

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Mr Wilkinson, Mr Powel, Ms Newman
Ward Councillor's Mike Baynham and Gina Lewis arrived during the meeting.

Residents attended to express their concern at the proposal to remove two 300 year old trees with TPO's, they form part of a courtyard of grade 2 listed buildings. They want to ensure they retain the character and aesthetics of the area. They were unaware of the proposal to remove the trees from the courtyard until the sign was put up.

They express concern regarding the expert report which outlined 3 options due to probable (unconfirmed) evidence of disease with a recommendation for removal. There has not been a recent aerial survey conducted; an aerial survey was conducted in 2020 and didn't mention decay with the trees this was available on the planning portal.

GL arrived 19.37; MB arrived 19.40

It was explained that the Parish Council look at the evidence in front of them based on a professional report, concern regarding height v distance to houses, the parish council are not experts in the matter and are only consultees; and rely on the expert report presented. Ultimately CWAC who have experts to support the planning decision process. Parish Council were asked if they had visited to view the trees, it was confirmed we had not.

Residents concerned it would set a precedent to remove the oak trees with TPO's.

Ward Councillors suggested the application could be 'called in' and that process was outlined. *NB this was checked and confirmed the following day that TPO's are not called in, but Cllr Baynham would speak with the officer).*

A discussion ensued. Residents want the Parish Council to support further investigation of alternative options such as cutting back, treated instead of a response of no objection. It was suggested that the residents speak with the applicant to relay their feelings about the proposal and to put their own comments onto the planning portal before the deadline. *Left 20.05*

PC Niamh Curran (Beat Manager) and PCSO Leanne Rigby attended the meeting at their request as part of their community engagement. They have been conducting more speed enforcements in the parish since the annual assembly in April including two sets of monitoring on Dalefords Lane with no enforcements, they have also supported Speed Indicator Monitoring (SIDs) and PCSO Leanne will share the data, this was undertaken just before Cassia Green. On Cinder Hill since the last meeting 27/4 17 activations (speed tickets or speed awareness courses) max speed 41 MPH; 3/5 12 activations with max speed of 46mph; 23/5 10 activations max speed 47; 18/6 13 activations max 42mph and 22/6 8 activations; 6/7 6 activations max 47mph. Also carried out at Speed Indicator Device (SID) warning residents, this was posted on twitter to give people opportunity to reduce their speed! Also waiting for CWAC to assess the road for members of the public to use the SID. They outlined the changes to reporting, can ring 101 or report online using the website (same as 101 but not on hold waiting to speak to someone). Always use 999 for emergency. Can contact them direct for any non-emergency assistance, Clerk has their contact details.

Parking at school was again raised as a problem, had a near miss recently (a parent let a child run out). People still parking on the double yellow lines on the corner which clogs everything up. Those who come onto the loop if full clog up the road. And some also park on the zig zag lines, Suggested the lines be extended, if PC and PCSO can write to support that request. The PC/PCSO explained they have 9 schools all with similar parking problems so do try to get around them all. Agreed to target first week back in September which will also target new parents. *Left 20.19*

Members of the Council present Cllr Matthews (Chair), Cllr Baldini, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Roston, Cllr Leech, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Cotterill

1. Apologise for absence.

Cllr Ranson - holiday

Cllr Rayner – holiday

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022. 1393/22 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM and ordinary meeting on Monday 13th June 2022.

3.1 No matters arising

3.2 Action Log:

- Football field - both leases finalised and with land registry (could take 12 months). Remove item from agenda.
- Speed limit A54 - residents have not received letter from CWAC yet
- Footpaths – ongoing. Question asked about the footpath from Marton Villa to Marton Bridge – Cllr Haigh agreed to walk it
- Vicarage green access no further update.
- Bark House Farm – objection withdrawn, footpath given go ahead to proceed, but won't be signed off until CWAC are happy with it.
- Cllr Baynham raised a question at Full council regarding enforcement – He will share the Q and A. Another similar question due to be raised at the next full council meeting. He asked about the backlog and it was confirmed they are in the process of hiring. 3-4 people but are not full-time.
- Community asset – this was investigated, but not appropriate for us to use and not needed.
- Christmas tree – not checked yet

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda. No questions were asked.

