

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 12th December 2022 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Ward Councillor Gina Lewis (arrived 19.33)

Members of the Council present: Keith Rayner (Chair), Cllr Matthews, Cllr Cotterill, Cllr Ranson, Cllr Roston, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Leech,

1. Apologise for absence.

Cllr Baldini – Work

Declarations of interest.

Cllr Ranson – co-opted to WSCG as director

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022. 1406/22 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 14th November 2022.

3.1 No matters arising

3.2 Notes from action Log:

- A54 updates from Ward Councillor Baynham confirmed that the work is with the contractor to implement, still no idea how long it will take.
- Whitegate lane change of speed limit to 50mph- no update. Ward Councillor Lewis confirmed all the line painting has been completed. Query Grange Lane white lines across drive have not been done, Cllr Lewis will enquire.
- Cllr Matthews to share details of the public sector savings with Clerk/Chair
- Cllr Baynham has not shared the response from full council regarding planning enforcements
- No further updates received regarding Rushmere Lodge
- The Risk Assessments have been circulated by Cllr Matthews.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda.

Some election process guidance was received and circulated. Cllr Roston confirmed that he would not be standing at the next election.

Ward councillor Gina Lewis mentioned the parliamentary boundary review, which was agreed last week, which incorporates the three salt towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford in the Mid Cheshire constituency. Unknown if Whitegate included within this.

5. Planning

5.1 1407/22 resolved the following planning application responses:

22/03871/FUL Whitegate Wastewater Treatment Works Grange Lane for extension to existing Whitegate Wastewater Treatment Works and change of use from SBI woodland to a wastewater treatment works with 2 temporary remote compounds. We note that the land has already been cleared

The Parish Council are concerned about a number of issues associated with this application:
1. There is no Environmental Impact Assessment and a satisfactory assessment is required as a condition of approval.

2. We object to the use of a temporary construction site located at the proposed Marton North waste treatment site (separate application No 22/03313/FUL). This site is located on a narrow road which has high volume of through traffic and our objections are summarised on that application.

3. We note the comments by Paul Parry (Highway Officer) regarding Grange Lane access. We agree that it will be key that there is an ongoing dialogue between United Utilities and the local residents throughout the duration of construction.

22/03994/FUL Whitegate Church of England Primary School for replacement of temporary classroom with mobile classroom unit - No objection

22/04364/TPO Monks Well Cottage Vale Royal Drive for Poplar (T1) - Fell to ground level. The Parish Council recommend that the CWAC Tree Officer should be consulted on the health of this tree and decide on the appropriate action. The Parish Council are not qualified to make a decision on a protected tree.

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints:

- Case Farm – no update, on hold.
- Dalefords Lane. Cllr Baynham asked for an update on enforcement at Full Council, we are awaiting a copy of the written response from MB.
- Rushmere Lodge – called in a while ago, no one has been assigned to it, it was called in. Cllr Baynham was to enquire and respond back.
- Barn at Marton Hall farm – clerk has enquired.

Noted the following applications were granted: none

The following applications were refused: none

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statement for the current account showed a balance of £49,317.18 there is nine cheques to be cleared through the bank. The current account balance remaining will be £43,610.18 (£70,420.13 including savings accounts) **agreed 1408/22 the following:**

6.2 Pay Clerk Wages net £1380

6.3 Pay HMRC £345

6.4 Pay Quay Payroll £15

6.5 Pay reimbursements to Parish Councillors for lights switch-on DER £160 VC £19.50

6.6 Pay reimbursement to Cllr Matthews for road safety RA (Smart safety services) £720

6.7 Pay Lowther for tree survey £630 (incl VAT)

6.8 Pay website hosting £150

6.9 Approve budget and precept for 2023/24, it was suggested by Cllr Rayner to maintain £19500 precept increasing budget for road safety to £10k which would include some improvements on Cinder Hill such as interactive signs which are approximately £5k each. Councillor commented there was an accident last week at approximately 7pm involving three cars at junction of Foxwist. Suggested increasing community grant budget to £2500.

It was discussed if it was a good gesture to reduce precept, because we have not use for original purpose? Agreed funding would now be used at the Beeches, this could cost as much as £30k. When bills come out our increase will be zero, any reduction would have negligible impact. **Agreed 1409/22 the budget proposal for 2023/24 and precept requirement of £19,500.**

Cllr Roston, requested permission to replace Christmas light bulbs, agreed to order 1 dozen.

7. The Beeches

7.1 The Beeches update from sub-committee – there is no further update, the sub-group has met and have got project plan, they intend to provide an update in the new year to the PC. They are meeting with highways tomorrow; the risk assessment has identified work that needs to be done such as safety barrier and surface. The carpark is the biggest risk and includes poor behaviours of drivers travelling too fast, will see what Highways say. One tree will require reinspecting, tackle red actions first. Improving paths are not a risk. Noted Cllr Baldini is on Recreation Room committee too to provide updates, Cllr Matthews has already met with Recreation room Chairman. Noted a new sign on resident gate – saying keep clear.

- 7.2 Requested payments to be approved - none
7.3 Any other business relating to the Beeches - none

8. Road Safety update

8.1 Some road safety matters discussed earlier on agenda. It was suggested when Chester Lane Brook speed limit is reduced they can be given 40mph stickers for their wheelie bins and can also use the SIDS / interactive signs. Since the new bins were issued throughout parish we did not provide new 30/40's stickers – Clerk to enquire about costs. **Action: clerk** Cllr Lewis confirmed PCSO has left to join as full-time PC and we have a new PCSO Railton, she attended his recent surgery and he confirmed there has been a recent prosecution for speeding on Cinder Hill, she suggested another enforcement in January.

It was noted that Sutton Field residents has been in touch with PCSO complaining that their residential road is being used as a 'rat run'; they are being supported by PCSO to use SIDS. Clerk to contact and invite new PCSO Railton to a future PC meeting. **Action: Clerk**

8.2 Litter, footpaths, styles – Cllr Haigh confirmed that the footpath officer has done a couple of actions, we have a good dialogue. Footpath at Bark house not finished.

9. Parish Issues

9.1 United Utilities (UU) update – Cllr Rayner confirmed they met 6 weeks ago, and UU promised to consider our concerns regarding the Marton site, but they have not yet come back to us following their consideration of the 30 objections to the application. Now we have opened dialogue we look forward to hearing back. It was noted that they have started doing test holes where pipeline going to be, there are also blue dots noted on Dalefords Lane / Whitegate Lane, should expect an update on application and work involved. Cllr Haigh also confirmed that the Senior Tree officer confirmed no point doing anything on TPO on trees, but would defend trees as much as he could.

9.2 Neighbourhood Pride - no update, clerk to enquire with Cllr Baynham. **Action: Clerk**

9.3 Discuss any general parish issues - email from Cheshire Police alert part of Neighbourhood Watch – A resident from Dalefords lane has been showing an interest. Cllr Roston to share details for Clerk to enquire if interested in the role. **Action: DER / clerk**

9.4 Christmas lights switch on feedback – all agreed it went well; apart from heating the mulled wine. There were approx. 80 people in attendance and we have received good feedback. £170 was raised from charity collection for the Joshua Tree. Cllr Rayner thanked everyone, and to Dave for PA system and Mr Mckenzie for playing the organ. Agreed date for next year Saturday 2nd December 2023.

9. Items for information and discussion only.

Kings Coronation - are we doing anything? agreed this will be a low key event.

PC Christmas dinner – Mon 30th January at the Plough. Ward Councillors Gina and Mike are invited. NB date change to Mon 23rd January.

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman Dated

Outstanding actions (if removed they are complete)

Ref	Date	Action Log	Responsible
3.2	ongoing	Road safety - A54 speed limit reduction (40mph) / Whitegate Lane (50mph) / Speed survey Cassia Lane.	MB / GL
5.2	Nov 22	Circulate response from Full Council regarding planning enforcement	MB
5.2	Nov 22	Rushmere Lodge – chase up	MB
7.1	Nov 22	The Beeches management sub group	RM/IR/PB
8.1	Dec 22	PCSO invite	Clerk
8.1	Dec 22	Speed limit wheelie bin signs	Clerk
6.9	Dec 22	Precept	Clerk
6.9	Dec 22	Buy replacement bulbs (12)	DER
3.1	Dec 22	Line painting – why not done Grange Ln driveway – white line	GL

Agenda Call forward

Ref	Call forward date	Description
5.2	Feb 2023	Static caravan - Coachwood Farm
	Tbc	VRA re gritting, nuns grave
	Oct 2023	Hunter Lodge - holiday let

Notes: