

**CHOLMONDESTON & WETTENHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON 25th NOVEMBER 2020**

PRESENT

Cllrs Helen Moss (**HM**), Philip Hollinshead (**PH**), Keith Gilby (**KB**), John Woodward (**JW**), Patrick Brunt (**PB**), and Heather Pope (**HP**)

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Sarah Pochin (Cheshire East) (**SP**)
Dr M Bailey (Interim Clerk) (**MB**)

32. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made by Members at the meeting.

34. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2020 were presented to Members for approval.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

35. MATTERS ARISING

The following matters were raised at the meeting from the above minutes.

- Declaration of Interest – KG confirmed the sum mentioned had been paid into the Parish Council bank account
- Signage – now in place (covering vehicles over 7.5 tonnes)
- Payments – the interim Clerk confirmed that these had all been made
- Dates of meetings – the Clerk confirmed a typing error – all dates should be 2021 (except 25th November 2020)
- Flooding – to be dealt with under ‘Shared Items’ on the agenda
- Appointment of Internal Auditor – the Parish Council **AGREED** that the internal auditor for the 2020-21 financial year would be John Edwards t/a Experior Systems
- Delphic Transport – KG confirmed that he would be joining the local Transport Forum and there was no further updates, as there were no licence issues and no enforcement issues (following visit from CEC Enforcement)
- Former Boot and Slipper site – it was reported that the developers hope that work can begin in February 2021 and that delays had been caused by the pandemic and shortages in personnel at Cheshire East Planning. Members asked that the developers keep residents updated on any issues and actions.
- Litter – it was noted that other areas (e.g. Little Budworth) have litter patrols and that a similar system could be established in this area, led by the Parish Council. It was **AGREED** that this could be advertised via social media and neighbouring councils could be contacted (e.g. Alpraham PC, where young people doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award

had done similar work). KG will contact local residents and report back to the next meeting.

- Noise Issues – this relates to the South View Equestrian Centre – KG had spoken to Cheshire East Council who did not have an issue with the tannoy but may have an issue with the buzzer. CEC will contact KG after carrying out further tests and the Council **AGREED** to await further developments.
- Village Green Plans – KG commented that the original plans had been put forward by the developer and additional land had been gifted. The latest plans had changed the area of this land. This can be an area to use for local people. A local resident is to raise funds for this site as part of a project which will fence the area and finish it off. HP said that she would like to see grass rather than 'hard' landscaping. It was **AGREED** to return to this at the next meeting of the Parish Council and consultation will take place on the land and any plans. HM said that the developer could transfer the land to the Parish Council and KG expressed concerns about the Council taking on responsibility for the tree. It was proposed that Parish Council ask Cheshire East Council to look after the tree. SP said that financial constraints at CEC would hinder this and that communities are being encouraged to take these things on. KG will ask what land – if any – CEC owns in the area.
- Website Audit – the Clerk had undertaken an audit via Element Hosting of the website and had received a report, which will be passed onto the website owners/developers for action.
- Parish Noticeboard – it was confirmed that the existing noticeboard was in a state of poor repair. It was asked whether the board should be moved to the church and whether a new one should be purchased. This would have to be proposed to the Parochial Church Council and HP said that she would do this.
- Power Cuts – HP reported that tree work had now been completed which will reduce the likelihood of further power cuts this winter

36. **APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK**

KG confirmed that, following interviews with candidates by KG/JW, the post had been offered to Mark Bailey, who had accepted the offer.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Mark Bailey as the Parish Clerk

37. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

38. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

38.1 **Payments for Authorisation**

The following payments were presented to Members for approval.

Mark Bailey	£254.92 (Interim Clerk Payment)
HMRC	£61.48 (Tax on above payment)
Shires Pay Services	£7.80 (M6 – 2020/21 – Payroll)
Element Hosting	£60.00 (Website Audit)

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

38.2 Ledger (1.4.20-30.9.20)

Members noted the ledger for the above period.

It was proposed to examine alternative arrangements for electricity and insurance payments.

It was also confirmed that the payment to Scottish Power should read 'street lighting'.

38.3 Budget Monitoring Report (Quarter 2 – April-Sept 2020)

Members noted the report for the above period.

38.4 Budget Report 2021/22 and DRAFT Budget Proposals 2021/22

Members noted the report and considered the level of budget and precept for the 2021/22 financial year.

In doing so, Members also noted the following: -

- That the budget for 2020/21 was £5,270.00 and that the precept was £5,000.00
- That the estimated outturn for 2020/21 was £5,762.82, a projected overspend of £512.82
- Noting the individual over and underspends, the Parish Council considered a draft budget of £5,615.00 for the 2021/22 financial year (an increase of £345.00)
- Noting that it had been estimated that the Council would have £4,877.22 in the bank on March 31st 2021 Members proposed an unchanged precept of £5,000 for 2021/22 to cover the above budget

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that: -

- The Parish Council adopt a budget of £5,615.00 for the 2021/22 financial year; and
- A precept of £5,000 is requested from Cheshire East Council to cover the above budget

38.5 Banking Mandate Changes

It was reported by the Clerk that changes had to be made to the Council's bank mandate. This was to replace the name of the previous Clerk with the name of the new Clerk.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that: -

That name 'Sandie McBennett' be replaced by the name 'Mark Bailey' on the bank mandate.

Based on the above, it was **RESOLVED** that the authorised signatories in the current mandate for the NatWest current account, be changed in accordance with the section on Authorised Signatories and that the current mandate will continue as amended.

38.6 Online Banking

It was proposed that the Parish Council moves to an online banking system with the NatWest bank to allow easier financial and management for the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk/RFO be asked to register the Parish Council for online banking in relation to its bank account with the NatWest bank.

39. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Sarah Pochin attended the meeting and provided an update.

- Cheshire East Council received £7.6m in discretionary grants for businesses affected by Covid-19. Any application does not have to meet a set of criteria and decisions are made by officers. SP requested that this message is shared and that the grants are available until March 2022. Further information can be accessed from SP or from the CEC website.
- SP also reported that the Local Enterprise Zone also has a £1m fund for small businesses of up to £5,000 per business. Two local businesses have already been helped via this funding.
- Cheshire East Council has received an allocation of testing kits trialled in Liverpool and these are to be distributed to areas of most need
- Cheshire East held a full Council meeting and voted to abolish the Cabinet system in favour of a committee system. The new system will be in place from May 2021 onwards.
- Cheshire East is advertising information on bin collections over the Christmas period (including stickers on bins) and food waste collections will stop on 22nd December 2020 and resume on 4th January 2021.
- SP agreed that action was needed on the proposals to stop gritting some roads in the parish – SP advised contacting the Cabinet Member for this area of work (Cllr Laura Crane)

Cllr Pochin left the meeting at this point.

40. HIGHWAY MATTERS/SPEEDWATCH

The following items were raised under this heading.

- Boundary signs – it was reported that the price for a new sign is £175 (plus VAT) but the Parish Council would have to arrange installation. It was **AGREED** to place an order, but to also look at options including a hanging gate design (will be placed on a developed Asset Register)
- Gritting – it was reported that information had been submitted to Cheshire East to challenge proposals to stop gritting

Wettenhall/Winsford Road and Long Lane. The Council will monitor developments.

- Reporting Highways Issues – KG updated the meeting including updates on reporting flooding issues on Long Lane; there was a request for more information on dealing with potholes; and what level of budget is available for highways issues in the parish from Cheshire East Council
- Flooding – HM had reported these matters and sent pictures of flooding areas, which have been passed onto Cheshire East Council
- Speedwatch/Road Safety – no updates on this matter, although KG has updated the Police on SW issues. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to do SW in the winter months and police have been speed checking. It was reported that a new police officer is in the area and KG will contact him.

41. PLANNING MATTERS

The following planning matters affecting the parish were considered.

JW declared a personal interest in the first bulleted item below.

- Planning Applications – the Parish Council considered an application for The Coach House, Douglas Lane, Wettenhall CW7 4BH (20/4891N) – no objections
- Local Plan Consultation – this was noted by the Parish Council

42. COMMUNICATIONS/SHARED INFORMATION

The following matters were raised under this agenda item.

- KG reported that accusations had been made towards SP and others regarding the Boot and Slipper development by a local resident. These accusations are being challenged and the Parish Council noted the matter.

43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.30pm (details to be confirmed).

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed 21.52pm.

Chairman.....