

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY GLASSHOUSE, GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

**Present:** Councillors D Hockenhull (Chair), R Bate, M Biggin, S Brookes, M Browne, Ms S Chisholm, B Davies, Mrs L Fernyhough, R Fisher, R Hignett, Ms W Johnson, J McQuillian, Mrs H Speed, C Taylor, P Warner, and C Worsley.

## Action

### 1. Election of Chairman

It was **resolved that** Councillor Dave Hockenhull would serve as Chair of the Council for a further year (2021/22) due to Covid. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed.

### 2. Election of Vice-Chair

It was **resolved that** Councillor John McQuillian would also serve as Vice-Chair of the Council for a further year (2021/22) due to Covid. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed.

### 3. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

### 4. Dispensation Requests

No dispensation requests were received.

### 5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

No disclosures were made.

### 6. Minutes

It was **resolved that** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April, the Planning Committee meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the extraordinary meeting of the Estates Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> April be approved as a true record.

### 7. Appointment of Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

It was **resolved that** appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies be made in accordance with the agreed schedule attached to these minutes.

### 8. Dates of Meetings

It was **resolved that** the meetings of the Council and Committees be held on the dates set out in the schedule attached to these minutes.

### 9. Correspondence

- a) St Wilfrid's Church has thanked the Parish Council for the donation for the new car park and confirmed that fundraising is still on going, but the donation has been ring-fenced for the purpose intended.
- b) Grappenhall Sports Club on Stockton Lane has now installed the new dog bins for which the Parish Council donated funds.

### 10. Information for Noting

- a) The contract of the Horticultural Apprentice (Bradley Lowe) has been extended until July 2022 due to the implications of Covid19 and Reaseheath College being closed for a significant amount of time during the pandemic. The Apprentice has been informed that currently there will not be any fixed employment after July 2022.
- b) St Wilfrid's School have confirmed there will not be a Walking Day this year.

- c) The new waste bin at the top of Hill Top Road has now been installed and the Parish Warden will empty. WBC are at capacity for bin/waste removal in the Borough.
- d) The child safety gate at Diamond Park is away for repair at a cost of £1083 + VAT.
- e) The Walled Gardens opening times have been moved forward to 12pm from 1pm.
- f) The bi-annual Arboricultural Hazard survey is booked for July 2021. Any resident's concerns have been noted and forwarded to the surveyor.
- g) RoSPA have carried out the Annual Inspection with no urgent actions being identified. A full evaluation will follow.

#### **11. PCSO Crime Report**

An updated crime report was emailed to all members prior to the meeting. Councillors requested an update as to how the gentleman was who had been attacked recently by a dog. The Clerk agreed to contact the PCSO and report back.

**CF**

#### **12. Standing Orders**

It was advised that the Standing Orders (Rules and Regulations for the Parish Council 2018) needed to be reviewed by all Councillors. Councillor Chisholm urged everyone to have a thorough read of the document and to advise if they felt any changes were necessary. To be included as an Agenda item at the next meeting. Please notify the Clerk of any proposed changes in advance of the meeting.

**CF**

#### **13. Grappenhall Village Update**

Councillor Bate provided an update to all Councillors on the current situation with regard to The Rectory, Grappenhall Hall School and Morris Brook Park. With regard to the Rectory, the legal situation was still causing delays (Probate). With regard to Grappenhall Hall School, this was part of the Local Plan which had been delayed. It was hoped that progress would resume on this during the summer. Councillor Bate stressed how important it was that the Parish Council must be involved in the development of the Local Plan. Councillor Fernyhough requested a letter be sent to the Council by the Clerk requesting support from the council (until a resolution for the school was agreed) in terms of them providing on-going maintenance and security for the School and school grounds. Lastly, with regard to Morris Brook Park, the final sign off of plans is due in the next few weeks. The flow of the river has been redesigned to stop future erosion. It was hoped that the work would be carried out as soon as possible following the joint sign off of the plan by Warrington Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

#### **14. Thelwall Book Exchange**

This item had been raised by both Councillors Speed and Fernyhough independently of each other. Both having been approached by different groups of local residents. A number of options had been tabled, including the use of an existing telephone box, or shelving to be put up on the side of the hairdressers. Vandalism was noted as an obvious area of concern. Councillor Biggin suggested it might be prudent to speak to both of the pubs in Thelwall as to whether they could accommodate a Book Swap area in either of the pubs. Grappenhall Library was also another suggestion. Councillors Speed and Fernyhough said although good ideas, walking distances had to be considered for some of the more elderly residents of the Parish. It was agreed that they would work together going forward and direct their findings/recommendations via the Parks and Open Spaces Committee in due course.

**PB**

#### **15. Councillor email Addresses**

It was agreed that Councillors would advise the Clerk if they wanted to use the Grappenhall and Thelwall bespoke emails rather than their private ones in future. The Clerk was asked if the email address could be shortened to gtpc as it was currently rather long ([john@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk](mailto:john@grappenhallandthelwallpc.org.uk)). The Clerk agreed to report back at the next meeting, but suggested there would probably be a cost involved.

**CF**

#### **16. South Warrington Parish council Local Plan Working Group**

As advised in the Agenda a new version of the Local Plan is expected from Warrington Borough Council. The South Warrington Local Plan will need updating. It was agreed that Councillor Taylor will write to the Councils south of the Ship Canal and to invite Stockton Heath to join. It was agreed that the Working Group need to be prepared for when the Local Plan is published.

**CT**

**17. Annual Parish Council Accounts**

It was **resolved that** the annual Parish Council Accounts be approved. (accounts attached).

It was advised that the Internal Auditor (JDH Business Service Ltd) will be commencing the Annual Audit on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**18. Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day**

Discussion took place as to whether the Parish Council should have a stand at Thelwall Rose Queen event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021. It was **resolved that** the Parish Council would have a stand and Councillor Johnson stressed that all Councillors need to support the event. Councillor Johnson agreed to liaise with the Clerk as to whether they needed to purchase a new Gazebo for the event.

**CF**

**19. Accounts for Payment**

It was **resolved that** accounts for payment totalling £21,462.38 be approved.

**20. Expenditure to Date**

- An 'on target' expenditure for May (month 2) was 16.67%
- Parish Council expenditure was running at 12%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 18%
- The overall figure was 14%
- No concerns

**21. Consideration of Planning Applications**

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