5. PCSO Leanne Rigby attending meeting to discuss and issues withing the parish

5.1 See discussion at start of the meeting. Clerk to share date/time of the Village show. Clerk to share their contact details. PCSO Rigby to share the SID data and write in support of extending the zigzag lines.
Action: Clerk/PCSO

6. Planning

6.1 1394/22 resolved the following planning application responses:

22/02117 /TPO	1 Abbots Barn Vale Royal Courtyard Vale Royal Drive	Felling of 2x Oak trees and re-plant with Almond and Pear trees, as per tree survey.	In response to local residents putting forward a passionate and robust argument to retain two protected oak trees and brought to our attention persuasive evidence from a previous arboreal survey, the Parish Council believes there is merit in revisiting its earlier decision. The Parish Council is faced with the dilemma of two specialist reports offering differing
------------------	--	--	---

			prognoses of the health condition of these oak trees, albeit two years apart. On the basis of this new evidence, recent site visits, and the case presented by residents, the Parish Council would like to now object to felling these specimen oak trees. The Parish Council feels that given the trees' protected status, and local significance, that the Tree Team at Cheshire West and Chester Council should undertake further investigations, attend the site and consider all options, including pruning and weight reduction, before concluding it's decision.
22/01872 /FUL	Moss Cottage Foxwist Green	Demolition of existing garage, erection of oak framed garage including roof space for home office and accommodation.	The planning sub group recommend objection to this application on the following grounds: a) Visual impact - the proposed building has a height of over 6 metres and has a significant visual impact due to increase in footprint of over 50% and building height. b) non-compliance with the Local Plan STRAT 9 and Neighbourhood Plan Policy (Policy 1) in the creation of an additional residential accommodation unit and significant enlargement of the existing property.

With regards to the TPO, due to the additional evidence about an ariel survey in 2020 and the passionate response from residents to retain the tree's it was agreed that representative from the Parish Council visit the location and view the trees, and consider their response, this was delegated to the sub-committee for the final wording, as detailed above.

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints:

- Case Farm – no change still monitoring, on hold.
- Clay Lane Farm (Old Oak Stables)– LDC withdrawn, another application above. No update on the remaining wooden buildings on site, Clerk to enquire with enforcement.
- Wooden sheds Dalefords Lane – enforcement confirm a planning application should be submitted
- Wooden shed - Foxwist Green – no update from enforcement, are aware it is a replacement structure.
- Hunters Lodge – investigating the use of the property
- Coachwood Farm – static caravan checking removal following property build.

5.3 updates regarding the following planning applications:

Noted the following applications were granted: none
The following applications were refused: none

5.4 Parish Council/Resident Action Group update on Gypsy Traveller Sites – no further updates.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statement for the current account showed a balance of £67,564.89 there are seven cheques to be cleared through the bank. The current account balance remaining will be £52,952.27 (£79,762.22 including savings accounts) **agreed 1394/22 the following:**

6.2 Pay grass cutting £245. Asked to confirm areas designated for cutting. Action: Clerk

6.3 Process for payment discussed as part 2 item.

7. Road Safety update

7.1 Vicarage Green – no further update from the last meeting, on hold until there is a resolution around accessing the site.

7.2 Road Safety updates – still not received the data from Sutton Fields, which Cllr Baynham has chased.

7.3 Wig Wag signs –project on hold.

7.4 Litter, footpaths and styles – Cllr Lewis has received a letter from owners of Gale Green Farm following a visit they had from CWAC PROW regarding a footpath through their grounds, but is not on a map or their deeds. Cllr Lewis also reported a problem with a style following a walk near Foxwist Green with Ranger Chris Mosley, it was suggested as the Ranger works for CWAC that he be asked to report the style as the exact location is not known to the PC. Cllr Lewis to progress. Action: GL

8. Parish Issues

8.1 Football field lease update. All completed and with land registry. Cllr Matthews to provide paperwork to Clerk for safekeeping in parish council records. Action: RM

8.2 United Utilities proposals for pumping stations in the parish – officer declined to attend Our meeting. Cllr Haigh sent a personal letter to United Utilities and a site visit took place on 22/6/22. The person who came was the customer liaison person Hannah Mclenon and Carl Duffy in charge of works, PR exercise to reassure that the scheme will not bother anyone, the location has been decided which includes a gate entrance near the layby on Whitegate Road. There is already a gate access on Cassia Green so it is not clear why they won't continue to use that. There are mature trees lovely oaks. Their draft plans refer to natural landscaping which suggest they are doing more to what is already there or replacement of. Cllr Haigh confirmed most of the pipeline is underground hidden with the exception of the pumping station. Agreed actions:

- 1) Wait for planning application due in July. (Cllr Lewis mentioned a recent comment following a visit to a waste recycling hydrogen refueling centre regarding a comment that they won't have to do this in future these will be the last, waste or recycling) Cllr Lewis to check planning permission requirements for waste pumping stations.
- 2) Explore if we need to seek TPO on trees and hedges? What is the process for TPO and how long it takes. To feedback by email. Action: Cllr Haigh

8.3 The land at the Beeches (non-confidential matters) none - discussed as part-two.

8.4 Discuss any general parish issues - Overhanging branches, agreed Cllr Roston and Cllr Baldini to cut back. Also visibility at the Beeches pulling out. Action: PB / DR

8.5 Taxi service for residents – PCC thanked the PC for their offer but there is no further action at the present time

8.6 Volunteer to take minutes of August meeting – Cllr Cotterill, noted Cllr Baldini may not be back in time for the meeting.

8.4 Discuss any general parish issues - none

9. Items for information and discussion only.

Cllr Lewis recently raised concern for rural villages not having mains sewage – septic tanks overflowing.

DER left 9.20

There being no further business part one of the meeting was closed by the chairman after part 2 matters at 9.35pm.

Signed by the Chairman Dated

Outstanding actions (if removed they are complete)

Ref	Date	Action Log	Responsible
Various	Feb 20 ongoing	Finalise football field sub-lease	RM
3.2	Oct 20 ongoing	Road safety - A54 speed limit reduction (40mph) / Whitegate Lane (50mph) / Speed survey Sutton Fields and Cassia Lane	MB
5.6	Aug 21 ongoing	Footpaths – linking up / improvements	VC / SH Clerk
7.1	Aug 21	Vicarage green access – farm change of ownership; Line of sight with original plan liaise with DC	KR / DR KR
9.1	June 22	DER check if Christmas tree suitable at IR's property	DER / IR
3.2	July 22	Footpath from Marton Hall to Marton Villa – SH to walk it	SH
5.1	July 22	Share details of village show to PCSO	Clerk
6.1	July 22	Revisit comment regarding TPO	RM draft
5.2	July 22	Chase enforcement Clay Lane Farm	Clerk
6.2	July 22	Confirm area cut as part of contract	Clerk
7.4	July 22	Broken style to report to CWAC	GL
8.2	July 22	GL to confirm planning process for the UU pipe and pumping station	GL
8.2	July 22	ST to explore TPO process and if needed for trees Nr proposed pumping station at Cassia Green	SH
8.4	July 22	Tree visibility – The Beeches / overhanging signs and interactive signs	DR / PB
10.1	July	Progress matters at the Beeches	RM

Agenda Call forward

Ref	Call forward date	Description
	Tbc	VRA re gritting, nuns grave

Notes: