

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2020

Present: Councillors D Hockenhull (Chair), R Bate, Ms S Chisholm, Mrs L Fernyhough, Ms W Johnson, J McQuillan, C Taylor, P Warner, Mrs E Welborn and G Welborn

Action

22. Apologies for Absence

It was **resolved that** apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors R Fisher and H Kazi would be accepted (they both were unable to connect to the meeting via Zoom).

23. Disclosure of Pecuniary & Personal Interests

No disclosures were made.

24. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 21st May and Planning meeting on 4th June be approved as a true record.

25. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

26. Information for Noting

- a) The Clerk had informed WBC of the Casual Vacancies arising from the resignation of Paul Wenlock and Andrew Bennett. The relevant notices were on the website and the noticeboards. The closing date would be 19th June – after which if an election was not called, then co-option could take place.
- b) Jubilee Park re-opened on 1st June (the play area would remain closed until further advice from the government). As of 22nd June, the park would open 8am to 8pm.
- c) The Pleasure grounds ‘only’, at the Walled Garden re-opened on 2nd June.
- d) The Clerk had part completed the Internal Audit (electronically). Further hard copy checks would take place after the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.
- e) The Chains of Office would shortly be sent to Fattorini for engraving.
- f) The office had received a large number of complaints regarding trees and fly-tipping.
- g) A meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee was currently being scheduled.
- h) The Parish Warden had been supplied with the necessary PPE. He had been unable to use the WBC vehicle for rubbish disposal, but WBC had agreed to collect rubbish bags from Stockton Lane.

27. Purchase of a Van for the Parish Warden

Discussion took place on the proposal that the Parish Council purchase a flatbed truck for use by the Parish Warden. The Assistant Clerk presented cost estimates for the lease of a flatbed truck (circa £220+VAT per month plus insurance). The Clerk confirmed that the funds would be available in the ‘Environmental Budget’. It was **resolved that** the Parish Council would lease a suitable flatbed truck and try to source, if possible, an electric-powered vehicle. The insurance would be for multiple drivers. **CF**

28. Stone Snake at Diamond Park

Outside the entrance to Diamond Park, local children had painted small stones and put them into a snake design (in line with the Covid Snake Community Initiative). The Assistant Clerk reported that the cost for embedding them in the park in concrete and varnishing them (for longevity) would be £328+VAT. It was **resolved that** the Parish Council would go ahead with this initiative. **CF**

29. South Warrington Parish Council Local Plan Working Group

Councillor Taylor and Councillor Bate provided an update to members. In brief, as follows:

- The Local Plan was ‘on hold’ whilst WBC decided how to proceed
- The Planning Policy Manager was working with Homes England to provide £90 million funding (decision in 4th quarter of 2020)
- The Stobarts ‘Call in’ was outlined and the Secretary of State had asked all interested parties if anything new had occurred since the appeal
- John Groves would produce an update to the Secretary of State on behalf of the South Warrington Parishes Working Group

30. Flexible Additional Hours for the Assistant Clerk

The Clerk requested that members consider granting the Assistant Clerk ‘up to an additional 5 hours per week’ to provide additional support to the Clerk on a flexible basis. It was **resolved that** this be granted with immediate effect.

31. Requests for Funding

- a) GYCA requested £6500 to repair the toilet roof. It was **resolved that** a donation of £5000 would be granted.
- b) Grappenhall Sports Club requested £1875 towards the supply and installation of ten new dog mess bins at the club. It was **resolved that** a donation of £1875 would be granted.
- c) The decision to give the British Red Cross a donation of £500 was discussed. It was **resolved that** the decision to grant £500 (agreed at the May Parish Council meeting) would be revoked.

32. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved** that accounts for payment totalling £17,926.18 be approved.

33. Expenditure to date

The Clerk reported that expenditure at month 3 (June) was under budget. The ‘on target’ budget was 25%, however, the overall actual expenditure was running at 20%.

34. Consideration of Planning Applications

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