

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Present:** Councillors P Wenlock (Chair), R Bate, Ms S Chisholm, Mrs L Fernyhough, J McQuillian, R Fisher, P Warner and C Worsley

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

**Action**

**64. Apologies for Absence**

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors A Bennett, M Biggin, D Hockenhull, Ms W Johnson, H Kazi, Mrs E Welborn, G Welborn and C Taylor be accepted.

**65. Disclosure of Pecuniary & Personal Interests**

Councillor R Fisher declared an interest in minute ref. 72 b).

**66. Minutes**

**Resolved that** the minutes of the Recess Committee meeting 15<sup>th</sup> August and Planning Committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September be approved as a true record.

**67. Dispensation Requests**

No dispensation requests were received.

**68. Correspondence Warrington Borough Council/Miscellaneous**

- a) Notification of Structural Maintenance works on New Lane, Grappenhall from 30<sup>th</sup> September for up to 4 weeks. The road would be closed from 9:30am to 4:30pm.
- b) Statement of Licensing Policy: Licensing Act 2003: Consultation on the revised draft Licensing Policy for 2020-2025 via WBC website <http://www.warrington.gov.uk/consultation> (deadline 23rd October).

**69. Information for Noting**

- a) The next meeting of the Grappenhall Heys Estates Committee would take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October.
- b) The next meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee was currently being arranged and would take place in September/October 2019.
- c) The Quays Community Centre had closed at the end of August 2019. It was agreed at the meeting to move the Parish Council/Lymm Round Table defibrillator from the Quays to the Doctors Surgery.
- d) The External Audit and subsequent queries had been completed and the final audit report awaited.
- e) The Clerk was in the process of adding Councillor J McQuillian as an additional Barclays Bank signatory.
- f) A new/additional PC for Susan Clements was currently being quoted/on order from Rob Worsley.
- g) A WREN grant completion report for Jubilee Park had been completed by the Clerk.
- h) The new Horticultural Apprentice (Mr Bradley Lowe from Woolston) had started work on 17<sup>th</sup> September. He would be at Reaseheath College on Mondays and would work with Graham Richardson (and Martin) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- j) Fire Risk Training would take place for staff on 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- k) Social media training would take place for staff on 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- l) Councillor McQuillian had met with Simon Twigg (WBC Arboriculturalist) on 6<sup>th</sup> September to discuss further tree works on Narrow Lane/Grappenhall Hall School site.

**JR**

**70. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

Councillor Ms S Chisholm reported that a meeting of volunteers had taken place at the end of July. Turnout had unfortunately been poor. Future plans include running workshops to attract more volunteers.

## 71. Local Plan & Associated Issues

Councillor R Bate reported that there had been no update on the Local Plan, nor the Planning Application known as Six56, however there had been progress to report on Stobart.

The first Stobart Planning Application had been refused by WBC (At Development Control Committee), despite a recommendation of approval by WBC Planning Department. Stobart had appealed this decision and this appeal would take place from 15<sup>th</sup> October for up to 4 days. The South Warrington Parishes and their Planning Consultant (John Groves) would be acting as a Rule 6 party at this appeal. WBC had revoked their reasons for refusal (on Counsel advice) so would not be submitting any evidence at the appeal. The Secretary of State appeal had decided to 'call in' the decision - so that the final decision would be made by the Secretary of State, based on the recommendation of the Inspector (as opposed to the Inspector making the final decision).

The second Stobart Planning Application was approved in July, however various parties (including the South Warrington Parishes) had written to the Secretary of State to request this this application decision should be 'called in'. We are awaiting the decision from the Secretary of State on this.

The South Warrington Parishes are also considering undertaking a Judicial Review on the process that WBC took in coming to a decision to approve the Stobart second Planning Application, as they believe it was flawed. Advice had been taken from Jonathan Easton (Barrister), who agreed that the process seemed flawed.

## 72. Requests for Financial Assistance

a) Thelwall Royal Legion – a request had been received for funding towards Remembrance Sunday celebrations on 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was **resolved that** a donation of £300 would be made.

b) All Saints Church – a request had been received in July 2019 for a sum of £25,000 towards the new car park at the Parish Hall. It was resolved in July to obtain a quote from Dowhigh (the contractors who did similar work at GYCA car park). The Assistant Clerk had obtained the quote which came to £19,644.20+VAT. Previous quotes obtained by the church had been in the region of £60,000. It was **resolved that** Councillor Mrs L Fernyhough would speak with Rev'd Douglas Black and report back to the October meeting.

LF

## 73. Christmas Lights

It had been agreed in early 2019 that new Christmas lights would be purchased for the parish in readiness for Christmas 2019. As a starting point, the Assistant Clerk had obtained some quotations from Warrington Borough Council for new lights at Thelwall Primary School, Thelwall New Road and on the corner of Broad Lane/Church Lane. The total cost would be £1930+VAT plus an annual cost of £780 for putting up and taking down each year. It was **resolved that** the Assistant Clerk would obtain some comparative quotes, but in principle, expenditure equal or below the WBC quotation was approved.

CF

## 74. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved** that accounts for payment totalling £17,679.14 be approved.

## 75. Expenditure to date

The Clerk reported that an 'on target' expenditure for September (month 6) would be 50%. The Parish Council expenditure was 43% and the Walled Garden expenditure was 44%. No issues of concern reported.

## 76. Consideration of Planning Applications

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