



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.30 PM CONDUCTED VIA MEETS COMPUTER LINK DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Present:

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

Ward Councillor L Gibbon

Parish Clerk N Morris

A resident explained to the Council that no letters had been received by residents relating to the previous planning application for development on the land behind Church Street. Residents were concerned about the current application which is for more than double the floor space of the previous cottage. The proposed new garage would be 84 square metres, with living accommodation and dormer windows on the first floor. The original application was for storage space above the garage. Councillors said they noted the concerns.

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 Cllrs Kelly and Morgan and Cllrs N Wright and P Marshall and PCSO Wiggins

Resolved that the apologies be accepted

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr Shirley

2. Declarations of any

(a) disclosable pecuniary interests or

(b) other disclosable interests

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

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2020

Resolved that the Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr Casson

4. There were no matters arising from Previous Meeting.

5. The Unitary Councillor made the following report:

i. Cheshire West and Chester have released the following consultations:

a. On the CWAC budget, covering the next 4 years;

b. On walking and cycling in the borough;

c. On the COVID-19 outbreak

ii. The decisions made by the Sustainable Transport Group relating bus lanes in Chester have been unpopular and have not addressed issues elsewhere in the borough.

The Unitary Councillor was asked how the borough was coping with the pandemic. At the time of the meeting, hospital admissions were under control. It was noted that the number of deaths from COVID-19 in Wincham were combined in the official figures with deaths in Lostock Gralam, where there are several care homes.

6. PLANNING

The following Planning matters were considered.

A. APPLICATIONS

- i. Site Address: **35 Church Street Wincham Northwich**

Proposal:

Amendments to 19/04107/FUL (Removal of all windows on the proposed side elevation, internal floor layout amended, amended roof loft conversion with Velux, solar panels added to the front south facing roof, amendment to materials for the house to be render and the materials for the for proposed Garage to be an Oak framed structure)

Reference Number: **20/03741/FUL**

Case Officer: Edward Bannister

<https://pa.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Resolved that the Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds listed below

Proposed Cllr Barker

Secoded Cllr Casson

1. *This is an amended application and the Parish Council is most disturbed that its strenuous objection to the original application was ignored without comment and that no explanation was given as to why the application was allowed despite being on greenbelt and outside the policy that replacement buildings should not be more than 10% larger in size and sticking fundamentally to the existing footprint. The failure of the Planning Department to take any notice of the comments and objection of the Parish Council is irregular and would appear to breach the requirements for due process.*
 2. *This remains greenbelt and the proposal is for the existing building of 122square metres to be replaced with one building of 125square metres and an additional building of 84square metres. This development cannot be viewed as an extension: it is for replacement buildings that together far exceed the original footprint.*
 3. *The proposed floor area above the garage is, it is understood, not for storage, but is a second residential dwelling. This is consistent with the intention to install several dormer windows.*
 4. *The new build is out of keeping with the neighbouring properties. Even the proposed new garage appears larger than the neighbouring properties.*
 5. *In addition, the Parish Council wishes to object on grounds that the due process for planning consultations has been seriously breached in this instance in relation to the residents in neighbouring properties. The Parish Council has received assurances from several of the immediate neighbours that they did not ever receive official notification of the development. This failure of due process resulted in the neighbours missing their legal opportunity to object to the proposals. It would be inappropriate for this application, therefore, to be permitted and the previous approval cannot be legal since due process has not been followed.*
- 7. It was noted that Cheshire West and Chester Council has launched a budget consultation, called 'Unprecedented Times', seeking views from Town and Parish Councils on the Council's budget proposals for the next four years.**

The issues were extensively discussed, but it was felt that responses should be submitted by individuals, not from the Parish Council.

- 8. There were no developments to report on the Neighbourhood Plan.**

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

PCSO REPORT NOVEMBER 2020

One report of theft from motor vehicle.

Report of fire in the woods opposite Wincham Primary school.

Visible patrols carried out.

Speed monitoring carried out on Pickmere Lane and Linnards Lane.

Police surgeries held .

Passing attention given to green space :re vehicles parking on grassed area and verges . I have attended the location and spoken to residents in person.

On passing there have been no issues.

Local school attended re: any issues or concerns.

Contact made re: elderly residents in the community making sure that they are all in order.

