

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: 9 members of parish.

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

Apologies were received from Ward Councillors Gina Lewis and Stuart Bingham. Residents of Grange Lane and café directors attended the meeting.

Mike Baynham (café director) informed the meeting regarding progress on the toilet block refurbishment. Café is responsible for the upkeep of the toilet block. They had a successful application with space hive which has £90k to support various projects, and received £8600 from CWAC. Also received ward councillors funding support. Toilets will be refurbished before Christmas, they will remain open (do one side then the other).

Café faces risks:

- 1) personnel looking for volunteers and team leaders, have a café manager in place and a long list of volunteers. Asked for volunteers gardening, serving in café.
- 2) financial risk, paying minimum wage, NI increases, they are protected for now, income is seasonal and hard to predict. Rent risk – not addressed for many years, capital expenditure costs.
- 3) Planning risk – Original planning conditions and those in the 2018 extension application were not discharged correctly according to planning department (noise and smells) copy of planning notice handed out; they have been having discussions regarding how they can now be met, with the café being open for nearly 10 years. They proposed a new planning application to address those matters and make changes to how they operate to address the financial risks.

Café directors commented it is a community café run for the benefit of the community. Previous flyer sent out regarding a music event was not sanctioned by the café. Director want PC thoughts on an application to extend the opening times during the evenings to 9-10pm, max 15 meetings per year of which 4-5 would be board meetings, such as quiz evening, pie evening to reduce social isolation, use by scouts. Can't currently have meetings past 7pm although they have taken place in the past. Alcohol licence different to planning application. Not looking to turn it into a licenced venue. Some neighbours supportive.

Parish Council asked about fire regulations, confirmed it would be complaint with fire regs.

Had dog walking event last weekend 20-30 people, hot plate of food served. See it as a fundraising community hub not a café. New directors from more corporate background – complaint with legislation, balanced and fair approach – every decision as board part of community.

Resident commented – have done some good things at the café, did complain when flyer came through as we don't want disruption from music events. Issue is started off as a one off, now suggesting 15 so a risk may grow bigger than that. As guardian of the gate it closes at 8pm in summer and 5pm in winter, recent event wasn't communicated and we were challenged when closing gate on time. Café agreed better communication was required.

Parish Council asked why the toilets were closed at the same time as the café and not when the gates are closed, restricting access for people to use them. Café confirmed closed due to safeguarding; and incidents (recall 1 occasion one door off hinges). Café responsible and investing £8.5k.

Parish Council asked for a more formal description of what they are proposing, and what control measures they will put in place and how it would be monitored; numbers of people for fire regs. Confirmed they cannot say exactly what events would be held, but their objective would not to disturb residents. Resident asked to see document, PC confirmed it would be a public document. 1 resident left meeting 8.10

Grange Lane – Steven Bishop has been undertaking speed monitoring activities, this included 3 hours of enforcement using mobile device with 7 offending motorists. Visited school 3/10 to discuss and encourage school to be more proactive, newsletter to parents sent asking them to be more considerate. Road Safety Officer was scheduled to attend tomorrow, but deferred due to Ofsted visit. Good turnout at meeting with Andrew Cooper MP. Agreed to invite PCSO Steven Bishop to a future meeting.

1.1 Apologise for absence.

None

Declarations of interest.

None declared by Parish Councillors

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024. 1500/24 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024.

3. Matters arising from the minutes Ordinary meeting on Monday 14th October 2024.

3.1 no matters arising not included on the agenda.

3.2 action log update was noted:

- Zig zag lines complete.
- Beeches – fill potholes, not safe – Cllr Campbell nearly had accident in pothole she was very shaken by it. Cllr Baldini will take a look and confirm what is needed.
- PROW meeting next Monday with PROW officer and Mid Cheshire Footpath Society Secretary.

3.3 Parish Council vacancy – notice published 7/10/24 and no requests received for an election, we can co-opt to vacancy. Discussed possible volunteers, would be helpful to have some younger people.

3.4 Appoint Vice Chairperson – Nominated and all agreed Chris Leech for the post of Vice Chair. Cllr Leech accepted but is not looking to take the future Chair role. Clerk to organise the bank mandate changes.

Action: clerk

3.5 Feedback from ChALC annual meeting – Cllr Heath and Cllr Rayner attended; note circulated regarding meeting. Of particular interest climate action for Local councils toolkit available to us. Lot of info out there regarding biodiversity, carbon calculators, thermal imaging camera – understand where heat is escaping? Investigate cameras for use by residents, this would be a good topic for the annual meeting in April. Cllr Heath agreed to explore this further. Noted Chalc invested funds in CCLA investment management group – Clerk to make enquiries. General discussion - complaints from CWAC/CEC and poor responses, with Highways / planning worse offenders. CHALC has sent out a communication survey deadline 29th November. Clerk to complete. Manchester airport – future of the airspace, could lead to different flight paths over the parish.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

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

SIDS – we were advised by CWAC to contact Cheshire Police to loan a SID, having done that there are none available in working order (all very old and not working). Clerk has enquired about the purchase of a SID £4600 each and can be moved around, to pre-approved locations. Email from Head of Highways supporting our request for a permanent device (noted 60 people recorded speeding between January and March)

Clerk has purchased new defibrillator pads and batteries.

5. Planning

5.1 1501/24 resolved the following planning application responses:

None

5.2 To discuss enforcement/complaints:

Rushmere Lodge, wall / fence refused application – awaiting decision re enforcement of fence

The mosses - lodge home - awaiting planning application

Bawsgate Farm barns used as holiday lets / renovations not in accordance with planning permission – awaiting application for COU.

Clerk to further chase for updates.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements: Barclays account showed a balance remaining of £28,905.27. The total account balances is £93,262.69 including savings accounts. 1501/24 agreed the following:

6.2 Pay reimbursement K Rayner £33.50

6.3 Pay Community Donation payments as agreed October meeting. Confirmed £250 to café towards toilet block improvements.

6.4 Pay Wreath donation £35

6.5 Note CIL funding 2024/25 £3985.99

6.6 Request for funding towards mounting block at Whitegate Station carpark costing £565, location has been agreed with the ranger. Concern raised regarding safety in the dark and risk of cyclists hitting it, to ask that reflective strips are added. PC discussed the request, we have already awarded our grants for this year and are over-spent, agreed not to support this request.

6.7 Discussed budget preparation for agreement at December meeting. Include £2k for the Beeches and £15k road safety. Continue to include a budget for tree planting, clerk to update for agreement next month.
Action: clerk

7. Road Safety update

7.1 Several meeting have taken place:

1) meeting with school 5th July next meeting scheduled 3rd December. Confirmed that the criteria to increase school numbers does not take account of parking/congestion it is based on capacity and school numbers. Discussed what school was doing to address behaviours. We are still pursuing a 20 mph limit, and Ward Cllr Gina Lewis taking that back to Head of Highways for further consideration.

2) Meeting with Andrew Cooper MP 20th September – covered several topics including enforcement, road safety/congestion in village, United Utilities.

3) Meeting with Highways and school 13/10/24 – wasn't a representative day as a class was not there, Cllr Rayner has explained it was not representative, it did undermine our approach. Wig Wag signs one condemned as requiring urgent replacement this financial year, zig zag lines now complete. Interactive signs, all data led, no collision data, but we are paying for this so need to discuss location with Ian Rutherford, H-bars need to be applied for directly by residents. Noted Sutton field residents also attended the resident meeting with MP and raised concerns so it is affecting the wider area. Need to focus on School / Grange Lane. Unsure of cost, possibly in the region of £200 per h-bar. PCSO has been enforcing positive speeding, we are unsure if he has issued any parking notices, invite to future meeting.

9. Parish Issues

9.1 The Beeches potholes – discussed above

9.2 United Utilities – nothing new. Residents of Cassia Green have a management meeting on 25/11. The MP has a contact, John Martin Public Affairs is the person to speak with.

9.3 Parish Issues – no other issues

9.4 Meeting scheduled with the footpath officer and secretary from Mid Cheshire Footpath society. They are going to discuss a list of footpaths, talked about non registered footpaths and permissive paths. We are grateful to those who continue to undertake regular litter picking, we will set our date for the annual litter pick at the February meeting.

9.5 Christmas lights switch on Sat 7th December 5.15pm. Erect tree Monday 2nd Dec 9.30am. Need cable ties. Agreed donation to St Lukes Hospice, invite them to the event.

10. Items for information and discussion only.

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
9.4	Apr 24	Order litter pick circles	Clerk
6.1	Apr 24	Saving account's investigate / CCLA contact ChALC	Clerk
3.2	July 24	Meeting with Headteacher follow-up H Bars	KR
3.4	Nov 24	Bank mandate	Clerk
3.5	Nov 24	Climate change toolkit	CH
3.5	Nov 24	Chalc Comms survey	Clerk
6.7	Nov 24	Budget 2025/26	Clerk

Agenda Call forward

Ref	Call forward date	Description
	Tbc	VRA re gritting, nuns grave
	Feb 25	Littler pick date

Notes: