

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT GRAPPENHALL LIBRARY, VICTORIA ROAD, GRAPPENHALL ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL  
2022**

**Present** Councillors J McQuillian (Vice-Chair), R Bate, S Brooks, M Browne, S Chisholm, B Davies, R Fisher, B Hignett, Ms H Speed, C Taylor, P Warner and C Worsley.

**In attendance** Colette Fellows, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

**Action**

**211. Apologies for Absence**

It was resolved that apologies and reasons for absence from Councillors D Hockenhall (Chair), M Biggin, Ms L Fernyhough and Ms W Johnson would be accepted.

**212. Disclosures of Pecuniary and Personal Interests**

Cllr Fisher and Cllr Ms Speed declared an interest in an item covered in minute ref. 219 (Grant Application from All Saints Church) and took no part in the discussion.

**213. Minutes**

**Resolved that** the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March and Planning Committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April be approved as a true record.

**214. Information for Noting**

a) Members of the Ecological Working Party attended a conference 'Climate Change Summit' which was very informative. The next meeting is on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. Notes from the meeting to be circulated to all members. **MB**

b) The Police Crime Commissioner has awarded the Council a grant of £300 towards the new SID.

c) The Resource Committee have requested a meeting with Arnold Stansby. This is currently being arranged.

d) John Henry (the Internal Auditor) has published his Interim Report.

e) The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society subscription is to be renewed at a cost of £8.

f) The UK Living Wage has increased from £9.50 to £9.90 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April this applies to 3 colleagues.

g) The Estates Committee met on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. Minutes to be circulated.

h) Gym Equipment has now been installed at Jubilee park at a cost of £22,108.30+vat.

**215. PCSO Crime Report**

Members were emailed with the PCSO report after the meeting with the most recent crime statistics: The PCSO currently holds open surgeries for residents to attend. The next surgery is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Thelwall Parish Hall 9.30 -10.30 am. The PCSO also holds virtual surgeries.

Anti-Social Behavior Incidents	= 3
Suspicious Activity	= 3
Burglary	= 4
Criminal Damage	= 1
Road Traffic Collisions	= 0
Shoplifting	= 2
Theft	= 0

**216. Financial Regulations**

The January 2021 Financial Regulations had been reviewed and alterations made, and it was **resolved that** the revised version would be adopted. **CF**

**217. South Warrington Parish Council Local Plan Working Group**

Cllr Bate and Cllr Taylor provided an update to members.

WBC recently approved and submitted the 'Submission version' of the Local Plan which will be examined by an Inspector in due course, probably later this year. There will be no further consultation, but the examination will be in public. The SWP will prepare for the Public Examination.

The Langtree SIX56 application was approved by the Development Management Committee (DMC). This will now be presented to Full Council. Council is minded to approve. SWP has written to the Secretary of State (S of S) for the application to be called in.

Cllr Bate and Cllr Taylor are to seek clarity on possible cost increases they may incur trying to save the 'GreenBelt'. **RB/CT**

**218. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

The Clerk updated members on the current progress in setting up the event for June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The event planned will be advertised on the website/social media, notice boards and a leaflet will be produced and delivered to all residents in the Parish. The Clerk will also apply for a grant with the National Lottery. **CF**

The next Working Party meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

**219. Request for Funding**

A request for funding had been received from GYCA for essential improvements to the emergency lighting system. Accounts for 2020/21 have been supplied. Members requested further information. **CF**

A request has also been received from All Saints Church Thelwall for car park improvements. Up to date accounts had been received. Members requested further information. **CF**

**220. Accounts for Payment**

It was **resolved that** the accounts for payment totalling £59,915.78 be approved.

**221. Scribe Accountancy Software**

The Clerk requested members to consider a new Accountancy Software package. The Clerk has researched various options and with consultation with the Internal Auditor believes that 'Scribe Accountancy Software' is the best fit. Scribe offers

- Uncapped support from a team of accountants
- Daily backups
- Full audit trail
- Unlimited users (members able to have read-only access)
- Unlimited software upgrades
- Easy to read reports at the touch of a button

The cost of the package is £564+vat per year with a one-off set-up fee of £397+vat. The Clerk would run the current and new system concurrently to check for accuracy and understanding.

The software will save valuable time. The Clerk believes the annual outlay will be recouped in the time saved on preparing this information using the existing systems. It was **resolved that** the new software system be implemented.

**222. Expenditure to Date**

The ‘on target’ expenditure for April (month 1) was 8.4%.

- Parish Council expenditure was running at 7%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 8%
- The overall figure was 7%
- No concerns

**223. Consideration of Planning Applications**

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

To note that due to IT and information accessibility, all planning applications to be considered at full Parish Council Meetings will be held during the afternoon in the Parish Council Meeting Room (rather than in Grappenhall Library) until the aforesaid meetings are held back in the Parish Council Office

Members considered moving back to the Parish Council Office, after much discussion it was decided the next meeting ‘The Annual Parish Council Meeting’ will be held at Grappenhall Library on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Chair .....

Clerk .....