Earles Lane – passing attention given as expected due to the weather this location has been quiet.

10. Sub-Committees and Working Parties

- i. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet virtually at 7.30pm on 11 January to discuss the Precept for 2021/22
- ii. No dates were known for other sub-committee meetings to be held before the next Council Meeting.
- iii. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party reported that
 - a) The Working Party recommends that the quotation from RTC Safety Surfaces be accepted for the wetpour repairs. The Working Party had considered all the three quotations detailed in Appendix H.

Resolved that the RTC Safety Surfaces quotation be accepted for the required wetpour repairs

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr May

- b) The Working Party recommends that the CIL capital payments be used towards the purchase of a Base shelter from Caloo with a solid base. The Working Party had considered all the quotations detailed in Appendices F, G and I.

Resolved that the CIL capital payments be used towards the purchase of a Base shelter from Caloo, with a solid base

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr Casson

- iv. The IT Working Party reported that Cllr Barker was joining the Working Party.
- v. There were no developments to report from the Earles Lane and Pickmere Lake Working Party
- vi. There were no developments to report from the Working Party on the induction process for new Councillors
- vii. There were no additional updates from Working Parties.

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

20/11/2020	Cllr Birbeck
20/12/2020	Cllr Casson
20/1/2021	Cllr Parr
24/2/2021	Cllr Morgan
17/3/2021	Cllr Shirley
21/4/2021	Cllr May
19/5/2021	Cllr Barker
16/6/2021	Cllr Kelly
14/7/2021	Cllr Birbeck

12. An update was given on plans for the Fitness Track.

Accurate drawings are being completed. The Fit Track will stand alone, separate from the existing paths in the park, but with connecting paths. The existing concrete strip may be used to create a scooter/skateboard run.

13. The Council is awaiting further details from the member of the public who would like to donate a memorial bench in honour of his daughter.

14. A donation to Wincham School Friends and Family to provide school lunches or other items during the school Christmas holidays for children entitled to free school lunches had been withdrawn from the agenda because the Government is now funding free school meals over the Christmas holiday. It was noted at the meeting that, over the October Half Term holiday, the local Spar shop and the farm shop had donated food towards the food baskets given out to children.

15. The boardwalk and paths beside Pickmere Lake were discussed

The boardwalk is closed because it is deemed dangerous and it is likely to remain closed for at least 6 months.

A virtual meeting with the Ranger is being arranged to discuss the options. These will include: replacing the boardwalk or resiting the path, further up the field. A new boardwalk would be expensive and it is unlikely that CWAC will be prepared to cover the cost. The possibility of fundraising was discussed.

16. Consideration was given to awarding the clerk the home working allowance of £26/month, back-dated to April 2020.

Resolved that the Parish Council award the clerk a home working allowance of £26/month, back-dated to April 2020

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Casson

17. Problems with cars parking on the grass verges on Chapel Street were discussed.

It was reported that 16 vehicles had been observed parked on the verge, the previous day, including a low-loader.

The clerk was asked to request the PCSO to become involved. Some of the vehicles may not have valid MOT certificates.

The clerk was also asked to refer the matter to CWAC. Does the verge belong to CWAC? Is it counted as the public highway, meaning the vehicles would require road tax. Is it permitted to carry on a private business on a public verge?

18. Plans to create a neighbourhood watch scheme on the Ashwood Park Estate were noted.

The neighbourhood watch scheme has been launched, with 2 co-ordinators. The Parish Council invited an application for funding if required.

If this scheme is successful, it might encourage residents elsewhere in the village to create a neighbourhood watch scheme of their own.

19. Problems with speeding vehicles along Chapel Street, Wincham were discussed

The clerk was asked to request the PCSO to perform speed checks during working hours along Chapel Street. Speeding vehicles is a real problem for residents. Please could the PCSO also monitor whether HGVs are abiding by the route restrictions along Chapel Street.

In the next Wincham Word, the Parish Council will ask for volunteers to be trained to use the SID mobile speed gun to check speeds along Chapel Street.

20. A report was received on Remembrance Sunday events.

Thanks were extended to all concerned in the Remembrance Sunday events, especially Cllr May. Cllr Birbeck was thanked for the photography. Mr Ian Fishwick was thanked for his excellent accompaniment on the trombone.

Very positive feedback has been received for the events. Residents were pleased and appreciative that a commemoration had been possible, despite the pandemic.

21. Maintenance and any other issues concerning the Wincham War Memorial were discussed.

The Friends group have not been able to meet because of the pandemic.

The issue of the fence behind the War Memorial remains unresolved.

Buying large poppies next year, rather than making them, was discussed.

Children of various ages have been seen using the War Memorial as a climbing frame. Already, the newsletter has called for parents to explain to their children that this is inappropriate. Erecting a sign was discussed. The clerk was asked to request that the PCSO keep an eye open for problems around the War Memorial.

22. Arrangements for Christmas events were discussed

The Christmas tree lights will be turned on for the trees at Chapel Street and Linnards Lane.

The Rotary Club are planning to bring Father Christmas to Wincham.

Christmas bunting, to complement the summer bunting, has been suggested.

Resolved that the Parish Council will cover the cost of up to 5 strips of Christmas bunting, at a cost of £35/strip

Proposed Cllr Kenton

Seconded Cllr Casson

23. Village Communication.

- i. The newsletter has been distributed. Thanks were extended to all involved.
- ii. The village website. The Council is awaiting changes from the contractor to upgrade the website.
- iii. Facebook is thriving.

24. Accounts:

- i. The following payments were considered:

Resolved to settle the following accounts:

1. i.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4586 dated 31/10/2020	£171.50		
	VAT	£34.30	£205.80	
ii.	Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4587 dated 31/10/2020	£220.50		
	VAT	£44.10	£264.60	£470.40
2.	Simon Roberts printing of newsletter			£425.00
3.	Clerk:			
i.	salary for November 35 hours @ £11.76/hour		£411.60	
ii.	Back-dated working from home allowance @ £26/month since April:			
	8 x £26		£208.00	£619.60

CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING

4.	Caloo Limited for a Base Youth Shelter with hard standing Caloo Ltd, Unit 9A, Triangle Business Park, Wendover Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5BL. United Kingdom.	VAT	£1,900.00	£9,500.00 £11,400.00
5.	RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd wet pour repairs Woodland House Chestnut Business Park Smallshaw Lane Burnley Lancashire BB11 5SQ	VAT	£6,861.00 £1372.22	£8,233.20

Proposed: Cllr Casson

Seconded: Cllr Barker

ii. Current Account as at 5.11.2020 £200.00

Business Reserve Account 1. as at 5.11.2020	£53,240.79
Business Reserve Account 2. as at 5.10.2020	£12,045.79

- iii. **It was noted that the Annual Return (AGAR) is with the External Auditor**
The clerk was asked to register with NALC the ongoing delay in receiving the return of the audit papers.

25. Correspondence

1. **Correspondence regarding the annual audit by the Internal and External Auditors**
2. **Emails relating to the boardwalk at Pickmere Lake.**
3. **Emails relating to online training.**
4. **Emails and telephone calls relating to parking on the grass.**
5. **Emails and telephone calls relating to a memorial bench.**
6. **Emails relating to vacancies on the Parish Council.**
7. **Emails and telephone calls relating to Remembrance Sunday.**
8. **Emails and telephone call relating to over-hanging branches**
9. **Telephone calls and emails relating to speeding vehicles.**
10. **Telephone call and emails relating to HGVs.**
11. **Emails relating to issues of street maintenance around Wincham.**

29. Any Other Business.

- i. *Concern was expressed about the number and impact of HGVs driving through Wincham. The clerk was asked to request the PCSO to keep an eye on the situation. If any resident could take down the details of the contractors' lorries disobeying the rules, the clerk could write to the contractors, direct.*
- ii. *Wincham had been promised a new dog bin, but nothing has been installed. The clerk will investigate.*
- iii. *There are saplings at Chapel Street touching the overhead wires. Depending upon what action the developer takes, Wincham may have to ask the power company to cut down the saplings.*
- iv. *A resident has been complaining about trees overhanging her garden. The clerk will investigate if anything can be done to help her.*
- v. *The Linnards Lane road sign off the A556 is being propped up on a gate. The clerk will submit a report.*

The meeting was declared closed at 10.26 pm

*Naomi Morris
12.12.2020*