributed.*

*Father Christmas did tour the village. The Round Table will not have received as many donations as usual because of the pandemic. The Round Table have been helping Wincham in this way over a number of years and many residents have enjoyed seeing Father Christmas. It was felt that giving a donation to the Round Table, this year, would be a gesture of appreciation*

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council donate £100 to Northwich Round Table as a gesture of gratitude for the enjoyment they have given Wincham residents over a number of Christmases*

*Proposed Cllr Barker  
Seconded Cllr Kelly*

**15. Village events in 2021 were discussed.**

*The Scarecrow Trail will be staged over the Easter school holidays, but it was agreed that discussion of all other events should wait for progress on tackling the pandemic.*

**16. Issues relating to wood burning stoves were discussed and whether Wincham Parish Council should write a policy regarding the environmental implications.**

*Wood burning stoves can cause environmental nuisance and pollution, especially if they are installed in houses on high-density residential estates. The Government has decided that wet wood should not be burned, but there appears to be little enforcement. The small particulates in the smoke can cause health problems and the burning of the wood is a threat to the environment.*

*Councillors discussed writing a Parish Council Policy but decided to ask the Unitary Councillors whether they had encountered problems regarding wood burning stoves elsewhere. An educational article in the newsletter was also discussed.*

**17. The boardwalk and paths beside Pickmere Lake were discussed**

*A virtual meeting is planned with the land owner to discuss options, He believes drainage has been much improved and that the land beside the boardwalk is now dry for walking.*

*It was agreed that the issues are:*

- I. To establish the route since there is a discrepancy between the boardwalk and the path on the CWAC definitive path;*
- II. If the boardwalk is to be replaced with a path, it must be at least as good or better than the boardwalk, so far as walkers are concerned.*

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

*The clerk was asked to request help from the Unitary Concillors over the garage conducting a trade on the grass verge.*

*The PCSO has been consulted and has said that responsibility for enforcement against the owners of vehicles lies with CWAC.*

*The CWAC officers have suggested the Parish Council pays to have small white pots erected.*

**19. Problems relating to dog fouling in the village were discussed**

*There have been many complaints about dog mess. The problem appears to have worsened during the pandemic. There are signs threatening fines, posted across some of the village.*

*It was agreed to monitor the problem. The clerk will contact the CWAC Dog Warden.*

**20. The ChALC Questionnaire on Speeding was noted and the continued problems arising from speeding vehicles, agricultural vehicles and HGVs driving through the village were noted and**

discussed. It was noted that the mobile speed gun (SID) from CWAC may not be borrowed during the pandemic until the area is in Tier 2 or lower.

21. **The NALC Survey on how local councils are tackling climate change was discussed** (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HVNZMR6>> but it was decided this was not something the Parish Council should complete.
22. **The Police Commissioner's Community Safety Projects fund was discussed, and it was noted that the Wincham Astronomy Club has applied for £500 for a new telescope to be used by residents.**
23. **Whether the Parish Council should purchase a Condolence Book was discussed, but it was felt that a physical book was not appropriate during a pandemic and that an online provision was preferable.**
24. **A donation to help fund free lunches for appropriate children over the February Half Term holiday, if the Government is not providing meals, was discussed.**

*Resolved that the Parish Council should use the Chair's Allowance if the Government did not provide lunches for the children identified as vulnerable in the village*

*Proposed Cllr Parr*

*Seconded Cllr May*

25. **A request by the clerk to attend online training on Year End Accounts on 4 March 2021 was considered.**

*Resolved that the Parish Council approved the clerk's request to attend online training on 4 March 2021*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr May*

26. **The Chairman's Allowance of £100 for the coming financial year was discussed.**

*Resolved that the Parish Council renew the Chairman's Allowance of £100 for the coming financial year*

*Proposed Cllr Barker*

*Seconded Cllr Shirley*

27. **Village Communication.**

- i. **The newsletter – this is being written**
- ii. **The village website – no changes**
- iii. **Facebook is thriving.**

28. **Accounts:**

- i. **The following payments were considered:**

*Resolved to settle the following accounts:*

1. i.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4655 dated 01/12/2020	£245.00		
	VAT	£49.00	£294.00	
ii.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4710 dated 31/12/2021	£175.50		
	VAT	£35.10	£210.60	£504.60
2.	Alan James tree surgery at Chapel Street			£500.00

3.	ChALC Planning Course for Cllr Kelly 3 x £30		£90.00
4.	External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP, Credit Control (SBA), VAT 5th Floor, 15 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HD	£200.00 £40.00	£240.00
5.	Reimbursement for Cllr May, as per the schedule below		£167.36
6.	A donation to the Round Table*		£100.00
7.	A donation towards funding free lunches for children during the February Half Term(if not covered by the Government)* * decided at the meeting		£100.00
8.	Clerk:		
	i. salary for December 2020 35 hours @ £11.76/hour	£411.60	
	ii. salary for January 2021 35 hours @ £11.76/hour	£411.60	
	iii. working from home allowance 2 months @ £26/month	£52.00	£875.20

*Proposed: Cllr Barker  
Seconded: Cllr Birbeck*

<b>Current Account as at 5.1.2021</b>	<b>£200.00</b>
<b>Business Reserve Account 1. as at 5.1.2021</b>	<b>£42,486.34</b>
<b>Business Reserve Account 2. as at 5.1.2021</b>	<b>£12,046.09</b>

- i. It was noted that the External Auditor has now completed the audit.

## 29. Correspondence

1. Correspondence regarding the annual audit by the Internal and External Auditors
2. Emails relating to the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake.
3. Emails and telephone calls relating to parking on the grass.
4. Emails and telephone calls relating to a memorial bench.
5. Emails relating to the new teen shelter.
6. Emails relating to repairs to the wet pour.
7. Emails relating to planning issues.
8. Emails relating to dog fouling.
9. Telephone calls asking about vaccine roll out in Wincham.
10. Telephone call asking about Parish Council provision of online learning for school children.
11. Emails relating to pay roll.
12. Emails relating to issues of street and park maintenance around Wincham.

## 29.Any Other Business.

*None.*

The meeting was declared closed at 10.37 pm

*Naomi Morris  
12.02.2021*