

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLHOUSE LANE, ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Present** Councillors J McQuillian (Chair) M Browne, Ms S Chisholm, B Davies, R Fisher, M Dolan, B Hignett, D Hockenhull, W Johnson, J Marsh, H Speed, P Warner, C Worsley, and L Williams.

**In Attendance** Colette Fellows, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

**Action**

78. It was **resolved that** apologies for absence from Councillor L Fernyhough, and C Taylor be accepted.

**79. Dispensation Requests**

No dispensation requests were made.

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

No disclosures were made.

**81. Minutes**

**Resolved that** the minutes of the Recess Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved as a true record and received the minutes of the Planning Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**82. Correspondence Miscellaneous**

a) St Rocco's Hospice has expressed their sincere thanks for the kind donation made on behalf of Violets Vintage Teas.

b) Countrywide had agreed on the final costings proposed by the Clerk. The contract for maintenance will finish on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.

c) Primrose has informed the PC that they are holding a 'Breakfast with Santa' on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 from 10 am – 11.30 am.

d) WBC has requested that all Register of Interests be correct and up to date. Could members contact the Assistant Clerk to make any changes.

e) GTRBL has emailed for the wreath order for 2023. We are going to recycle from previous years, (St Wilfrids Church have kindly returned three wreaths in very good condition).

**83. Information for Noting**

a) Cllrs, Davies, Warner, Williams, and H Speed attended a Roles and Responsibility course in July run by ChALC.

b) Cllr M Dolan attended an 'introduction to becoming a Councillor' hosted by ChALC.

c) The Wardens have now undertaken monthly Defibrillator checks, and new pads were needed at Quays Community Centre at a cost of £50.95+vat.

d) We have now welcomed Bradley Lowe the second Parish Warden, Bradley has made a great start with visible improvements to the local areas already!

e) Repair works have been completed at Jubilee Park to the wet pour in the children's play area at a cost of £586+vat.

f) Emergency Repairs also needed to fix the gate at Diamond Park at a cost of £642+vat, three quotes had been obtained. This work will be carried out in September.

g) The Clerk attended a virtual Finance Summit with SLCC on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at a cost of £60+vat.

- h) The Clerk has provided an update on recommendations and actions from the Internal Audit Report (see attached). For any further queries please contact the Clerk/RFO directly.
- i) The annual donations will be made to St Wilfrids and All Saints Church in September for the upkeep of the graveyards.
- j) There is a Speed watch Working Party meeting scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.
- h) Councillor contact information update will be emailed to all Councillors before the meeting.

#### 84. Update on Actions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Action Point	Lead	Update
2022 – 177	Neighbourhood Plan Working Party	SC/Clerk	Parish Councillors and staff met to discuss an action plan on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023
2023-16	Parish Council Website	CW/Clerk	A Prototype has been shared with Cllr Worsley and the Clerk. Adjustments are being made.

#### 85. 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	= 2
Suspicious Activity	= 0
Burglary	= 2
Criminal Damage	= 2
Road Traffic Collisions	= 0
Shoplifting	= 1
Theft	= 1

#### Any Other Business

**Priorities** The PCSO is to be trained on a recordable SID, data collected will be shared with the Speed Watch Working Group.

**ASB** – Thelwall Grange (1 report of group youths - will keep an eye on this)

**School Parking** – New school year and the same issues, will police when possible.

**Tru Cam** – The Tru Cam is away for recalibrating, so no data this month.

**BE AWARE** – Telephone scams have been reported, please be aware.

**GOOD NEWS/PRO ACTIVE POLICING** – Stop searches around G&T - Knutsford Rd, Male arrested for drug driving.

#### 86. Expenditure to Date

The ‘on target’ expenditure for September (month 6) was 50%.

- Parish Council expenditure was running at 43%
- Walled Garden expenditure was running at 42%
- The overall figure was 43%

**87. Accounts for Payment**

It was **resolved that** the accounts for payment totalling £32,003.36 be approved.

**88. Governance**

The Gifts and Hospitality policy was presented for discussion and approval. It was **resolved to** adopt the policy.

**89. Environmental Improvements**

**89.1** To enable the two Parish Wardens to carry out improvements in both parishes, they will be required to attend a Chainsaw course. Three quotes have been obtained and the Clerk is recommending that Wardens attend a two-day training course run by Kentra training at Middlewich at a cost of £670+vat for up to four trainees. Other quotes obtained – Reaseheath College £520 per person total of £1040+vat and OneAsh Training £540 per person total of £1080+vat. It was **resolved that** the Parish Wardens attend the Kentra training course and that the Clerk should contact the volunteers at the Walled Garden first to see if anyone else would like to attend, failing that the Clerk would contact the Men’s Shed Group at Thelwall. **CF**

**89.2** The following equipment is required, at total cost of approx. £2400+vat:

- Multiengine & Bristle Brush to clear paths £663+vat (Dutton’s, Daresbury)
- Electric Chainsaw £360+vat
- PPE clothing – visor/gloves
- Cordless Blower and spare batter pack £560+vat
- Cordless mower £520+vat

The above quotes are from Dutton’s Mower World in Daresbury, Whilst the equipment may be sourced for a slightly reduced amount, Local company Dutton’s with whom we have a good relationship offers excellent customer service and aftersales and has offered to reduce the cost for a bulk order. It was **resolved that** the Clerk can authorise up to £3,000+vat to equip the Wardens with the necessary equipment. The chainsaw is to be purchased after the Wardens have attended the course.

It was also **resolved that** Local Company Dutton’s be the supplier due to aftersales and excellent customer service. **CF**

**90. Requests for Funding**

No requests for financial assistance had been received.

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

Cllr Browne updated members on the Six56 the Inquiry reopens on 10<sup>th</sup> October for four days there will then follow a further adjournment with the Inquiry resuming on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

The Local Plan should be presented to the WBC Cabinet in November 2023 and hopefully Full Council in Dec 2023 for adoption.

**92. Climate Committee**

Cllr B Davies invited members to join the Climate Committee as at present there were only three members and one resident. It was **resolved that** Cllr Dolan and Cllr Warner will join the Committee for support. It was also **resolved that** the Committee would benefit from advertising for new members from the community. **BD/MB**

**93. Strategic Direction**

Cllr Chisholm proposed the adoption of a more strategic approach to Parish Council Business. Members agreed and **resolved to** set up a Working Group with the following members Cllrs Chisholm, Browne, Dolan, Fernyhough, Hignett, Johnson, McQuillan, Worsley.

**SC**

**94. Consideration of Planning Applications**

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