

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017

**Present:** Councillors Mrs E Welborn (Chair), M Biggin, R Fisher, I Fountain, H Kazi, J McQuillan, P Warner, G Welborn, P Wenlock and C Worsley.

**In Attendance:** Susan Brooks, Clerk to the Council and Janet Richards, Responsible Financial Officer.

### 111. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors R Bate, A Bennett, Mrs L K Fernyhough, D Hockenhull, Ms W Johnson and C Taylor would be accepted.

### 112. Dispensation Requests

Dispensation requests were received from Councillors P Wenlock and M Biggin to request permission to participate in discussions relating to Grappenhall Youth and Community Association and also to vote. A discussion took place and it was suggested that residents see the Community Centre as associated with the Parish Council. Concerns were raised that there could be a perceived conflict of interest. It was considered that an open and professional line of communication would be required before a decision could be made. It was **resolved that** a meeting of the GYCA Liaison Committee would be arranged and that the matter would be deferred until after a meeting of the Committee had taken place.

### 113. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

### 114. Minutes

**Resolved that** the minutes of the Parish Council on 21<sup>st</sup> September and Planning Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> October be approved as a correct record.

**Action**

### 115. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Sharon Perrie

PCSO Sharon Perrie was accompanied by PCSO Becky Blackledge and an update on local issues and crime statistics was presented. Details were as follows:

- 9 Anti Social Behaviour incidents (6 relating to youths on bikes/drinking, 2 dog incidents)
- 1 Burglary
- 2 Criminal Damage incidents
- 2 Road Traffic Collisions (no injuries)
- 2 Shoplifting incidents (at the Co-op on Knutsford Road)
- 0 Thefts
- 2 Thefts of a Motor Vehicle

A motorist had been spotted turning right at the junction from the Tesco car park on to East View and this would be monitored. Photographs would be forwarded to the PCSOs so that this could be followed up. A request was made that a Speed Camera should be placed on Thelwall New Road near to the school.

### 116. Correspondence Warrington Borough Council (WBC)

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

- a) A letter from the Principal Highway Engineer to say that weight restriction signage in relation to Stanney Lunt Bridge (6 tonnes) and Grappenhall Bridge (8 tonnes) would be improved. The Clerk would follow this up and request further information. Concerns had been raised regarding damage to the newly laid cobbles. **SB**
- b) Invitation to a series of 'Transport Summits' – Passenger Transport on 15<sup>th</sup> November and Managing our Highways on 29<sup>th</sup> November where information will be presented regarding measures to reduce congestion and manage highway safety.

### 117. Correspondence Miscellaneous

The following miscellaneous correspondence had been received and copies were available from the Clerk:

- a) A letter from Faisal Rashid MP including his objection response to WBC regarding the Preferred Development Option Consultation.
- b) A letter of thanks for the donation of £300.00 made to the Grappenhall and Thelwall Royal British Legion.
- c) Notification of the consultation on the Housing White Paper published on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Consultation ends on 9 November 2017.
- d) A letter of thanks from a resident for the assistance given by the Parish Warden to trim a hedge on Bellhouse Lane.

### 118. Information for Noting

- a) Grappenhall Cricket Club had asked if the RFO would prepare a Sport England grant application for £20,000.00 for the refurbishment of their community room. The RFO was happy to do the additional hours and these would be charged back to the Cricket Club.
- b) Livewire had notified the RFO that the first share interest payment to members of 4%, would be paid in October. For our £15,000.00 investment the figure would be £600.00. The RFO asked members to consider how they might wish to allocate this additional money. This would be reviewed at the November Parish Council meeting.

### 119. Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Planning Applications

Kirkwells Planning Consultants had been employed, at a cost of £500.00, to produce a professional objection response to the HCA planning application for 400 houses at Grappenhall Heys. The planning applications for both Grappenhall Heys and Appleton (application numbers 2017/29929 and 2017/29930) for a total of 770 houses, were, however approved at the WBC Development Management Committee Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was noted that Councillor Ryan Bate had spoken very well at the meeting and given a very good interview afterwards. Following recommendations made by Kirkwells, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had been contacted and a request had been made to call in the applications and a response was awaited.

### 120. PCSO Funding

The Chairman, Elaine Welborn, had attended a meeting with David Keane and it had been confirmed that 1 PCSO would be provided per electoral ward, based on the old 2011 ward boundaries for Grappenhall and Thelwall. The Parish Council would be able to express their priorities but the Police would have the final say regarding deployment. The Police would be seeking bases within the community for PCSOs who would no longer be starting from a central location.

Hours of work would be 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. and there would be a central pool of 6 PCSOs to provide cover for sickness and absence and maintain continuity of service.

From April 2018 onwards, the Parish Council would have one PCSO allocated, at no cost, but a second PCSO, would cost £33,280.00 per annum. The cost could potentially go up annually within the 3 year period. In summary the options were as follows:

1. To pay an additional £8515.00 for an extra PCSOs so we had 2 PCSOs.
2. To share the cost of a second PCSO with another Parish Council which would cost £16,640.00. We currently pay £24,765.00 and so this option would save £8125.00 which could be re-allocated to pay for other services.
3. To have only one PCSO, at no cost to us, which would result in a saving of £24,765.00 which could be re-allocated to pay for other services.

Concerns highlighted were the lack of accountability, restrictions in the responsibilities of PCSOs, value for money. Following a vote it was **resolved that** option 3 would be chosen and that the Parish Council would have 1 PCSO at no cost. This represented a saving of £24,765.00 which could be reallocated. Discussions

would take place at the next Parish Council meeting as to how best to reallocate this money. Amongst the suggestions were environmental improvements, professional fees, play areas, staff training and reserves. It was requested that Councillors should send suggestions to the Clerk before the November meeting.

**121. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

The last scheduled meeting of the group had been put on hold due to the Preferred Development Option Consultation (PDO). The Neighbourhood Plan would now be progressed as soon as possible and a further meeting had been planned for 26<sup>th</sup> October. The Social Media network set up in relation to the PDO would be of great use in seeking the support of residents. The housing target in the 2014 Local Plan had been challenged and it was unclear what impact that would have on the PDO.

**122. Grappenhall Hall School Security Measures**

Following a meeting with Arthur Pritchard from Warrington Borough Council Estates and Property team, Councillors J McQuillan and C Worsley reported that the level and quality of the security measures provided had increased substantially. A new security management company had been appointed, security fencing had been erected around the main building, 24 infra-red cameras had been installed, alarm sirens had been installed and a guard would be on patrol 24/7.

It was noted that staff of St Wilfrid's school were permitted to use the entrance for parking but evidence suggested that this area was also being used in the evenings for parking. The Clerk would raise this matter with St Wilfrid's to see if the gate could be locked after use. **SB**

WBC Estate and Planning teams had met to discuss a disposal strategy for the site. Local contributions to the development brief would be sought and encouraged.

**123. External Audit**

The RFO was pleased to report that the External Audit, completed by BDO Auditors had been concluded as *'on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion, the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met'*. There was one minor issue arising, which necessitated an amendment to the annual return relating to the Arnold Stansby fund (fixed assets section).

**124. Updated Financial Regulations**

The RFO had updated the Financial Regulations, in line with the NALC Model Financial Regulations, as recommended by the Internal Auditor. It was **resolved that** the revised regulations would be adopted.

**125. Remembrance Day Wreath**

It was **resolved that** the Chairman, Elaine Welborn, would lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Thelwall War Memorial on Remembrance Day. Councillor G Welborn agreed to find out the cost of a suitable wreath and inform the Clerk. **GW**

**126. Accounts for Payment**

It was **resolved that** accounts for payment totalling £20,633.01 be approved.

**127. Budget for the Financial Year 2018/2019**

The RFO, Janet Richards, would prepare a draft budget for the financial year 2018/2019 during the next month, which would be presented to the November Parish Council meeting for discussion, amendment and resolution. It was requested that members should contact the RFO if they have any suggestions for budget items they wish to add to the 2018/2019 budget or amend.

**128. Consideration of Planning Applications**

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