

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE, ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2023**

Present Councillors J McQuillian (Chair), M Browne, Ms S Chisholm, B Davies, Mrs L Fernyhough, R Fisher, B Hignett, , Ms W Johnson, Mrs J Marsh, , Ms L Williams, C Worsley, Mrs H Speed and C Taylor.

In Attendance Colette Fellows, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Action

165. It was **resolved that** apologies for absence from Councillors S Brookes, D Hockenhull, and P Warner be accepted.

166. Dispensation Requests
No dispensation requests were made.

167. Disclosures of Pecuniary and Personal Interests
No disclosures were made.

168. Minutes
Resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 15th December were approved as a true record and received the minutes of the Climate Committee on the 6th December, The Planning Committee on the 5th of January and the Resources Committee on the 10th January 2023.

169. Information for Noting

- a) The New Assistant Clerk will commence on 6th February 2023 (information in the Resource minutes).
- b) The Chair completed the Clerk’s appraisal on the 20th of December 2022.
- c)The Clerk will complete appraisals for all employees before 31st March 2023.
- d)The Clerk has set up a meeting with David Shelton, Parish Warden, and the PCSO to restart the traffic monitoring group with the new intelligent SID and to comply with all legislation on the 17th of January.
- e) The Chair of the Climate Committee is now Cllr B Davies. Cllr M Browne has stepped down due to Borough Council obligations.
- f) Six56 Planning Application has been called in by the Secretary of State. SWP has applied for rule 6 so they can appear at the inquiry and have the opportunity to cross-examine other parties.
- g) Cllr Speed and Browne met with Glenda Davies the head of St Wilfrid’s to discuss possible solutions to the parking around school drop-off and pick-up times.
- h) Councillor Contact information update will be sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

170. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Action Point	Lead	Update
2021-221	Scribe Accountancy Software	Clerk	Pending the new financial year 2023/2024
2022 - 46	Livewire Investment repayment	Clerk	*Planning to hold an AGM but have not yet set a date. LiveWire Community Energy has a report they want to bring to the AGM but it is not finalised yet. Once they have this and the final report date will be set. They have to give 2 months’ notice of the

			meeting and all investors will receive an official invitation. *Still no updates in January 2023
2022 - 93.1	Additional two bank accounts for reserves	Clerk	The application to Unity is underway, currently going through security checks
2022 - 133	Notice Boards	Clerk	Quotes received and the Clerk in the process of completing the order, the lead time is up to 12 weeks.
2022 - 155	Energy Performance Certificate	Clerk	This is to be completed W/C 16 th January at the P.C. office.
2022 – 156	Jubilee Benches	Clerk	Waiting for confirmation from WBC for the bench to be placed on their land along with the noticeboard and oak tree.
2022 – 157	Thelwall Parish Hall Defibrillator	Clerk	This work is complete and the new defib has been installed.

171. Update on Local Policing Issues by PCSO Sharon Perrie

Members had been emailed the PCSO report prior to the meeting with the most recent crime statistics:

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	= 0
Suspicious Activity	= 2
Burglary	= 0
Criminal Damage	= 0
Road Traffic Collisions	= 0
Shoplifting	= 0
Theft	= 0

172. Expenditure to Date

The ‘on target’ expenditure for January (month 11) was 84%.

- Parish Council expenditure was running at 68%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 87%
- The overall figure was 74%

173. Accounts for Payment

It was **resolved that** the accounts for payment totalling £ 18,078.55 be approved.

174. Requests for Funding

No requests for funding were received.

175. Budget and Precept for 2023/24

The content of the Budget Proposal was discussed with reference to the recommendations made by the Resource Committee.

The budget for 2023/24 was agreed at £227k which was a shortfall of £27k. To bridge this gap it would need a Precept increase of 15% which would mean a 63p per month increase per household.

Balances at the start of 2022/23 General Reserve of £108,000 (GR) would close at year-end at £97,000, representing six months Net Revenue.

It was **resolved that** the increase of 15% be accepted.

176. Governance Update

The Clerk updated members and informed them that the February Full Council Meeting would be focusing on Standing Orders, Finance regulations and Risk Assessments.

177. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

With the impending Local Plan due to be published by WBC in the next 12 months, The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party (NPWG) is to re-commence with members of the Parish Council, but in the main ‘residents’. It was **resolved that** Several Councillors would support Cllr Chisholm in the re-igniting of the group (please find attached notes from Cllr S Chisholm). In the meantime, the Clerk will look to investigate possible grant opportunities to support the group. **CF/SC**

178. South Warrington Parishes Working Party

Cllr Taylor updated members following on from the Planning Inspectors report published in December 2022. SWP remains a united platform to gain strength for resisting and protecting the Green Belt in South Warrington.
After the examination in public September 2022, of which SWP was represented by John Groves and Piers Riley-Smith, the Planning Inspector has told WBC that the Local Plan is unsound. Following on from the report, the Secretary of State has called in the Six56 application for a public inquiry, SWP will be attending as a Rule6 participant.
There will also be a public examination of the Local Plan and SWP will need funds to carry on their fight to protect the greenbelt.
Grappenhall and Thelwall will continue to support SWP for the foreseeable future.

179. Thelwall Local History Group

The Thelwall Local History group will be celebrating the 1100th anniversary of Thelwall being a ‘Cyty’ in 2023. Cllr L Fernyhough updated members at the Parish Council meeting. The next meeting is on the 25th of January and celebrations to mark the occasion are likely to be around mid-September.

180. Green Flag Award Walled Garden

Due to the timeliness of the response required the Walled Garden team requested Councillors to consider applying for the status again.
In recent years this award has hitherto been free for the Community Award section. We have received an email from the Green Flag Award that this year they are looking for a payment of £369 to enter. It is a prestigious, internationally recognised accolade, which the Walled Garden has successfully been awarded for the last six years, but as there is now a cost implication, we need to consider it.
It was **resolved that** the Walled Garden would apply for Green Flag status.

181. Consideration of Planning Applications

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

Chair

Clerk