

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Ward Councillor Gina Lewis

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

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllrs Matthews, Rayner - holiday

Cllr Campbell – other

Cllr Heath - Work

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023. 1454/23 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 9th October 2023

3.1 updates noted as follows:

- A54 Chester Lane Brook – progressing, another consultation has passed its deadline on 27th October. Ward Cllr Gina Lewis has written to the new Head of Service (HOS) to explain her/our frustrations about the delays with this.
- Whitegate Lane – CWAC confirm contractor advised, as above, hopefully progress with new HOS in place.
- The Beeches – Cllr Rayner has sought support from Jackie Weaver at ChALC, and Cllr Lewis has escalated to the Deputy CEO, she confirms there are new staff now in post.
- Cllr Matthews to complete the bank signatory form again when return from holiday.
- Zig Zag outside school rear entrance – clerk has chased twice.
- Cllr Rayner didn't receive a response to his email from Head of Planning, and has written again, Ward Councillor Bingham asked to follow-up.
- Cllr Baldini to purchase trees for planting, was too late calling one evening, will call earlier.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

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

- Resident emailed to raised concern about damage to Lime Trees on Cinder Hill caused by parking – the Parish Council agreed there was little they can do to stop people parking there and there is nothing to restrict parking, we'll continue to monitor any highway improvements are cost prohibitive for the PC, we are already liaising with Highways about parking and suggest resident write to complain to add weight.
- Scottish Power contacted Clerk for details of owner of land at rear of the Mews, due to GDPR forwarded to owner to make contact, no reply from anyone but given generators are in situ it must have been agreed.
- Resident copied in PC regarding drainage problems, directly corresponding with Highways so no action for PC.
- Football club rent received.
- Advertised Police surgeries at Café, not received any update from PC/PCSO regarding any concerns in the parish.
- Received update regarding transport grant given to PCC, £36 spent so far on transporting parishioners to church events.

5. Planning

5.1 1455/23 resolved the following planning application responses:

23/02989/LBC	Beeches Cottage	Replacement back door and frame like for like replacement	No Objection
23/03175/FUL	Jade House Sandy Lane Whitegate	Single storey porch extension to front	No Objection

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints: No updates to report. It was noted the application at Rushmere lodge the fence has missed the appeal deadline, awaiting confirmation if the appeal will be considered.

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

The following applications were refused: None

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements remain unchanged: Lloyds account showed a balance remaining of £61,085.81. The Barclays account balance is £16,151.08 (£80,483.38 including savings accounts). There were the following payments to be made **1456/23 agreed:**

6.2 Defer Cllr Matthews to complete bank paperwork when he returns from holiday.

6.3 Clerk to prepare cheque for Clerk/Chair to sign for £35 to The Royal British Legion for Poppy appeal. Action: Clerk

6.4 Discussed draft budget and precept for 2024/25. The PC are aware of the level of reserves, and do not want to rush into spending money without detailed consideration of our road safety requirements following the decision not to progress with the safe school drop off.

6.5 mentioned above, noted £36 spent on PCC transport grant.

8. Road Safety update

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

Discussed above progress on actions above. Road safety survey has been drafted, agreed to review the road safety risk assessment and agreed the following changes before circulation:

- 1) Whitegate school - to remove objective 3 (to enforce unauthorised heavy vehicles, as access to farm is required.
- 2) Beeches / RR - add all community room users
- 3) Cinder Hill – add repeater signs (we are aware previous ward councillor did pursue this) add refresh of painted road signage and footpath signage safe place to cross. Achieved so far - regular speed monitoring
- 4) Whitegate Lane (Hartford) - add achieved 50mph but not yet implemented
- 5) Chester lane brook – add achieved 40mph agreed not yet implemented (take out in suggested minimum) add speed monitoring.
- 6) Dalefords Lane / Whitegate Rd (Marton sands) add regular speed monitoring

Change Q15 to what is your interest as a text field. Agreed runs survey until 31/12/23.

Action: Clerk

GL enquired about the wig wag signs at the Recreation Room, Cllr Cotteril confirmed that a resolution could not be found to resolve the automated timings of them due to different user requirements.

9. Parish Issues

9.1 United Utilities (UU) no update

9.2 General parish issues – None

Ward Councillor Lewis gave an update on the Fire plan which is currently out for consultation. The Fire Authority didn't want to reduce service or staffing, no redundancies – oncall fire fighters not readily available during weekday resulting in 5 fire pumps sitting there unstaffed, currently 17 engines available anytime. Proposal is to utilise the 5 unused pumps as 'travelling appliances' and will service rural areas too, do more preventative work and welfare visits. Service has 13 rapid response vehicles – which go straight away, they are single person and usually first on scene of RTA's currently not part of their statutory training but want them trained in emergency first aid (Not paramedics but able to provide emergency care) . Savings to be made elsewhere.

Questionnaire responses so far very positive. Asked to promote what 3 words. Preventative work saw a reduction in the number of fires lit on bonfire night down from 29 to 6 (noted it was wet weather this year). Agreed to promote the use of 'What Three Words' which has been confirmed to improve emergency response as the words give a more specific location.
Action: Clerk

9.3 Litter, footpaths, styles - update from S Haigh we have a new Public Rights of Way officer called Liz Holm, Cllr Haigh and Cllr Rayner met with her and went through our action plan. Liz confirmed there is a limited budget covering a large area but would do what she can. Discussed The recent problems reported by walkers on footpaths adjacent to Clay Lane, she can also send letter out to land owners. Also reminded to identify any unregistered footpath, Cllr Haigh suggested the footpaths through the beeches, agreed to defer until next time.

9.4 Tree planting (and reimbursement as required) – not yet purchased. GL asked if we were getting free saplings, confirmed we need mature for hedgerow as saplings won't grow in the hedge.

9.5 Christmas Tree / Lights switch on arrangements (2/12) and reimbursements as required (VL provided copy of receipts for reimbursement and will send bank details to reimburse). Cllr Leech has ordered Christmas Tree and will collect ahead of 28th November installation. Headteacher Mrs Makenzie has agreed to play the organ a teacher will choose two children to read poem and switch on the lights. Discussed other arrangements, Clerk to email.

9.6 DDay celebrations – The Recreation Room are buying a 'peace lantern' (red hurricane lamp) to place next to 'The Tommy' and will be switched on at 9.15pm (no ceremony) just switch on at same time across the country. Consider if the PC want to do the same at the Church, discuss at next meeting.

10. Items for information and discussion only.

Ward Councillor Lewis mentioned the boundary changes, now in Mid Cheshire constituency (including the three salt towns). Andrew Cooper is the Labour candidate for the constituency.

Cllr Lewis attended an ambulance service briefing, which confirmed a new hospital is being build on a phased basis at Leighton Hospital. There will have extra 'winter wards' this year. New initiative 'Hospital at home' which will have nurses visit in home, reducing numbers needed to attend/stay in hospital.

Resident mentioned the bollards on Vale Royal drive, PC cannot remember them being part of the recent planning application for new garage.

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 9.10pm

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 23	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 chased twice	Clerk
5	Oct 23	Cllr Rayner to chase R Charnley at CWAC regarding planning – completed by KR – no reply received, asked SB to progress	KR / SB
8.1	Oct 23	Update risk register summary and update road safety survey and publish, deadline 31/12/23	Clerk
8.1	Oct 23	Purchase trees for planting	PB
8.1	Oct 23	Speak to landowners regarding PROW and respond to walkers	PB
9.1	Oct 23	Christmas lights switch-on Purchase tree CL / PB Liaise with school VC Advertise Clerk	All
6.3	Nov 23	Cheque The Royal British Legion – Poppy appeal	Clerk/KR
9.2	Nov 23	Include What 3 words on newsletter	Clerk

Agenda Call forward

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

Notes: