

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2018

Present: Councillors Mrs E Welborn (Chair), R Bate, A Bennett, M Biggin, I Fountain, D Hockenhill, J McQuillian, G Welborn, P Wenlock and C Worsley.

In Attendance: Janet Richards, Clerk to the Council/RFO.

Action

190. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors Mrs L Fernyhough, R Fisher, Ms W Johnson, C Taylor and P Warner be accepted.

191. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

Councillor M Biggin declared an interest in item 207b (funding request from All Saints Church) and took no part in the discussion on that item.

192. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 18th January, the Resources Committee meeting on 15th January and the Planning Committee meeting on 1st February be approved as a correct record.

193. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were made.

194. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Jordan Calder

PCSO Jordan Calder attended the meeting and reported the following crime statistics:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Incidents	4
- Burglary	2
- Road Traffic Collisions	2
- Theft – Shoplifting	1
- Theft	1

The priorities for the forthcoming month in Warrington South would be: shoplifting, speeding, anti-social behaviour and school parking.

195. David Cowley, WBC Draft Housing Strategy Report – Consultation

David Cowley attended the meeting to brief members on the Draft Housing Strategy Report that he had recently produced. David provided a useful overview of the initiatives carried out by his team at WBC and explained the background behind the production of the Draft Housing Strategy. Parish Councillors had prepared a list of questions/queries which were put to David and which prompted further discussion. It was **resolved that** the Clerk would summarise the Parish Council's concerns/questions and submit by the consultation deadline of 23rd March.

JR

196. Correspondence Warrington Borough Council

- Draft Housing Strategy report/consultation.
- Notification of Neighbourhoods in Warrington, Memory Walk for Alzheimer's society at Victoria Park, Warrington on Sunday 25th March.

197. Correspondence Miscellaneous

- a) Letter of thanks from All Saints Church PCC for the Parish Council donation of £2500 towards heritage repair works.
- b) Letter of thanks from All Saints Church PCC for the Parish Council donation of £150 towards the maintenance of the church graveyard.
- c) Letter from Cheshire Constabulary regarding PCSO Funding Arrangements for 2018/19.
- d) Cheshire Fire Authority, Council Tax Precept Consultation – seeking views on proposals to increase its share of the precept by 2.99%.
- e) Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire – Funding for Public Service – have your say.

198. Information for Noting

- a) A Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting took place on 5th February.
- b) A South Warrington Parish PDO Liaison Working Group meeting took place on 6th February.
- c) A meeting with Bill Bradley from English Half Marathon took place on 25th January.
- d) The Clerk and the Chair met with Faisal Rashid on 26th January to discuss local issues, along with representatives from other South Warrington Parish Councils.
- e) PAT testing and ‘electrical installation conditions testing’ had been completed in February for the Parish Council Office and the Walled Garden.
- f) A vacancy for a part time Visitor Warden at the Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden had been advertised locally.
- g) An iPad and 3 new chairs had been purchased for the Parish Council Office.

199. Revised Financial Regulations

The Clerk had revised the Financial Regulations in line with recent changes to the Standing Orders (adopted January 2018). It was **resolved that** the revised Financial Regulation would be adopted.

200. New Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary Procedure

During the production of the new Staff Contract, it was thought prudent that the Parish Council should have in place, a Grievance Procedure and Disciplinary Procedure. The Clerk had produced both of these new procedures (based on the NALC model procedures for both) and it was **resolved that** both would be adopted.

201. New Staff Contracts

The Deputy Clerk had produced a new draft staff contract, following discussions at recent Resources Committee meetings. The new contract was based on WBC and SLCC contracts and had been reviewed by a HR Consultant (Wendy Roberts from HR Connected) at a cost of £200. It was **resolved that** this new staff contract would be adopted and implemented from 1st April 2018 (along with new job descriptions).

JR/SB

202. New Parish Council Website

It was **resolved that** this item would be deferred until the March Parish Council meeting.

203. Railings around the Stocks in Grappenhall Village

It was **resolved that** the existing white railings around the stocks in Grappenhall Village (outside St Wilfrids Church) would be repainted in black by Martin Stuart, Parish Warden.

204. Litter Picking

It was **resolved that**, in line with the Parish Warden’s recommendations, the following litter picking sessions would take place during 2018:

1. Saturday 3rd March (10am to 12.30pm) - as part of the national ‘Great British Spring Clean’
2. Saturday 7th July (10am to 12:30pm) – as part of the Parish Council Community Pride initiative.
3. Saturday 6th October (10am to 12:30pm) – as part of the Parish Council Community Pride initiative.

It was also **resolved that** the March Parish Council agenda would include an item on other initiatives that could be undertaken in relation to the Community Pride Competition.

205. Update on South Warrington Parishes PDO/Local Plan Liaison

The Clerk reported that representatives from all South Warrington Parish Councils met on Tuesday 6th February at the Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council Office to discuss working together and employing a Planning Consultant/Barrister to represent all parishes when the revised Local Plan had been issued. The next meeting would take place on Monday 12th March. Three or four Planning Consultants would be invited to attend to pitch their services and the Clerk would produce ‘Terms of Reference’ for them.

JR

206. Update on Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire had been prepared and distributed both electronically and in hard copy format. The questionnaire included questions relating to the protection of green spaces, use of greenfield sites, housing styles and employment land. The results of the survey would form the basis of the public consultation events, which would run in the Spring.

207. Requests for Financial Assistance

- a) North West Air Ambulance requested a general donation. It was **resolved that** a sum of £500 would be donated.
- b) All Saints Church – following a donation of £2500 in December 2017 for emergency heritage repairs, the church had requested further funding as the price of the work had increased by £1000. It was **resolved that** no further financial assistance would be made.

208. Accounts for Payment & Expenditure to Date

Resolved that accounts for payment totalling £25,148.17 be approved. The Clerk/RFO outlined expenditure to date and confirmed that expenditure was ‘on target’.

209. Consideration of Planning Applications

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