



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 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, D Kelly, G Birbeck, R Casson and W Shirley
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.

1. Apologies for absence

*Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan
and Cllrs N Wright, L Gibbon and P Marshall and PCSO Wiggins
Resolved that the apologies be accepted
Proposed: Cllr Barker
Seconded: Cllr Birbeck*

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 16 September 2020

*Resolved that the Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record
Proposed Cllr Barker
Seconded Cllr Kelly*

4. There were no matters arising from Previous Meeting.

5. No Unitary Councillors were present.

6. PLANNING

The following Planning matters were considered.

A. APPLICATIONS

- i. Site Address: **Land Off New Warrington Road Northwich**

Proposal: **Construction of Agricultural Access**

Reference Number: **20/03136/FUL**

Resolved that the following comments and requests be considered by Planning:

- 1. Slow moving agricultural vehicles from a new access could hinder the free flow of traffic on this busy road, particularly at congested times, and could impact road safety.*

2. *Mud spillage from agricultural vehicles onto the busy road will increase safety concerns and could affect a car's braking in an emergency.*
3. *The developer already has access from Heath Lane and could create additional access points onto Heath Lane*
4. *What would be the impact of this proposed new entrance on the historic salt railway line and on existing pipelines?*

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Birbeck

ii. Site Address: Land Off Chapel Street Wincham Northwich Cheshire

Proposal: Construction of 6 detached dwellings, with detached double garages and associated access road

Reference Number: 20/03256/FUL

Resolved that the following comments and requests be considered by Planning:

1. *Chapel Street is a narrow road with significant existing problems with traffic. The condition and width of Chapel Street is inadequate to cater for cars from additional dwellings. Please bear in mind the existing junction with the substantial Ashwood Park residential park, directly opposite Heath Lane.*
2. *The infrastructure of the Chapel Street area of Wincham is poor and does not have amenities for additional dwellings.*
3. *The applicant must have a sustainable urban drainage plan to cover sewage problems, drainage and water pressure issues. Work must be done to ensure that the new dwellings have good water pressure from United Utilities and that this is not achieved at the expense of the already poor water pressure elsewhere in the village.*
4. *Given the history of this area, the approval of the Brine Compensation Board is essential before this application is approved.*
5. *Easements must be checked by Planning Officers concerning existing pipelines etc.*
6. *The Parish Council asks that its interests in the existing children's play area included within this application be borne in mind for the future well-being and enjoyment of residents within the area. This is recreational green space that must be protected.*

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Kelly

iii. Site Address: 19 Beechwood Drive Wincham Northwich CW9 6EY

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

Reference Number: 20/03330/FUL

The Parish Council made no comments on this domestic application.

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

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

Reference Number: 20/03447/OUT

Resolved to make the following comments, requests for Planning Officers to consider and objections to the proposal as it currently stands:

1. *Heath Lane is too narrow to be a 2-way road and it cannot be widened because at the pinch point it is blocked in by existing buildings on both sides. The Parish Council believes this makes Heath Lane unsuitable for light industrial/commercial traffic, unless significant improvements can be implemented.*
2. *This is a right of way and is well-used by pedestrians. Consideration needs to be taken of the safety of walkers if this very narrow road is to be used by industrial and commercial traffic.*
3. *The Parish Council understands that the main sewers run under this land and that flooding from these sewers is not uncommon and has taken place (for example) within the last few months. The risk of sewage flooding the area of the proposed development must be considered in the application.*
4. *Access from Heath Lane is onto Chapel Street and is directly opposite Ashwood Park residential park. Chapel Street is the only access road for Ashwood Park and the Parish*

Council is concerned that there will be unacceptable additional traffic congestion from an effective crossroads at the Heath Lane/Ashwood Park junction. Residents at Ashwood Park are predominantly elderly. The Parish Council asks that Highways considers carefully the potential dangers of increasing commercial traffic along Heath Lane. Please also take into considerations the existence of a children's play area alongside the entrance of Heath Lane onto Chapel Street.

Proposed: Cllr May

Seconded: Cllr Casson

No Approvals or Refusals.

- 7. It was noted that a flier informing residents of Planning Applications and proposed development plans around the Chapel Street area is being produced by the Parish Council.**
- 8. Arranging a meeting or other means of communication with Marston Parish Council regarding current and expected Planning Applications for the Chapel Street area of Wincham was discussed and it was felt that informal information exchanges between councillors and the clerks would best ensure both communities are kept up to date.**
- 9. There was nothing to report on the Neighbourhood Plan, but it was noted that there is currently a Government Planning Consultation, which proposes taking into account local Neighbourhood Plans, when planning decisions are made. Submitting a response to the Consultation was discussed.**
- 10. The clerk read out the follow report from PCSO Wiggins:**

PCSO REPORT OCTOBER 2020

- * Speed monitoring carried out in the area.
- * Visit to local School to check on any issues or concerns they may have.
- * Police surgeries held.
- * Local residents spoken to in person regarding parking on grass vergers – causing the grass to be churned up and becoming unsightly during the winter months. This will be monitored.
- * No reports of any COVID-19 breaches.
- * Regular checks of the area nothing of note all very quiet.

11. Sub-Committees and Working Parties

- i. No dates were known for sub-committee meetings before the next Council Meeting.*
- ii. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party has met. Cllr Birbeck is now the Chair of the Working Party and Cllr Shirley is joining the Working Party.*

The three quotes for the wet pour repairs will be considered and a decision made at the November meeting.

The Working Party requested quotations for cutting the hedge on Ashgate Lane.

- iii. The IT Working Party reported that a contractor had been selected to make the website compliant.*
- iv. The Earles Lane and Pickmere Lake Working Party had not yet met.*
- v. The Working Party on the induction process for new Councillors (Cllrs May, Birbeck, Shirley and Kelly) had not yet met.*
- vi. There were no additional updates from Working Parties.*

- 12. The offer from a member of the public to purchase a memorial bench in honour of his daughter was discussed. This is a “one-off” response to the grief of an individual, not a policy decision. Details have yet to be finalised regarding the bench.**
- 13. Capital projects for the CIL payments totalling £2,194 were discussed. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party will send in recommendations in time for the November Parish Council meeting.**
- 14. How the Members’ Budget donation for 2019/2020 of £1000 for the Fit Track should be spent was discussed**
- Resolved to put the £1000 Members’ Budget donation towards paying for the site drawings necessary for the Fit Track, with any remaining funds used towards a new Teen Shelter.*
Proposed Cllr Barker
Seconded Cllr May
- 15. Making a request for a donation from the Members’ Budget for 2020/2021 was discussed.**
- Resolved that a request be made for the Unitary Members for a contribution towards the Fit Track*
Proposed Cllr Barker
Seconded Cllr May
- 16. The boardwalk and paths beside Pickmere Lake were discussed.**
- The boardwalk is still closed. A meeting with the Ranger has been discussed. The right of way is believed to be at the field’s edge. The reed bed is of ecological significance.*
- 17. It was noted that the previous applicant for co-option onto the Parish Council had withdrawn her request.**
- 18. It was noted that Caroline Powell had resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons.**
- Resolved that Caroline Powell be thanked for her contribution to the Parish Council and that statutory advertisements be posted*
Proposed Cllr May
Seconded Cllr Kelly
- 19. A replacement for Cllr Powell as signatory on the Parish Council bank accounts was discussed.**
- Resolved that Cllr May replace Cllr Powell as a signatory on the bank accounts for the Parish Council*
Proposed Cllr Barker
Seconded Cllr Casson
- 20. The problem of cars driving over the grass on the junction of Green Lane and whether erecting No Parking notices would be helpful was discussed, along with problems with cars parking on the grass elsewhere in the village and the lack of maintenance of some pavements and gutters**
- Erecting No Parking signs would not prevent cars being driven across the grass. A knee-high fence along the roadside of the grass would prevent access onto the grass, but might cost around £5,000 and result in cars being driven along the pavement instead.*
- The clerk was asked to write to number 14 Linnards Lane and numbers 1 and 3 Green Lane, explaining that the Parish Council is worried on safety grounds about cars driving along the pavement or across the grass and that if the residents want vehicular access to their properties, they must pay to have the pavement widened and made suitable for cars.*
- 21. It was noted with thanks that Mr Mike Roberts has volunteered to cover the cost of a new noticeboard for Chapel Street.**
- The clerk was asked to include this item on a future agenda.*
- 22. When and how the VE Day Commemorative mugs are to be distributed to the children of Wincham CP School was discussed and it was noted that arrangements are in hand for the distribution of the mugs.**
- 23. Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, both in Wincham and in Lostock Gram were discussed. Three Parish Councillors will lay wreaths on behalf of the village. The ceremony will**

take account of the risks of COVID-19. Cllr Kelly will represent Wincham Parish Council at St John's in Lostock Gramam.

24. Arrangements for Christmas events were noted as being:

- i. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at Chapel Street, but without a ceremony;
- ii. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at Linnards Lane without a ceremony;
- iii. There will be no Parish Council carol concert, this year;
- iv. Arrangements for the Rotary Club visit by Father Christmas and the Primary School's activities are as yet undecided.
- v. The possibility of a best lit garden competition was discussed.

25. It was noted that the courses on the published list of online training sessions organised by ChALC were full. More may be arranged.

26. The suggestions for the annual salary review of the clerk were discussed as detailed below.

Resolved that the proposed salary increase:

Present position: Spine 12 paid for 35 hours a month at a rate of £11.22. The National Pay scheme has recommended a 2.75% increase - which would take the hourly rate to £11.53.

Agreed new position to move from the substantive range to the above substantive range - onto Spine 13, with an hourly rate of £11.76.

The clerk's salary should have been increased in April but due to Covid rulings this was deferred until the Parish Council was allowed to make these decisions online and the following back pay is due,

April - paid - £392.70 should have been paid £411.60 = difference £18.90

May - same difference

June - same difference

July - same difference

August - same difference

September - same difference

October - same difference.

The total amount in back pay owing is $7 \times £18.90 = £132.30$ and then from for November the clerk's salary will be £411.60 onwards.

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr Birbeck

27. Recent developments with regard to HS2 and the complaints made by a resident that the preliminary stage will involve HGVs driving through Wincham were noted and considered.

It would not be practicable to ban HGVs along Pickmere Lane because it is a B road.

There should be a traffic plan for the HS2 traffic, agreed with Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. Then, if the vehicles do not obey the traffic plan, action could be taken.

The clerk was asked to request that PCSO Wiggins monitors this.

28. Holding future events through the new WINCHAM Community Spirit Group is currently suspended, due to the pandemic.

29. Dates for Parish Council meetings for 2021 were discussed.

Resolved that the Parish Council agrees the following dates for its 2021 meetings

Proposed Cllr Barker

Seconded Cllr May

20 January 2021

24 February 2021

17 March 2021

21 April 2021

19 May 2021

16 June 2021

14 July 2021

15 September 2021

20 October 2021

17 November 2021

30. Village Communication.

- i. The newsletter – a new edition is being prepared
- ii. The village website- this will be updated, in accordance with the regulatory changes required.
- iii. Facebook- this continues to be well-used.

31. Accounts:

- i. The following payments were considered:

Resolved to settle the following accounts:

1. Northwich Town Council for Invoice 4514 dated 30/09/2020	£318.50	
VAT	£63.70	£382.20
2. Lostock Gralam Church		£250.00
3. BWP Creative Limited - <i>Website deposit:</i> <i>30% of total website cost</i>	£194.70	
<i>(total cost agreed at £649) for the design and build of</i> <i>1 Wincham Parish Council website.</i>		
VAT	£38.94	£233.64
227 Lichfield Road Rushall Walsall WS4 1EA		
4. Reimbursement for Cllr May for wooden crosses for Remembrance Sunday Pack Size: 25, Shape: Shape E, Size: 150mm		£26.55
5. Clerk:		
i. Reimbursement for 6 poppy wreaths @ £15 each	£90.00	
ii. Back pay, following salary increase: April 2020- paid - £392.70 should have been paid £411.60 = difference	£18.90	
May -	£18.90	
June -	£18.90	
July -	£18.90	
August -	£18.90	
September -	£18.90	
October -	£18.90.	£132.30
iii. salary for September 35 hours @ £11.76/hour	£411.60	£633.90

Proposed: Cllr Barker

Seconded: Cllr Birbeck

- ii. **Current Account as at 5.10.2020** £200.00
Business Reserve Account 1. as at 5.10.2020 £55,277.90
Business Reserve Account 2. as at 5.10.2020 £12,045.79

- iii. To note that the AGAR is still with the external auditors.

32. Correspondence

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 with the Parish Council insurers.
8. Emails and telephone calls relating to Remembrance Sunday.

29. Any Other Business.

It was noted that CWAC had indicated they would enlarge the dog bin on Heath Lane, but nothing had altered.

PART 2

The meeting was declared closed at 10.27pm

Naomi Morris
1.11.2020