

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: None

Members of the Council present: Cllr Rayner (Chair), Cllr Leech, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Cotterill, Cllr Baldini

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllr Matthews - holiday
Cllr Heath - work

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023. 1452/23 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 11th September 2023.

3.1 updates noted as follows:

- A54 Chester Lane Brook – progressing, we feel this is duplicating work by Highways.
- Whitegate Lane – CWAC confirm contractor advised
- Cassia Lane - no progress
- Cllr Matthews to complete the bank signatory form again
- Zig Zag outside school rear entrance – clerk to chase
- Chalc annual meeting – Cllr Rayner is attending
- External auditor response – on the agenda below
- Clerk has responded for resident query regarding parking bays on Cinder Hill, the PC reiterated they are concerned with this proposal from a safety point of view having to cross the road.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

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

- Cllr Haigh replied to Whitegate Station Community Group (WSCG) informing them they need to comply with their planning conditions. Cllr Rayner emphasised that the PC would not support any evening events outside the hours agreed in their planning conditions, it is not the location to hold evening events.
- Clerk received phone call from Cinder Hill resident regarding that location being moved from the current phase of fibre to the premises (FTTP), suggesting a working group to lobby relevant parties. PC unclear how many in the parish are affected by this. Clerk to respond back to suggest resident seeks views of neighbours and to put in touch with resident of Vale Royal drive who was instrumental in implementing FTTP along St Marys Drive / Vale Royal Drive. PC concerned that some residents don't even have a stable mobile phone signal which may be a problem when the proposed copper cables become obsolete in 2025. Action: Clerk
- Polling Station review – CWAC have to consult every 5 years. Agreed that Vale Royal abbey whilst not central to the village is accessible with plenty of parking.

5. Planning

5.1 1453/23 resolved the following planning application responses:

23/02964/LBC and 23/02963/FUL	Rookery Farm, Dalefords Lane	Single storey side extension and replacement roof to existing outbuilding. Works to include removal of existing roof to replace with pitched tiled roof, raising ridge height to create a first floor with conservation rooflights, alterations to windows/doors and elevations	The Parish Council has no objection to the application. A condition of acceptance should require the outbuilding to remain as part of a single domestic property. As the main building is a listed building, it will also need to be referred to the CWAC listed buildings team.
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Ward Councillor Gina Lewis also raised with the PC an application for agricultural shed at land owned by Four Winds, Dalefords Lane. The Clerk has clarified with planning that we have not been consulted; they confirm only Ward Councillors are consulted in relation to AGR applications. Ward Councillor asked for out thoughts, she was concerned about flooding on the road. PC discussed the application; it was confirmed that the shed is to service 20 acres of farm land recently purchased. A shed would not affect the flooding on the highway it is not near the location of flooding which was resolved. The PC have no comments on this proposal.

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints: No updates to report. It was noted the application at Rushmere lodge the fence was objected to not the wall.

5.3 Updates Granted/declined/public speaking/enforcement No updates.

The following applications were refused: None

Cllr Rayner confirmed he has not received a reply to his email from R Charnley (Head of Planning) following his visit, which outlined concerns regarding 'development creep'; having a closer working relationship and with planners understanding our Neighbourhood plan; providing an example of current application and our concerns. Agreed for Cllr Rayner to make contact and remind him.

Action: KR

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements remain unchanged: Lloyds account showed a balance remaining of £61,085.81. The Barclays account balance is £17,886.08 (£82,218.38 including savings accounts). There were the following payments to be made **1451/23 agreed:**

6.3 Noted conclusion of audit from External Auditor, notice displayed 30th September online/notice board. Discuss points raised by external auditor.

6.4 Notes 2023/24 accounts half-year review which were signed by Cllr Rayner.

6.5 Paid External Audit Fee £252 (incl VAT)

6.6 Paid CWAC election fee charge £181

6.7 Paid grass cutting contract £245

6.8 Discussed and agreed community donations as follows: Recreation Room £250, Whitegate WI £340, Church Wood £310, Whitegate PCC £400, Whitegate Station Community Group £250, Whitegate Scouts £400 and Friends of Whitegate School £250. Clerk asked to enquire with Whitegate PCC regarding the use of the transport fund donated.

