

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Five members of the public and Ward Councillor Gina Lewis attended.

Four members of the Council present: Cllr Cotterill (Chair), Cllr Haigh, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Baldini.

Cllr Cotterill standing in for Cllr Rayner as Chair for this meeting.

Four residents attended to discuss road safety issues outside school / Grange Lane. It was confirmed that meeting dates have been discussed with Headteacher and meeting will take place on 5th July at 11am. Headteacher has spoken to staff about parking considerably, and has made more space on the loop and is exploring other parking options. A reminder has also been given to parents to park with consideration of neighbours. Residents concerned about driving on pavement at speed, discussed everyone parking on the left, leaving gaps in the event of meeting oncoming traffic, currently drivers are mounting pavement to get past, which is an offence. Residents believe if they put cones out they are liable if something happens.

It was noted PCSO have been down, but has not seen drivers on footpath, residents have also attended Police Surgery to discuss further with PCSO Railton. Residents concerned about safety of taking pictures to report through the new initiative (Operation Park Safe), PCSO's know when the issues are taking place, to monitor. PC has also been in touch with Police Inspector, who has offered to attend a meeting after Purdah (no date agreed).

With regards to school numbers, currently 160 reducing to 148 in September. Two year groups currently drop and go on the loop. Residents asked about staggered start time at school and what right school has to increase numbers in school. It's an agricultural area with large vehicles negotiating the roads, and vehicles are much larger now. Cuddington have been putting out 20mph signs, and have H signs outside drives. It is understood that residents have to pay for H signs even for safety reasons. Noted an entire road in Warrington has H's done. Residents also suggested extending double yellow lines full length of Grange Lane, concern this moves vehicles elsewhere. Residents concerned accident waiting to happen. When parents have been approached not to park there, they become aggressive. Asked about the walking bus? Need to wait for the meeting on 5th July, check PCSO availability, and invite the Police Inspector after election to a PC meeting. Cllr Cotterill will contact school again to ask staff not to reverse in driveways.

Resident asked for clarification on two parish council projects, the parking area behind the vicarage and The Beeches.

Cllr Cotterill reconfirmed that the parking project is on hold, due to problems with access to the land. The Diocesan were not prepared to release the land on terms appropriate for the project, our hand are tied. Residents pointed out this is a Church of England school. We went to the very top person who made the decision, noted this is not the local church's decision. Since then the costs have spiralled and now is cost prohibitive. Asked about the fishing carpark for school parking, agreed something to consider (this was used many years ago), there is agreement to park at Vale Royal Abbey, but this is quite a distance to walk.

The Beeches £10k put aside for that project, to improve the area and resurface the layby, we have funding we cannot hold our funds in reserve indefinitely and need to support the whole community.

Residents commented PCSO speed monitoring at the top of the hill and outside school, is not a deterrent.

Ward Councillor Lewis attended a conference hosted by Chief Superintendent, theme was community policing, working with communities not just PCSO's wandering about. Residents said the last police surgery was not well advertised by the police (PC put on social media and website). Clerk to ask for new surgery dates to share.

Residents asked about the school building works, some works whilst school open the main works during summer. Removal of old building and replacement of new, impact on community? It is possible most of the works will be accessed via the field entrance (October Lodge) there is a meeting with architects in a few weeks and will know more then, will ask about parking of contractors and deliveries. The planning conditions will restrict times of deliveries, will there be traffic lights? Don't know details, security of building materials? To confirm at meeting.

Residents left meeting, except L Stafford.

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllr Rayner/Cllr Leech – holiday

Cllr Heath – work

Cllr Matthews - Ill

Declarations of interest.

None declared by Parish Councillors

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024. 1486/24 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024.

2.2 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024. 1487/24 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 13th May 2024.

3.1 no matters arising not included on the agenda.

3.2 action log update was noted:

- A54 Chester Lane Brook - approved scheme and fully funded, still awaiting implementation by CWAC *Addendum – speed limit reduced to 40mph following 5 years of correspondence with CWAC; and wheelie bin stickers shared with Cllr Heath to share with residents.*
No progress on speed limit on Cassia Lane.
- School Zigzag lines (extend down towards the vicarage) awaiting approval -for safety reasons children walking on the road.
- DD bench – installed, thanks everyone. Unveiling Saturday 15th June at 10am.
- Christmas tree lights – action for Chris Leech, no rush.
- Litter pick hoops – Clerk to purchase more, again no rush next April needed for.
- Improvements at the Beeches (fill in holes), Cllr Baldini / Cllr Matthews to organise over the summer. Order MOT.
- 20 mph at school, Cheshire Police are arranging a survey (excluding school holidays), Clerk has circulated some literature from CWAC regarding their policy, all to review and discuss next meeting as their policy needs may need to be amended for us to meet the criteria.
- Cllr Campbell to liaise with Cassia Green residents, nobody has responded regarding United Utility contact. Cllr Campbell is aware that a meeting is being arranged and will enquire on behalf of the PC.
- Clerk emailed the police inspector, mentioned a few things including parking, bollards dug up and air bnb antisocial behaviour, he suggested attending a PC meeting after the election.
- Special newsletter drafted, agreed to wait until after 4th July before publishing, print 50 to place in few locations, and publish on internet. Cllr Campbell will share a WI group.

- Finger post Beauty Bank, Cllr Haigh has researched and identified a company is Wes Sussex who will provide what we want, £25 delivery, green oak post and finger with image of walker on it £225 for 3m or less if go for 2.4m. PROW officer involved. Have spare postcrete from bench installation. 1488/24 agreed 2.4m sufficient £190+vat and delivery. Action: Clerk.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda. Nothing further to discuss all on agenda.

Clerk thanked for the amount of work completed, busy month.

5. Planning

5.1 1489/24 resolved the following planning application responses:

24/01560/CAT	Manor Keep, Sutton Fields	3 x Sycamore Trees - Felling and Snedding to a natural habitat due to large pieces falling off in high winds posing a danger to life	We refer to CWAC Tree Officer as the expert and agreement between the two neighbours in Whitegate House and Manor Keep
24/01315/S73	The Glen	Two storey extension to dwelling and garage (Removal of condition 3 (permitted development rights) of APP/2000/0675)	Parish Council objects to the removal of Condition 3 on the grounds that this would open the door to further development and is unlikely to comply with Policy 1 of the W&M Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to minimise the size of smaller properties.

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints:

Rushmere lodge – Clerk to ask enforcement for an update.

No update from planning enforcement regarding The Mosses mobile home.

Bawsgate Farm – Ward Councillor Gina Lewis reported it to Rob Charndley who was looking at the conditions of the planning application, no further update, did say that rental policy vague. Cllr Lewis mentioned conversion of barns on Whitegate Lane and access problems (outside our parish).

Whitegate Café – No update, Cllr Rayner had not received any response. We are aware that the café has been canvassing passersby at the café with a questionnaire. Some members of the PC were concerned evening events sets a precedent, their permission was granted for what it is, a café, suggested that there are other venues in the parish for community use (Recreation Room) to hold evening events such as quizzes for fundraising. Noted toilets need redecorating, and as mentioned at last meeting, PC offer support, also noted toilets are closed earlier than barrier, and evidence of defecation behind toilet block.

5.3 Updates Granted/declined/public speaking/enforcement –Appeal Hunters Retreat for Change of use from Holiday lodge to permanent dwelling, PC objected, CWAC objected and has gone to appeal – no update.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements: Lloyd's account showed a balance remaining of £61,056. The Barclays account balance is £32,945.36 (£95,702.50 including savings accounts)

1490/24 agreed the following payments

6.2 Note paid Bench £730 balance (includes VAT)

- 6.3 Note paid PC laptop £616.80 incl VAT
- 6.4 To pay grass cutting contract £245
- 6.5 Paid Clerk Wages £1060 and Reimbursements £15.28
- 6.6 Paid HMRC £265
- 6.7 Paid Quay Payroll £15
- 6.8 To pay reimbursements for memorial bench £tbc
- 6.9 Agree gift for volunteer internal audit - £25 -£30

7. Road Safety update

7.1 Noted incident at the old Post Office, single vehicle crashed. Discussed earlier in meeting see notes above. Meeting with PC, residents and Headteacher 5th July at 11am.

9. Parish Issues

- 9.1 The Beeches – talked briefly earlier about this. Cllr Baldini and Cllr Matthews to organise filling the potholes in layby over the summer, order MOT and organise a working party. Action: RM/PB
- 9.2 United Utilities - no further updates. Cllr Campbell to contact Cassia Green resident regarding United Utility contact. Action: LC
- 9.4 Litter, footpaths, styles - finger post to be purchased as detailed above. Action: Clerk
- 9.5 Installation of the bench complete, thanks to all involved.
- 9.6 Letter received at meeting from resident of Sandy Lane, regarding drains blocked on their premises with mud due to tankers going passed all the time. Clerk to respond to resident that we have had other complaints previously and have contacted United Utilities a which ago, they confirm there is no alternative to the tankers being considered. PCSO has been monitoring speed, and we are aware that he has spoken to some residents of Sandy Lane.

Ward Councillor Gina Lewis, confirmed that the council are nearly up to date with the back log of potholes, and starting to repair newly reported ones. Issues with gulley cleaning with vehicles parking over them, letters are sent out to residents but they don't move them. Residents not aware of No Mow May, grass cutting will recommence in June.

10. Items for information and discussion only.

Ward Councillor Gina Lewis updated the PC on road safety project, and water safety project, not sure if these are community events or directed at schools, she will find out.

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.54pm.

Signed by the Chairman **Dated**

Outstanding actions (if removed they are complete)

Ref	Date	Action Log	Responsible
8.1	June 23	Zig Zag lines – pending	
9.4	Jan 24	Purchase replacement bulbs green/yellow for tree	CL
9.1	Apr 24	The Beeches - Order MOT for filling in the summer holidays/when dry.	RM / PB
8.1	Mar 24	Speed survey – Cheshire Police	Clerk
9.4	Apr 24	Order litter pick circles	Clerk
6.1	Apr 24	Saving account's investigate	Clerk
9.2	Apr 24	LC to liaise with Cassia Green residents and find out contact details for UU	LC
3.2	May 24	Meeting with Headteacher 5/7 at 11am	KR / VC
8.1	Apr 24	Flyer special newsletter – print 50 pages for distribution after election	Clerk
9.3	May 24	Finger post Beauty Bank – PC fund Clerk order	Clerk

Agenda Call forward

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

Notes: