

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2017

Present: Councillors R Bate (Chair), L Fernyhough, R Fisher, I Fountain, D Hockenhill, Ms W Johnson, H Kazi, J McQuillan, P Warner, Mrs E Welborn, G Welborn, P Wenlock and C Worsley.

In Attendance: Susan Brooks, Clerk to the Council.

192. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors A Bennett and C Taylor would be accepted.

193. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

194. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

195. Minutes

Action

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th December 2016 and Planning Committee held on 5th January 2017 be approved as a correct record.

196. Presentation by Chief Superintendent Andy Southcott and Inspector Neil Drum

Chief Superintendent Andy Southcott presented an update on policing issues to Councillors. The Chief Superintendent was responsible for front line policing throughout the whole of Cheshire and had been in the Police for 30 years. He felt that PCSO's played a fundamental part in policing and that they represented localism, engagement, visibility and filled an important gap in the service. The Chief Superintendent would like PCSO's to be more visible within the community and hoped to see them on bikes and on foot more to enable them to meet people and get to know the community.

New, portable technology had been introduced to improve efficiency and enable greater accountability and PCSO's had been able to spend more time out in the community.

It was pointed out that roles such as Bus Conductors and Park Keepers, who had historically played a part in keeping the peace, no longer existed and that PSCO's went some way to fill this gap in provision and could get to know individuals within a community and build an awareness of local 'hot spots'.

Originally, when PCSO's were first set up, 1/3 of funding came from the Government, 1/3 from Cheshire Police, and 1/3 from funding partners (Parish Councils) but the Government subsequently withdrew from this arrangement.

Existing funding arrangements had led to some distortion of the service. Some areas had more PSCO's than others and some had more PCSO's than were needed to deliver the service. Some Parish Councils funded PCSO's and some did not but both still received the same service. A review was being carried out to try to address these issues. The size of the population and index of deprivation would be taken into consideration.

The budget was challenging but it was a priority that front line policing should be preserved. Restructuring had been carried out and layers of supervision were being removed resulting in less management. They were looking at what resources were available and how best to use them. It had been noted that PCSO's had been pulled away from their areas of duty more than they would have liked.

There would be a named PCSO for each area in future, but if funding partners wanted to fund more than this 'standard service' they could opt for an 'enhanced service' which would include an extra, fully funded, PCSO position. This 'enhanced service' would cost £34,000.00. It would be possible for funding partners to

come together to partially fund an extra PCSO. It was also possible that other sources of funding could be sought such as supermarkets and businesses (Police could provide assistance with these partnerships).

The Chief Superintendent was seeking feedback from Parish Councils as to what Councillors would expect, over and above the 'standard service' (PCSO's visible in the community, holding drop -in surgeries, attending meetings, dealing with local 'hot spots' and providing information) from the enhanced service which would cost £34,000.00 (the cost of 2 PCSO's for 2017/2018 was £24,945.00 – rebate of £4813 owed to the Parish Council).

Councillors responded to say that they felt that better channels of communication were being opened up and that this would lead to a better relationship but that the way funding arrangements had been calculated in the past, based on the number of Band D properties, was an unfair system and should be reviewed.

Councillors also requested improved visibility within the local community, engagement with local residents, and an increased presence at local schools due to traffic concerns. Further discussions would take place at the February Council meeting so that the required feedback could be provided to Chief Superintendent Andy Southcott.

197. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Lauren Copeland

PCSO Lauren Copeland presented an overview of local policing issues as follows:

Incidents:	Burglary	Shoplifting	ASB	Criminal Damage	Traffic Accidents	Theft
Previous 28 days	1	2	14	3	4	1

It had been noted that traffic had been speeding on Broad Lane and PCSO Lauren Calder had requested a sign for 20 mph or rumble markings to try to reduce this problem.

Parking tickets and advisory notices had been given out at St Wilfrid's Primary School and all other local schools were also being monitored. Information was being gathered on hare coursing which had been taking place locally. Police had attended an incident on Broad Lane and Councillors praised local officers on how well the matter had been handled.

A number of regular drop-in surgeries were being held to give local residents a chance to ask questions, seek advice and report local issues of concern. These surgeries would be advertised and a poster had been produced.

198. Correspondence Warrington Borough Council

The following correspondence had been received from Warrington Borough Council and copies were available from the Clerk:

- a) Confirmation that an application had been received from Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council to designate a Neighbourhood Area under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- b) Neighbourhoods in Warrington, News Bulletin October/December 2016.

199. Correspondence Miscellaneous

The following correspondence had been received from a variety of sources and copies were available from the Clerk:

- a) An email from GYCA to say thank you for the donation of £450.00 towards the cost of the lease valuation fee.
- b) A letter of thanks from Warrington YMCA for the donation of £750.00 towards the provision of service over the Christmas period.

- c) A letter of thanks from St Wilfrid's Church for the donation of £150.00 towards the upkeep of the graveyard.
- d) A letter of thanks from All Saints Church for the donation of £150.00 towards the upkeep of the graveyard.
- e) ChALC, notification of the Parish Conference on 23rd January 2017.
- f) Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Newsletter December 2016.
- g) Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable's Round-up Christmas 2016.
- h) Police and Crime Commissioner – consultation on the level of precept increase (consultation ends 24th January 2017).
- i) Post Office Network Consultation, consultation ended 21st December 2016.
- j) SLCC, News Bulletin December 2016.
- k) Highways England Motorway2Motorway (M2M) Metering Pilot Scheme – notification that works were due to take place at the M62 junction 10 (Croft Interchange). Work would start on 3 January 2017 and would last 8 months.

200. Information for Noting

- a) The Parish Council office would be redecorated in February 2017.

201. New Colour Printer for the Parish Council Office

The Canon black and white printer at the office would soon be outside the warranty period at which point maintenance would no longer be supported by Canon. Possible options for leasing a replacement printer were presented to Councillors and consideration was given as to what the requirements were for a replacement and whether or not an A3 printer was required. It was **resolved that** this would be considered further at the February Parish Council meeting.

202. Plaques for the Oak Trees

It was **resolved that** plaques should be installed for the Oak trees recently planted at Grappenhall Heys and Thelwall Village Greens to commemorate HRH Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday. Councillor R Fisher would make enquiries at the Church to see if the plaque for Thelwall Village Green could be displayed at the Church. The Clerk would present options and prices for plaques at the next meeting. **SB/RF**

203. Vandalism at Jubilee Park

There had been problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Jubilee Park and complaints had been received from a number of residents. Fence panels had been removed from gardens and damaged on a number of occasions. Youths had been congregating late at night at the site of the picnic table, which was situated close to garden boundaries. Golf balls had been thrown at windows and a metal cage had been removed from the local Tesco and set on fire in the park. PCSO, Lauren Copeland, requested that residents liaise closely with the police so that they could engage with local youths to try to find a way forward and to reduce the anti-social behaviour. PCSO's had been visiting the park at the end of their shift at around 10.00 p.m. but youths had not been present at that time.

Residents who attended the meeting requested removal of the picnic table and the Clerk would seek quotes to relocate it to a more central park location, further away from garden boundaries. The Clerk was also asked to seek options and prices for CCTV cameras. **SB**

It was **resolved that** the park gates would continue to be left open as, in the past, locked gates had resulted in damage to residents' fences due to youths climbing over them to access the park and it also restricted quick access for police when problems were experienced.

204. Risk Assessment

It was **resolved that** the revised risk assessment would be approved (see copy attached).

205. Litter Picking Events

The Parish Warden, Martin Stuart, had planned a number of litter picking events and it was **resolved that** the following dates would be approved:

- 4th March – Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean
- 8th July
- 7th October

MS

206. GYCA Car Park

An estimate had been received from RMS for resurfacing the GYCA Car Park, which was in poor condition. Details were as follows:

- a) £37,055.50 + VAT for conventional blacktop overlay (£20.03 + VAT per m2).
- b) £29,655.50 + VAT for Micro Asphalt surface treatment to the existing surface (£16.03 + VAT per m2).

In addition to this some preparation work would need to be undertaken to fill potholes and this would cost an additional £6000.00 - £7000.00 + VAT.

Following a discussion it was **resolved that** further estimates would be sought and that the Clerk would ask WBC if they would be able to quote for the work

SB

207. Requests for Financial Assistance

Stockton Heath Parish Council had requested that Councillors consider setting aside a contingency fund due to the possibility of closure of Stockton Heath Library. Library. Membership figures indicated that 1400 regular users lived in Appleton, 1200 in Stockton Heath and 1100 Grappenhall and Thelwall. The outcome for the library would not be known until March 2017, at the earliest, and Councillors felt that it was too early to consider this matter. Until more information was available they would not be in a position to make a resolution.

208. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved that** accounts for payment totalling £34,095.43 be approved.

209. Consideration of Planning Applications

Seven planning applications were considered (see attached report).