



GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Council Office, Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington WA4 2SG

Colette Fellows, Clerk to the Council/RFO

Tel 01925 264918 (Monday to Thursday 2.00 - 4.30 pm)

clerk@gtpc.org.uk

8th March 2024

Dear Councillor

Members of the Council you are hereby summoned to attend the Full Council meeting of GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL COUNCIL on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30 pm at the Council Office, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall WA4 2SG for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Colette Fellows'.

Clerk to the Council/RFO

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To consider apologies and reasons for absence. For resolution.
2. **Dispensation Requests**
To consider any dispensation requests from members.
3. **Disclosures of Pecuniary and Personal Interests**
Members are reminded that personal interests or prejudicial interests, as defined in the Code of Conduct, in any matter before the meeting, must be disclosed no later than the start of discussion on that item.
4. **Minutes**
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 15th February 2024. To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee on the 7th March 2024.
5. **Correspondence Miscellaneous**
 - a) The Clerk has received the Chair's report of the Thelwall 1100 Committee and it is noted in the minutes a thank you to the Parish Council. (see attached).
 - b) Warrington Borough Council has confirmed election charges will be on the same basis as 2021. There would also be a basic charge should the elections be uncontested. Estimates will be shared on and around the 5th April 2024.
 - c) Livewire CEC has given notice of a Special General Meeting at 6:00 pm on 11th April 2024 at Great Sankey Neighbourhood Hub. Cllr J McQuillian and Cllr Davies have confirmed attendance.
6. **Information for Noting**
 - a) The Admin Assistant has secured a new utility deal with Eon Next for the gas supply at the Walled garden, this will produce a saving of approx. £670+vat, based on the same consumption.

- b) The Assistant Clerk has contacted WBC to give the go-ahead for the new gateway signage to be installed across the Parishes. WBC has confirmed acceptance of the work, but it will be in the new financial year before work commences.
- c) The Extraordinary Meeting of Resources which was scheduled for the 12th March 2024 was cancelled.
- d) There was a Parish Council Liaison Meeting held with WBC on the 29th February 2024 which the Clerk attended.
- e) WBC have refunded £117.19 for the non-collection of commercial waste at the Walled Garden during the strikes.
- f) Councillor Contact information to be emailed separately

7. Update on actions from previous meetings

Agenda Item	Action Point	Lead	Status	Update
2023/16	Parish Council Website	CW/Clerk	Ongoing	Launch date 1 st April 2024
2023/176	Speed Indicator Device Machine (SID)	BD	Ongoing	To be purchased in the next few weeks.
2023/179	New Planning Portal	CF	Ongoing	The Assistant Clerk is seeking further quotes and has reached out to the local council network for recommendations.
2023/198	Governance	CF	Complete	
2023/200.2	NPSG - Resources	CF	Complete	Staff in place to support the NPSG
2023/201	GYCA contact for solar panels	CW	ongoing	Cllr Davies to support

8. PCSO Crime Report

An updated crime report will be emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

9. Expenditure to Date

The Clerk will present the expenditure to date, against the 2023/24 budget.

10. Accounts for Payment

A schedule of Accounts for Payment to be tabled.

10.1 The Clerk requests members to ratify the expenditure for the Parks and Open Spaces Committee to purchase and install two picnic benches, one at Jubilee Park and one at Diamond Park. This was included in the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd January 2024 minute ref 26. The total costs are £5,575.00+vat. The current budget balance is £8,154.00 for equipment and maintenance. For resolution to accept.

11. Personal Trainer for Gym Equipment

The Parks and Open Spaces Committee agreed in principle subject to public consultation to engage with the community to commission a personal trainer to help promote the gym equipment at Jubilee Park. We received about 16 positive comments on the Facebook post and many likes. The majority stated they preferred a weekend morning, mixed group session as their preference. We have two definite candidates (same cost). The Parks and Open Spaces Committee requests members to consider funding for 6 weeks at a total cost of £300 this would include 2 sessions per week for 6 weeks, shared with the two candidates. To commence after the Easter holidays. For discussion and resolution.

12. Requests for Funding

12.1 The Clerk will provide an update for 2023/2024 on grants awarded to date.

12.2 A request for financial support has been received from the Stockton Heath Festival Group, please see attached. The group is looking for a donation of £500.00

12.3 A request for financial support had been received from Thelwall Girl Guides for a trip to Switzerland. Please see attached.

