

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE ON THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors P Wenlock (Chair), A Bennett, R Bate, M Biggin, D Hockenull, Mrs L Fernyhough, H Kazi, J McQuillan, C Taylor, Mrs E Welborn, G Welborn and C Worsley

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

Action

118. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors Ms S Chisholm, R Fisher, Ms W Johnson and P Warner are accepted.

119. Disclosure of Pecuniary & Personal Interests

No disclosures were made.

120. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 21st November and Planning meeting on 5th December be approved as a true record.

121. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

122. Information for Noting

- a) The Parks & Open Spaces meeting had to be cancelled twice. Hopefully an agreeable date would be set to hold the meeting in the New Year.
- b) A Public Right of Way breach had taken place at Caddicks (footpath No. 8), whereby the footpath had been obstructed. The Clerk had reported it to the relevant Officer at WBC.
- c) The culprit of the stone wall incident near the Parr Arms pub had been identified and the wall had now been rebuilt.
- d) The Gig Lane land encroachment and the wall collapse on Half Acre Lane were still being dealt with by the Clerk.
- e) The Clerk is investigating sources of funding for traffic calming (ref. Local Speedwatch Group).
- f) The Christmas lights have been switched on outside Thelwall Primary School, Grappenhall Village and Thelwall Village Green. They will be taken down in January and stored to ensure longevity.

123. Litter at the Quays

Councillor Taylor reported that the litter situation at the Quays on Thelwall New Road (in particular the car park and around the shop) was very bad. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would write to the owners to ask what they intended to do about the litter situation (and copy the letter to Warrington Housing). It was also **resolved** that the Clerk would find out where the bin had gone (previously sited near the front pathway to the Quays) and find out who is responsible for it.

JR

124. Local Plan & Associated Issues

Councillor Taylor provided an update to members and also gave an overview on the Stobarts appeal that took place in mid-October 2019. A decision would be due on the appeal by March 2020. The Local Plan process had been delayed, with further news expected during early 2020.

125. South Warrington Parish Council Local Plan Working Group

The South Warrington Parishes Working Group (led by Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council) had requested that all Parish Councils involved, allocate a total sum of 'up to £25,000' for any further Local Plan or associated challenges in 2020-2021. The split of this £25,000 for Grappenhall & Thelwall would be £7580. It was **resolved** this further funding request is endorsed.

126. Precept/Budget for 2020/2021

The Clerk presented members with two draft budgets based on a precept increase of 2% and 5%. It was **resolved** that a precept increase would be requested at 7%, which equates to a 2020/21 precept amount of £176,035.33. The Clerk would inform WBC of this precept requirement by the deadline of 10th January. **JR**

127. Employer Pension Discretions Policy Statement for Employees

It was **resolved** that the Employer Pension Discretions Policy Statement for Employees, prepared by the Assistant Clerk, and emailed out prior to the meeting, would be adopted. **CF**

128. Requests for Financial Assistance

- a) Councillor Hockenhull requested that consideration be given to making a donation to the 'Room at the Inn Project'. It was **resolved** that a donation of £1000 be made.
- b) Grappenhall Cricket Club requested financial assistance towards roof repairs at the club. It was **resolved** that a donation of £1000 be made.

Further discussion took place on giving donations to other worthy organisations/charities on an annual or ad-hoc basis, and it was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting. **JR**

129. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved** that accounts for payment totalling £21,235.55 be approved.

130. Expenditure to date

The Clerk reported that expenditure at month 9 (December) was under budget. The 'on target' budget was 75%, however the overall actual expenditure was running at 64%.

131. Consideration of Planning Applications

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