

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 20th JULY 2017

Present: Councillors Mrs E Welborn (Chair), A Bennett, Mrs L K Fernyhough, I Fountain, D Hockenhull, Ms W Johnson, H Kazi, J McQuillian, C Taylor, P Warner, G Welborn, P Wenlock and C Worsley.

In Attendance: Susan Brooks, Clerk to the Council.

51. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors R Fisher and M Biggin. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Bate.

52. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

53. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

54. Minutes

Action

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15th June and the minutes of the Planning meeting on 6th July are approved as a correct record.

55. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Jordan Calder and PC Wendy Whitehead

The PCSOs were unable to attend but an update report on local issues and crime statistics was sent, details were as follows:

- 22 Anti Social Behaviour incidents (8 at Grappenhall Hall School)
- 2 Criminal Damage incidents
- 3 Road Traffic Collisions (no injuries)
- 1 Shoplifting incident (at the Co-op on Knutsford Road)
- 1 Theft
- 2 Thefts from a Motor Vehicle

The priorities for the next month would be Grappenhall Hall School, school parking and shoplifting.

56. Correspondence Warrington Borough Council (WBC)

The following correspondence has been received from Warrington Borough Council and copies are available from the Clerk:

- a) Notification of the Transport for the North stakeholder consultation in Warrington on 5th July 2017 at the Gateway.

57. Correspondence Miscellaneous

The following miscellaneous correspondence has been received and copies are available from the Clerk:

- a) Letter of thanks from St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School for the letter and certificates regarding the children's road safety posters.

58. Information for Noting

- a) Councillor Mrs Welborn and the Parish Warden, Martin Stuart had visited St Wilfrid's C of E Primary School on 5th July to talk to children about taking responsibility for the local environment. The presentation went very well and was very interactive. It was hoped that more sessions would take place in the future.

- b) Councillor Mrs Welborn had attended a Police meeting with David Keane (Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire) and Chief Inspector Pengelly plus other Parish Council Chairs, regarding concerns and priorities of the community. Councillor Welborn provided an update for members.
- c) The RFO had arranged the biennial Arboricultural Tree survey for Jubilee and Diamond Park, which was carried out by Lowther Forestry. Some minor works were required at Jubilee Park (coppice one tree and fell another tree). Quotes were being sought for the works.
- d) The External Audit submission had been completed by the RFO and was sent off on 6th July.
- e) The RFO had been asked to do a Sport England Community Asset Fund grant for Grappenhall Cricket Club (to be charged). Work on this grant would commence in August, once the WREN grants for Jubilee and Diamond had been completed/submitted.

59. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor P Wenlock provided members with an update on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, following on from the latest meeting on 3rd July. A questionnaire was being developed and the Steering Group were planning to engage with local residents by organising public meetings. Suitable venues were being sought and a banner would be produced for publicity purposes.

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 3rd September and it was anticipated that parish wide consultation would commence during September to seek local knowledge, skills and expertise. Two public consultation meetings would be held and those who attended would be asked if they would be interested in becoming a member of the group. The Clerk would enquire whether Thelwall Village Hall could be used for a public meeting. **SB**

WBC would be consulted during the process to ensure that there was no conflict with WBC policy. It was **resolved that** Councillors P Wenlock and C Taylor would review the WBC Local Plan Preferred Development Option Consultation document and would circulate the relevant information to Councillors so that individual responses could be collated by the Clerk and used to formulate a collective Parish Council response. There would be a presentation from Michael Bell, WBC, for South Warrington Parish Councillors on 6th September at 2.30 p.m. at Appleton Parish Hall. The public consultation ends on 12th September but Parish Councils are permitted to send responses at a later date. **PW/CGT**

60. Security at Grappenhall Hall School Site

There have been repeated problems with security on the site of Grappenhall Hall School. Groups of youths have been congregating there and the police have been called on many occasions.

It was **resolved that** preventative measures should be taken and that the Clerk would write to:

1. Chief Inspector Pengelly to ask that the site be put on police patrol lists.
2. WBC to express concerns regarding health and safety at the site and request urgent improvements to security measures.
3. The Fire Service to express concerns regarding potential fire hazards. **SB**

61. Parks and Open Spaces Committee

A meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee was held on 20th June during which it was resolved that a WREN grant application would be re-submitted for Diamond Park. This would also include a petition signed by residents, additional consultation questionnaires and an increased contribution of £10,174.00 funding from the Parish Council (£5174 third party funding plus an additional £5000 Parish Council contribution). **SB/JR**

A WREN grant application would also be submitted as soon as possible for Jubilee Park. A grant of circa £50,000 would be sought. A consultation was currently being carried out and a petition had been started at Grappenhall Walking Day. It was **resolved that** the Parish Council would commit funds of circa £10,000 towards the grant application for Jubilee Park. **SB/JR**

62. SLCC Cheshire Branch Conference

It was **resolved that** permission would be given for the Clerk to attend the SLCC Cheshire Branch Conference on Thursday 21st September 2017. The cost was £25.00 for the full day and training included planning, risk management, employment law and social media amongst other things.

63. Feedback from the GYCA Liaison Committee

A discussion had taken place on 10th July between the GYCA Liaison Committee members and the GYCA Trustees. The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor G Welborn, reported that the meeting had been very useful and had highlighted the need to improve communications in order to avoid misunderstandings. It was noted that successful partnership work had resulted in the much needed new car park surface.

Councillors M Biggin and P Wenlock were thanked for becoming Trustees for GYCA Charity and for their contribution and commitment to the organisation which was of great benefit to the local community.

It was suggested that residents, in general, were not aware of the relationship between GYCA and the Parish Council and that if the Parish Council were given prior information it would be easier to answer queries and investigate complaints and concerns from residents. It was agreed that quarterly meetings would be held in future and that it was important that the Parish Council operate in an open and transparent way.

Councillor Graham Welborn expressed that he no longer wished to be Chairman and resigned from the Committee with immediate effect. The remaining members were Councillors Mrs L Fernyhough, P Warner and R Bate. Councillor C Worsley expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

It was **resolved that** the protocol for Dispensation Requests and Declarations of Interest would be closely examined and advice sought from the SLCC. Further information would be presented by the Clerk at the September meeting to ensure that correct procedures were being followed and so that conflicts of interest would be avoided. It was noted that Councillor P Wenlock had been granted a Dispensation Request to enable him to take part in discussions but not to vote. **SB**

It was noted that the Parish Council represented both the Community Centre and the residents and must be impartial. Any problems in relation to noise levels could be investigated by the Environmental Health Department if necessary and a fair judgement would be made.

It was reported that GYCA had carried out work to the side garden to make it low maintenance, to improve the appearance and that the area would be used as a children's play area. The WBC Licensing Department confirmed that the side garden area was not licensed for the consumption of alcohol and that the area was not covered by off-sales. This meant that no opened bottles or containers could be taken into that area and signs had been put up to make this clear to users. Concerns were raised regarding Health and Safety requirements for children's play areas and it was recommended that checks should be made to ensure compliance with recommendations and regulations.

It was also **resolved that** the GYCA Liaison Committee would be further discussed at the September meeting.

64. Request for Financial Assistance

a) Grappenhall Sports Junior FC requested £300.00 towards the cost of new footballs, bibs, cones and other football equipment. It was **resolved that** a grant of £300.00 would be made.

65. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved that** accounts for payment totalling £29,406.37 be approved.

66. Consideration of Planning Applications

The recent planning applications were considered (see attached report).