



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7.30 PM AT WINCHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** *K Barker, D May, G Birbeck, A Webster, R Casson and C Powell*

**Unitary Councillors:** *N Wright*

**Parish Clerk N Morris**

No concerns were expressed during the public forum.

In the absence of Chairman Ian Parr, Vice Chairman Kenton Barker took the Chair for the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

*Apologies had been received from Cllrs I Parr, A Makepeace and N Morgan and from PCSO Wiggins*

*No apologies had been received from Unitary Councillors Gibbon and Marshall*

*Resolved to accept the apologies and note the absences without apologies*

*Proposed Cllr May*

*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 19 June 2019 and of the Parish Council Meeting 17 July 2019**

*Confirmation and acceptance of the Minutes for the meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2019 could not be made because there were insufficient Councillors present who had been at the June Meeting. The Minutes were therefore heldover to the next Parish Council meeting.*

*Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 17 July 2019 be accepted as a true and complete of the meeting.*

*Proposed Cllr Birbeck*

*Seconded Cllr Webster*

**4. Matters arising from the previous meeting.**

*There were none.*

**5. The Unitary Councillor reported to the meeting:**

- i. *There was no news to report on the planning application for the site of the former Black Greyhound. It was noted that the windows have been smashed and some of the boards have come down from the roof. It was suggested that the Clerk report the situation to Sam Green at CWaC.*
- ii. *There is a planning application in Marston for the use of The Avenue as a main entrance for the use of commercial boats and caravans. Marston PC have objected.*
- iii. *Businesses are signing up to occupy premises at Baron's Quay.*

- iv. *Some of Weavers Square in Northwich is to be demolished.*
- v. *CWaC are moving to new headquarters in Ellesmere Port.*
- vi. *Parish Members raised the issue of street and footpath maintenance. A resident had complained to the July Parish Council Meeting that he could no longer use the pavements on the way to Northwich because of overhanging branches, bushes and weeds and also grass and potholes in the pavement. This had been reported by the Clerk, but Cllr Wright asked that the Clerk send him details. Members also complained about the inadequate cleaning of gutters.*

**6. The CWaC plans for Enforcement Policy were considered.**

*Members made the following comments:*

- i. *Enforcement was part of what residents expected from their Council Tax;*
- ii. *Parish Councillors are volunteers and had not agreed to serve in order to do this;*
- iii. *It was inappropriate to expect untrained volunteers to carry out enforcement action.*

*The clerk also expressed concern for the safety of Members in case some residents challenged were unreasonable or even violent.*

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council opposed the suggested CWaC Enforcement Policy  
Proposed Cllr May  
Secoded Cllr Casson*

**7. Speed limits and their enforcement around Wincham were discussed.**

*Members expressed the following views:*

- i. *The 20mph zone should be restricted to the immediate vicinity of the school, during school hours. This would be generally supported across the village.*
- ii. *The zone installed is much larger than in the original CWaC report, but the report appears to have left the final zone up to the discretion of an officer.*
- iii. *The speed limit is only enforceable if it has a code. Currently, only one road in Kingsmead has a code and is therefore enforceable.*
- iv. *Residents want all speed limits to be enforceable.*
- v. *What is the current enforceable speed limit for the 20mph zone?*
- vi. *The new zones have left the interactive signs in inappropriate locations.*
- vii. *Constant braking and accelerating is bad for the environment.*
- viii. *Conflicting information has been given by the Head of Highway Police and the Police Commissioner.*

*The clerk was asked to write again to the police for clarification.*

**8. Reports on any issues on the streets of Wincham meriting the attention of CWaC were invited and Members discussed the state of the roads and paths generally across the parish.**

*Some residents have been driving over the grass by the turning to Green Lane. This is a Health and Safety matter and puts children at risk. The clerk was asked to consult PCSO Wiggins.*

*A resident has complained about vehicles being parked on the grass under the oak tree near the Weaver Vale bungalows. The clerk was asked to contact Weaver Vale Housing Association.*

**9. Complaints from residents regarding the path beside Ashwood Park being overgrown and also about vehicles parking on the grass verges on Chapel Street had been covered in earlier items on the agenda.**

**10. Tree planting and any other horticultural matters within Wincham were discussed and commissioning an annual review of all trees for which the Parish Council is responsible was considered.**

*It is not yet known whether Wincham Primary School wish to be involved in a tree-planting project. If not, the Scouts/Guides or Brownies might be interested. If this project goes ahead, Mersey Forrest will pay for five street trees for Wincham and possibly an expert to lead a community tree planting.*

*The Grounds and Maintenance Working Party will create a sub-group to consider trees.*

*The clerk was asked to enquire from the Parish Council insurers whether a formal tree survey by a tree surgeon was required annually.*

**11. It was noted that there have been problems in the woods around Wincham over the summer.**

**12. It was noted that there have been cold-callers in Wincham.**

*The clerk was asked to suggest to PCSO Wiggins that she might be able to write an article for the Wincham Word on whether these cold-callers are generally accurate when they claim to have been released from secure accommodation. What is the police advice?*

*It was noted that Middlewich has a community sign stating that it is a "no cold-caller area".*

**13. A report from PCSO Wiggins was read out by the clerk to the meeting:**

Visible patrol has been carried out in the area.

Parking issues reported have been addressed.

Visit to vulnerable adult in the community.

Police surgeries held. Local issues from members the community have been addressed and actioned.

Speed monitoring has been carried out.

Visit to the wooded area facing the school has been carried out – This is to be discussed at Parish Council meeting re: clearing of rubbish etc.

Parking issues on land facing Vector Vehicle systems to be actioned.

Local events visited at the community centre.

Patrol plan placed on social media/twitter. (Marbury ward)

*The clerk was requested to ask if PCSO Wiggins would be able to attend the Unsung Heroes Event.*

#### **14. PLANNING**

*The following matters were noted:*

##### **A. APPLICATIONS**

**i. Site Address: 21 Birch Grove Wincham Northwich CW9 6EQ**

Proposal: **Front porch extension**

Reference Number: **19/01653/FUL**

Case Officer:

Parish: Wincham

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

Comments by:

**21 August 2019.**

*No comment.*

**ii. Site Address: Land Opposite 19 Wincham Lane Wincham Northwich**

Proposal: **Erection of storage building**

Reference Number: **19/02748/FUL**

Case Officer:

Parish: Wincham

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

Comments by:

**23 August 2019**

*Resolved that Wincham Parish Council wished to express its concern over potential traffic issues over the entrance to the junction caused by this application and also about the presence of Japanese Knotweed and how this was to be eradicated*

*Proposed Cllr May*

*Seconded Cllr Powell*

**iii. Site Address: 37 Shelley Avenue Wincham Northwich Cheshire CW9 6PH**

Proposal: **Garage conversion, single storey link extension and roof alterations**

Reference Number: **19/02907/FUL**

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

Comments by:

**5 September 2019.**

*No comment.*

## **B. APPROVALS**

### **i. 19/01653/FUL**

**Proposal:** Front porch extension

**Location:** 21 Birch Grove Wincham Northwich CW9 6EQ

**Approval**

*Noted*

### **ii. 19/02371/FUL**

**Proposal:** Single storey rear extension

**Location:** 17 Pear Tree Drive Wincham Northwich Cheshire

**Approval**

*Noted*

## **15. The current Wincham Parish Council policy not to comment on domestic planning applications which have no additional impact on the village was discussed.**

**In July 2018 ChALC recommended the following wording:**

*“The Council Policy on domestic extensions that have de minimis impact on local amenity is not to make any comment to CW&C Planning Department.”*

**In October 2018 Wincham Parish Council resolved that the Parish Council would not adopt the ChALC wording, but rather leave the position that the Parish Council does not generally comment on domestic planning applications, but reserves the right so to do on any and all applications.**

*Resolved that the current wording was appropriate and should be retained.*

*Proposed Cllr May*

*Seconded Cllr Casson*

## **16. No report had been received on CHAIN**

## **17. There was a discussion of the request made during the Public Forum of the July meeting that the Parish Council attend to the upkeep of the area of land outside the hedge of the Linnards Lane Playing Field, including keeping the grass mowed and possibly laying down a hedge.**

*It was noted that laying a hedge requires expertise that the Parish Council did not have and that it was only normally undertaken to restrain animals within a field, not for a playing field.*

*The Grounds Maintenance Working Party will discuss the hedge and boundary at their next meeting.*

## **18. Sub-Committees and Working Parties**

**i. No dates were known for sub-committees meetings to be held before the next Council Meeting.**

**ii. The Grounds Maintenance Working Party made a report:**

*The Working Party has drafted a Schedule of Maintenance.*

*The Working Party has discussed the route for the trim trail. This may involve provision for scooters. The public response to the plan was very positive and had come from many different ages and from all ranges of fit and less fit residents.*

*It was noted that grants would be necessary.*

*It was also noted that the facility might attract users from outside Wincham. Some residents had expressed concern about this.*

- i. No updates were received from other Working Parties.

**19. The rota for inspections was noted:**

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 17/8/2019  | Cllr Barker    |
| 18/9/2019  | Cllr May       |
| 16/10/2019 | Cllr Parr      |
| 20/11/2019 | Cllr Makepeace |
| 20/12/2019 | Cllr Morgan    |

Inspections sheets are required for each individual week. Inspection sheets may be scanned and sent to the clerk at [winchampc@talktalk.net](mailto:winchampc@talktalk.net) or sent by post to 22 Churchfields Bowdon WA14 3PJ.

**20. Discussion of an offer by a resident at his expense to replace the chain link fence on the perimeter of the Linnards Lane Playing Field, to the rear of the War Memorial was postponed to the next meeting.**

**21. A report on the war memorial was made to the meeting.**

*The additional name of the fallen soldier is to be added to the Memorial shortly. This will be covered by a grant given by the Co-Op which will also pay for the removal of the graffiti. With the balance of the grant, it may be possible to add twelve hooks to the memorial to be used to tie the wreaths to keep them safe in windy weather.*

*This year, the ceremony will be held at 11am on 10 November. Six wreaths will be laid.*

**22. Recent developments by HS2 within the Wincham area were discussed, but the clerk was asked to remove the item from future agendas until further notice.**

**23. There was nothing to report on the Neighbourhood Plan.**

**24. Arrangements for the unveiling of the Jet Commemorative Stone on 21 September were discussed and the Deed covering the care and ownership of the Jet Stone was signed on behalf of Wincham Parish Council**

*The RAF and the Mayor are due to attend. The ceremony will start at 2pm. There will be a short speech. A leaflet of information has been produced. Mr Gary Olive will unveil the Stone. There will be refreshments.*

*The information board will be completed at a later date because more information is being gathered. Several residents have recently come forward and there is now also a video of the jet flying.*

*Cllrs Birbeck, Parr and May were thanked for their work on this item.*

**25. The future of the defibrillator was discussed and the clerk was asked to order new pads, but the original defibrillator will be retained for the moment.**

**26. The approach by Debra Kelly to join the Parish Council was discussed.**

*The clerk read out information that Debra had sent with her application.*

*Resolved that Debra Kelly be co-opted onto Wincham Parish Council  
Proposed Cllr Powell  
Seconded Cllr Webster*

**27. It was noted that ChALC have circulated new NALC Financial Standing Orders and these changes to the Wincham Standing Orders were considered.**

*Resolved that the new NALC Financial Standing Orders be adopted  
Proposed Cllr Casson  
Seconded Cllr Birbeck*

**28.** It was noted that the annual insurance renewal for Wincham Parish Council of £1,225.64 is due under the 5 year arrangement previously agreed with Zurich; new risks or circumstances to be reported were considered and renewing the insurance for the coming year was discussed.

*Resolved that the insurance be renewed and that it be recorded that no new insurance risks were known to the Councillors  
Proposed Cllr Webster  
Seconded Cllr May*

**29.** It was noted that CWaC have announced that following the May 2019 elections the proposed amount to be recharged for Wincham Parish Council is £197.00 (*uncontested election fee: £165 + £16 per 1000 electors*)

**30.** The Picnic in the Park was reviewed and the contribution made by Northwich Library, the Wincham Astronomy Club, Mrs Helen Morgan and Mr Philip Hambleton were noted with gratitude.

*The Picnic event had gone well.  
The clerk was asked to thank Northwich Library, Mrs Helen Morgan and Phil Hambleton.*

**31.** Arrangements for the Unsung Heroes Event 11-3pm on 19 October were discussed. It was noted that some invitations have been sent and others will be distributed, shortly.

**32.** Events for Christmas 2019 were discussed.

*30 November the Chapel Street Christmas tree will be lit at 6.30pm  
1 December Lantern Parade across to the Linnards Lane Christmas tree and the tree will then be lit at 4pm.  
7 December 2.30-5.30pm Carol Concert.  
14 December Sleigh Run by Father Christmas  
15 December 1-4pm Winter Wonderland, organised by Wincham School*

**33.** Reports on any issues on the streets of Wincham meriting the attention of CWaC had been covered by earlier items on the agenda.

**34.** No reports of events attended by Councillors or the clerk in an official capacity were reported.

**35.** Reports were invited on Village Communication, including:

- i. The newsletter: the next edition is planned for November.
- ii. Any changes or additions for the village website – none were reported
- iii. The village Facebook page and other social media were reported as prospering:
- iv. Arts and performance around the Wincham area: there will be a CRTA production, *Done to Death, By Jove* on 5 October. It is a farce.

**36.** Accounts:

i. The following payments were considered

1. Northwich Town Council maintenance of the Playing Fields:
  - i. Invoice 3666 31/07/2019  
VAT  
£392.00  
£78.40  
£470.40
  - ii. Invoice 3680 06/08/2019 maintenance of the Playing Fields  
VAT  
£472.90  
£94.58  
£567.48
  - iii. Invoice 3715 30/08/2019 maintenance of the Playing Fields  
VAT  
£343.00  
£68.60  
£411.60  
£1,449.48
2. Simon Roberts: printing the Wincham Word invoice 19-106a  
£64.00

|   |  |         |           |
|---|--|---------|-----------|
| 3. Zurich annual insurance premium                    |  |         | £1,225.64 |
| 4. Reimbursement for Jet Stone plaque for Ged Birbeck |  |         | £30.00    |
| 5. Clerk's salary:                                    |  |         |           |
| i. August 2019: £11.22 x 35 hours per month           |  | £392.70 |           |
| ii. September 2019 £11.22 x 35 hours per month        |  | £392.70 | £785.40   |

*Resolved to settle the above-listed accounts*

*Proposed: Cllr Powell*

*Seconded: Cllr Birbeck*

|   |  |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| ii. <b>Current Net Balances were noted</b>        |  |                   |
| <b>Current Account as at 5.9.2019</b>             |  | <b>£200.00</b>    |
| <b>Business Reserve Account 1. as at 5.9.2019</b> |  | <b>£41,379.87</b> |
| <b>Business Reserve Account 2. as at 5.7.2019</b> |  | <b>£12,023.24</b> |

- i. It was noted that papers are still with the External Auditor.

### **37. Correspondence**

1. Emails relating to audit details.
2. Emails relating to the Picnic in the Park.
3. Emails with the PCSO Wiggins relating to policing matters within Wincham.
4. Emails relating to the new speed limits in Wincham.
5. Emails relating to fly tipping in Wincham.
6. Emails relating to the rubbish collection in Wincham.
7. Emails relating to overgrown footpaths.
8. Emails relating to maintenance issues in the playing fields.
9. Emails relating to issues relating to dogs.
10. Emails relating to aircraft noise.
11. Emails relating to "Do not knock" stickers.
12. Emails with the police regarding a suicide message.
13. Emails with a prospective Councillor.
14. Telephone calls and emails regarding over-hanging foliage from the Ashwood Estate.
15. Emails relating to the Jet Stone.
16. Emails over the Christmas Tree Woods.
17. Emails over cars parking on grass verges.

### **38. Any Other Business.**

*None was reported.*

**The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm**

*Naomi Morris 01/10/2019*