13. Living Wage Contracts

Currently, we have three members of staff on a National Living Wage of £10.90, (£12.00 from April 1st 2024), These are the Park Caretakers and Walled Garden Warden. The Clerk requests members to consider moving the Caretakers/Wardens onto the Local Government SCP grades (SCP grade 4 is £12.01). For discussion and resolution.

14. Warrington Borough Council

Cllr Browne, Johnson, and Speed will update members on Warrington Borough Council matters.

15. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

15.1 Cllr Chisholm will provide an update to members.

15.2 The Clerk requests members to agree to a sum to cover the initial cost of setting up the Steering group. The Clerk will present costs to cover emails, website, and consultant fees at the meeting. Once the group is up and running the Clerk will apply for grant funding. For discussion and resolution.

14. Consideration of Planning Applications

To consider any planning applications which require an immediate decision.

THELWALL 1100 FESTIVAL

Chair's Report

A year ago we were a community with plenty of ideas on how to celebrate Thelwall's 1100th anniversary, but no organisation or funds to deliver them. Add Chaigeley School's 75th anniversary and Thelwall Morris Men's 50th to the mix and we had a good case for seeking grants from the National Lottery and community funds. What has happened since March 2023 is nothing short of miraculous. So many individuals, groups, organisations and associations came together to make things happen - supporting a very successful programme of events that ran for three weekends in September 2023 and now working on lasting legacies to mark these celebrations.

At the start of 2023 we managed to secure venues and the Viking re-enactment group thanks to donations from residents. Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council came to our rescue with £1000 seed corn funding and I thank Cllr Louise Fernyhough, Colette Fellows, Clerk, and John McQuillan, Chairman of the Parish Council, for their support. We submitted a 38-page bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in May 2023 but did not hear we had been successful till 2 August - just five weeks before the celebrations started! We were awarded £37651 for the events programme and legacy projects to run until 30 October 2025.

We wanted as many events as possible to be free but given uncertainty over funding we made a modest charge for only two events - the Ballads & Blues Folk Night and the Laskey Farm Cream Tea and Fizz.

Every business meeting has been open to all and notice given to those who signed up at the beginning of this venture in the latter part of 2022. Some 30 people attended then, contributing ideas for events, projects and legacies. Since the Constitution was signed in March 2022 attendance has fallen to 10 - 18 people, representing a cross section of interests involved in delivering the celebrations and legacy projects. We are grateful to Grappenhall & Thelwall Royal British Legion, Howard and Wendy Platt of Laskey Farm and Chaigeley School for offering us facilities for these meetings.

The celebrations ran from 9 - 24 September. Ticketed events were a sell-out and all the events on Chaigeley Field, the Parish Hall and the Legion saw hundreds of people experiencing Thelwall at its best - in art, music, food, hospitality and friendship. We shared opportunities to experience our history and heritage through displays of crafts and skills, local walks, a family treasure hunt, a model railway, fishing on the Bridgewater and Viking re-enactments - a programme offering something for the young and not so young alike. Thanks to Mike Moss, our official photographer and collator of images from the different events, we will have a rich pictorial record of the celebrations in the forthcoming commemorative photo book. This also includes the colourful promotional flyers designed by Kerrie Johns' team at Unicorn Web Solutions. The book also includes acknowledgements to the many people and organisations that supported us in promoting and delivering this memorable Festival.

From the outset, engaging with our young people was a priority. The involvement of our schools and youth organisations in promoting the Children's Logo Competition, the Thelwall Guides Pebble Painting Challenge and their War Memorial cleaning project were exciting precursors to the celebrations. The Festival Art Gallery attracted entries from Thelwall and Warrington and featured classes for young people up to age 18. Thelwall Junior School's History Open Day also attracted family members and visitors to classes held in the main hall where children shared their learning about King Edward the Elder and Thelwall's history. That same day, a coffee morning next door at All Saints' shared images of church family events with displays of the recent conservation project. It was the Thanksgiving Service in All Saints' on 24 September that drew this first phase to a close along with a celebration cake and fizz.

This is my opportunity to extend especial thanks to all members of the Management Committee, to event organisers and working groups not already mentioned: to Jenny Jones, our Secretary, for thinking outside the box, opening up new opportunities to explore our history and heritage; to Tony Warburton and Geraldine Foden, Thelwall History Group, for getting this project underway and for their continuing practical support; to Kath Mellor and Jean Fisher of All Saints' and their helpers for all our in-house catering; to Norman Froggatt, for organising the line-up for the brilliant Ballads & Blues Night; to Emily Gorman and Rachel Woods for the Family Treasure Hunt and litter picking; to Jane Kemp our link to the Guides and their projects; and to Noel Conreen, Business Manager, Chaigeley School and our Festival Treasurer, for fostering closer links between the school and the local community and securing a special 1100 legacy - The Men's Shed Project.

These published acknowledgements will always be incomplete but individually and collectively you know who you are. I thank you all for making a difference to the success of Thelwall 1100 and we look forward to your continued support and involvement as we move to the next stage.

Maggie Taylor



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7 January 2024

The Parish Clerk
Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council
Council Office
Bellhouse Lane
Grappenhall
Warrington
WA4 2SG

Dear Ms Fellows

Stockton Heath Festival 2024 – Application for Grant from Grappenhall & Thelwall PC

I am writing on behalf of the Stockton Heath Festival Organising Committee to make an application for a grant of £500 from Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council towards the costs of putting on the 2024 festival, which will take place from Thursday 4 July to Sunday 7 July.

2024 will see the sixteenth annual Stockton Heath Festival running over a 4 day period. The Festival is run by a registered charity, with 4 trustees and an organising committee of about 12. The aim of the charity is to celebrate arts, culture and heritage by providing an extensive range of events in venues around the local area, including Grappenhall & Thelwall, and to provide opportunities for local groups to showcase and publicise their activities and talents.

We also aim to generate community spirit by providing opportunities for local residents to come together on the Festival Field and at the various events around the local area, including events at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden and Grappenhall community centre. Whilst the majority of attendees are from the South Warrington area, the event now attracts visitors from all parts of the Borough of Warrington.

The festival also benefits local businesses, many of which show their appreciation by providing sponsorship, raffle prizes or other support.

We provide opportunities for other local charities and organisations to promote themselves by offering a number of free stalls on the festival field.

The festival organising committee are all volunteers and are responsible for all aspects of delivering the Festival. In the run-up to the Festival and over the weekend we are helped by around 40 additional volunteers. The result over the years has been a growing and very successful Festival, with positive feedback in the local press and on social media.

Registered charity no 1127698



thelwallguides@yahoo.co.uk

14th February 2024

Dear Colette,

I am writing to ask if the Parish Council would be able to contribute any funds towards the Girlguiding trip to Switzerland this summer please.

Each year we run an international selection weekend for girls to take part in the Cheshire Forest County trip. The selection aims to select girls who may not normally get the opportunity of overseas travel.

This year I will be leading the trip. 12 girls have been selected from across Cheshire and 2 of these (Abi and Heidi) are from Thelwall.

We'll be staying in the Kandersteg International Scout Centre. There will be many other international Guide and Scout groups staying there too, which will give the girls lots of opportunities to discover different cultures and make international friends.

Fundraising is underway - the girls and leaders are encouraged to fundraise the cost of their trip (£1,200). The girls have to think of fundraising ideas, run the events and activities and keep accounts to show how much and where the money has come from. For most this is a very good life lesson in dealing with money.

The group gain so many new skills from taking part in a trip like this. For many, this will be the first time that they have travelled without their families and so will give them the chance to look after themselves and grow in confidence. While away they will be doing a wide variety of activities such as hiking, camp craft, volunteering, some will take them out of their comfort zone, but all will allow them to develop new skills.

After the trip the girls will be encouraged to give presentations and talks, about their trip, to other groups. This also is a really useful skill for them to develop and will help them as they move into their future training and careers.

Me, Abi and Heidi would really appreciate any funds that you were able to contribute towards this trip please. If you need any further information please let me know.

Thank you,

Anita Dodd
Group Leader
thelwallguides@yahoo.co.uk
07484 235925

President: Miss Cynthia Gent County Commissioner: Mrs Nikki Barker

Girlguiding Cheshire Forest is an operating name of The Guide Association
Cheshire Forest. Registered Charity No. 506251