

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT GRAPPENHALL LIBRARY, VICTORIA ROAD, GRAPPENHALL ON THE 21st JULY 2022

Present Councillors J McQuillian (Chair), R Bate, S Brookes, M Browne, Ms S Chisholm, Mrs L Fernyhough, R Fisher (from 7.15pm onwards), R Hignett, D Hockenhull, Ms W Johnson (from 7.08pm onwards), Mrs H Speed (from 7.35pm onwards) and P Warner

In Attendance Colette Fellows, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

41. It was **resolved that** apologies for absence from Councillors M Biggin, B Davies and C Taylor and C Worsley be accepted.

42. **Dispensation Requests**

A dispensation request due to illness was approved for Mike Biggin.

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

No dispensation requests were received.

Councillor Ms W Johnson arrived at the Parish Council meeting at 7.08pm.

44. **Minutes**

It was **resolved that** the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 16th June after accepting the amendment to point 34, were approved as a true record and received the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the 11th July 2022. There was no Planning Meeting. Warrington Borough Council are updating their software and no applications are currently being processed.

Councillor R Fisher arrived at the Parish Council Meeting at 7.15pm

45. **Information for Noting**

- a) St Wilfrids Head Teacher has thanked the Parish Council for the commemorative gifts to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They were gratefully received by the children.
- b) The Apprentice Bradley Lowe will be leaving the Walled Garden at the end of the month. He will be greatly missed as he's been a tremendous asset over the last 3 years. Bradley is looking to start his own gardening business.
- c) An urgent call was made to the tree surgeon on 14th July as trees in Thelwall were being taken down. The area in question is a conservation area. WBC confirmed a Planning application needs to be submitted.
- d) Thelwall has recently been the victim of a graffiti attack in parks and the open areas. This has been reported to the PCSO and WBC.
- d) The Walled Garden held a Jazz event on Saturday 9th July which was a great success.
- e) There is a tendering opportunity currently running for the café at the Walled Garden. There has been a lot of interest. The current tenants will not be tendering.
- f) The Clerk met with the land trust on the 21st of July 2022 to look at where to plant trees at the back of the Cricket Club to tackle climate change.

g) There will be a Resource Committee meeting on the 1st August 2022, in addition to the published schedule of programmes.

46. Livewire Solar Panel Investment

A member of the LiveWire Community Energy Company Trust updated members on the current investment. It was originally envisaged that the Society would have a rolling programme of renewables that would be installed in Warrington. However, this ambition was affected by two major changes introduced by the government. They were the Enterprise Investment Scheme exclusion and the Feed in Tariff. With these changes the future of renewable projects became unviable. As a result, the Society has not been able to grow to enable it to employ staff and so its activities are dependent on volunteers who give their time for free.

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss. The Trust are confident that the money invested will be paid back. Interest received to date from the shares is £1,650. The Clerk will inform members when the meeting is announced.

CF

Councillor Mrs H Speed arrived at the Parish Council at 7.35pm.

47. PCSO Crime Report

No report was received from the Local PCSO before the meeting. The Clerk will contact the local police to try to engage with Sharon Perrie PCSO.

CF

48. Governance Update

The Chair updated members on Governance within the Parish Council.

Council **resolved that** the Clerk would address all governance issues already raised, together with any further issues which are identified by the 2023 AGAR submission and in line with external audit advice which we will continue to seek. Furthermore, Council recognises the efforts which the Clerk has already made to address governance issues since coming to the post and the Council recognises the collective responsibility of all Councillors in addressing these matters to a published and agreed timeline which will be regularly reviewed.

The Chair and the Clerk held a ‘teams’ meeting with an SLCC consultant with a view to engage their assistance in completing the Investment Strategy Policy which is currently in draft format. The work will be undertaken by David Lines who has over 30 years of experience in the Global Foreign Exchange, Money and Capital Markets, and also extensive experience in financial risk management. It was **resolved that** due to the complexity of the Investment members agreed to engage with the SLCC Consultant and authorised expenditure up to £1000+vat.

CF

49. CHALC -Cheshire Association of Local Councils

The Clerk asked members to consider a subscription to CHALC. The Clerk and members would have access to all the benefits on offer, including reduced training courses and helplines. The cost of the membership for the remainder of 2021/2022 is £980.02. It was **resolved that** the Parish Council would become members, but the services are monitored for the best value.

CF

50. Ryan Bate – Services to the Parish Council

Cllr Bate will be resigning from the Parish Council in August. The Clerk and members thanked Ryan for his valuable contribution over the last 10 years.

51. Parish Council Meeting Venue

Members considered moving back to the Parish Council Meeting Room now all Covid restrictions have been lifted. The Clerk had contacted an IOSH Advisor for further advice.

Cllr Ms Sally Chisholm and Cllr Hignett updated members in relation to 'Living with Covid.' It was **resolved that** an Air filtration unit be purchased at a cost of £1,000+vat. Cllr Sally Chisholm will liaise with the Clerk to organise the transition.

52. South Warrington Parish Council Local Plan Working Group

The 6-member Parish Councils of the Working Group (SWP) remain united, and all have passed motions to approve funds to pay for professional representation at the EIP by Piers Riley-Smith and John Groves. Piers Riley-Smith and John Groves are already preparing for their appearances. Arrangements have also been made for both Our Parish Council Chairman and Borough Councillor Ian Marks to speak at the EIP to express local feelings on the Green Belt in general and Thelwall Heys in particular.

Members will need to consider replacing Cllr Bate due to resigning from the Parish Council in August.

53. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Members of the Working Party met to discuss the event and the re-submission of the application for Lottery Funding. Members have decided to request three notice boards, two park benches and two picnic tables for Jubilee Park. The application will be re-submitted over the next few weeks.

Notice Boards: -

1. Broad Lane – this has broken
2. Weaste Lane – this is new, and a planning request has gone to WBC
3. Outside the Parish Council office – Perspex clouded and not big enough

Park Benches: -

1. Grappenhall Heys Village Green (to mark the event).
2. Weaste Lane – to sit with the new notice board.

Picnic Tables: -

1. Two for Jubilee Park to replace the damaged table which was removed.

54. Requests for Funding

A request for funding was received from St Wilfrid's Church for a contribution to the Jubilee plaque This was discussed at the Jubilee Working Party, members requested this request be taken to Full Council for resolution. It was **resolved that** £200 be granted.

CF

55. Asset Register

The asset Register was presented to members and the following items disposed of and written off with nil value are as follows: -

1. Canon Copier Np6112 £500
2. Cutlery Plates cups jugs at Walled Garden £500
3. Garden shredder £140.00
4. Push Shredder £143.00

56. Petty Cash

The Petty cash register for the Parish Council office and Walled Garden for the financial year 2021/2022 was presented and approved as a true record.

57. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved that** the accounts for payment totalling £ 22,754.95 be approved.

58. Expenditure to Date

The 'on target' expenditure for July (month 4) was 33.3%.

- Parish Council expenditure was running at 29%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 34%
- The overall figure was 30%
- The Clerk raised concerns over growing utility costs at Walled Garden.

59. 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 Meeting room.

Chair

Clerk