Action: Clerk

6.9 Agreed to order wreath for remembrance service, Cllr Rayner is not available this year, Cllr Leech agreed to represent the Parish Council

6.10 Clerk salary review was agreed a 8.2% increase to £5300pa.

8. Road Safety update

8.1 To discuss general road safety updates / speed limits objectives around parish:

Cllr Rayner picked up a leaflet from a parish council which asked residents to lobby their local council regarding road safety matters. The PC discussed this as a good example but decided that as a first step we could do a parish road safety survey to gauge what is important to our residents, this will inform our current road safety risk register and priorities.

Once we have analysed the information we can prepare a leaflet asking parishioners to write to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Agreed Cllr Rayner to draft some questions for Clerk to put in an online survey. Share with PC at next meeting before publishing. Action: Clerk / KR

It was noted Sutton Fields, which is used as a 'rat run' from Winsford have borrowed a speed indicator device from the PCSO to try and address speeding along the residential street.

Litter, footpaths, styles, tree planting. – Deferred to October meeting, discussed tree planting in hedge along Football field. Cllr Baldini to visit local nursery and discuss suitable trees, budget of approximately £200 available to purchase six good size trees. It was agreed that free saplings available would be too small for our requirements. Action: PB

Discussed email from walkers who were unable to navigate some footpaths off Clay Lane. Cllr Haigh has reported four paths through the report it tool, but it is noted that there is not currently a PROW officer. Cllr Baldini offered to speak with landowners, Cllr Haigh to provide a map. Clerk to respond back to walkers outlining what we are doing. (Action: PB, SH, JE)

Agreed annual litter pick needs to take place in March / early April before the grass grows too long

9. Parish Issues

9.1 United Utilities (UU) noted planning application tree work at existing site entrance was received last month, no further update to report.

9.2 Christmas lights switch on – date previously agreed 2/12 at 5.15pm. Cllr Haigh had enquired with Northwich Town Council who offer a Christmas tree erection service, the cost was too expensive, agreed to continue as usual. Cllr Leech / Cllr Baldini to source a tree approx. £200 budget available. Noted St Mary's Drive having their own light switch on 9/12. Usual arrangements in place. Cllr Cotterill will liaise with school. Clerk send reminders and advertise. Cllr Campbell to ask if WI would like to decorate the star for the tree this year. Action: all

9.3 D Day celebrations – date 6/6/24. Date co-inside with school holidays and many Councillors are away. All to have a think about what we could do to commemorate.

10. Items for information and discussion only.

None

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 9.02pm

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) PENDING/ Whitegate Lane (50mph) PENDING/ Speed limit 40mph Cassia Lane PENDING Clerk to ask GL to chase progress	Pending implementation
7.4	Feb 22	Add RM to bank signatory for Barclays A/c – completed online awaiting confirmation and receipt of paperwork/card/reader	RM
8.1	June 23	Take forward school action regarding zig zag lines with Highways following confirmation no planning required - Oct 23 Clerk to chase	Clerk
5	Oct 23	Cllr Rayner to chase R Charnley at CWAC regarding planning	KR
6.3	Oct 23	Clerk to contact community groups regarding donations and ask for bank info	Clerk
6.3	Oct 23	Contact Whitegate PCC regarding transport fund	Clerk
8.1	Oct 23	Draft road safety survey	KR / Clerk
8.1	Oct 23	Purchase trees for planting	PB
8.1	Oct 23	Speak to landowners regarding PROW and respond to walkers	PB/SH/Cerlk
9.1	Oct 23	Christmas lights switch-on Purchase tree CL / PB Liaise with school VC Advertise Clerk	All

Agenda Call forward

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

Notes: KR not available Nov meeting either RM or CL to chair.