

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Present: K. Gleave (Chairman)
Councillors: J. Regan P. Carter C. Lee V. Hudson
J. Bouch L. Smith T. Wood P. Hudson
R. Smith P. Gore A. Litton J. Wheeler
K. Reynolds M. Newton

Also Present: C Wakefield – Clerk
1 Member of the public
PCSOs R. Unsworth, J. Coburn &
H. Bargery, Warrington Guardian

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence

There were no apologies, the full Council was present. The Chairman announced he had been informed of the death, just before Christmas, of former Councillor Terry Lewis. He paid tribute to Mr Lewis as a staunch supporter of the Parish Council and a very hard worker for the community, and asked that those present observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect. This was done and other Councillors echoed his sentiments.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at his point to hear reports from the Police and received a written report from PCSO Grady. There were no questions from the public. The meeting then resumed.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2009

The Chairman asked if the Council were willing to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting and acceptance was agreed.

RESOLVED To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday
PC/2010/01 9th December 2009 as a true and accurate record

2a. To witness declaration of acceptance of office from Cllr Newton, or decide if he may make his declaration at or by the next meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Newton and congratulated him on his election victory. Cllr Newton signed his declaration of acceptance of office at the meeting in the presence of all, having received a pack of information for new Councillors, including the Code of Conduct, some days previously.

3 Finance Committee business

3.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1st December 2009 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 5th January 2010

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted.

PC/2010/1

Chairman's signature and date.....

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

- 3.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 5th January 2010, to be informed of the items approved for payment at that meeting - detailed in Appendix 3 – and to have the opportunity to question any payments**

The papers had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no questions or comments on them. Cheque number 8422 for £30 was signed in accordance with resolution FC/6/2010.

- 3.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 1st December 2009, authorised payments of £5130.86 for net wages and £1431.79 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 7% less than November, because of the Christmas closedown.**

The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

- 3.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 5th January 2010 and decide whether to accept them**

Cllr Regan explained that 4 recommendations had been made and each is being dealt with under an agenda item.

- 4. To consider recommendation from Finance Committee to set the Precept for 2010/11 at the rate of £20 per band D household and the reasons for that recommendation, including results of review of hall hire rates.**

Finance Resolution FC/2/2010 recommended retaining hall hire charges at their present rate for financial year 2010/2011. The Chairman explained on what grounds the Finance Committee had reached this recommendation. The Council was satisfied with the reasons and it was put to the vote. The Council agreed unanimously to accept the recommendation.

RESOLVED PC/2010/02 To retain hire charges for the Community Centre halls at their existing rates for financial year 2010/2011 (LGA 1976 s19)

The Finance Committee had recommended increasing the Precept, for the first time since 2004, to a level of £20 p.a. per Band D household to give a total precept of £186,860. The Chairman expanded on the explanation given in the meeting minutes of why the Finance Committee recommended this increase. Basically he explained that if the Council wishes to retain and build on the level of service given now, there needs to be an increase. There was a general discussion about the services, and provision of PCSOs came under particular scrutiny. There was a general consensus that the PCSOs were good value, offering a level of service, help and reassurance to Parishioners that would be missed if it were to be withdrawn. Cllr Liz Smith pointed out that the term “free PCSO” in the Finance minutes is inaccurate. The fifth PCSO is actually one from the centrally-funded PCSOs that is now being allocated to

PC/2010/2

Chairman’s signature and date.....

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Great Sankey. Cllr Roy Smith commented that Great Sankey Parish Council had made great strides with its financial management since 2004 and he commended the Finance Committee and Council staff for prudent financial management and the excellent value it delivers for a very modest precept – less than 40 pence per week for a Band D household. The proposal was put to the vote and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED **To set the Parish precept for 2010/2011 at a level of £186,860**
PC/2010/03 **which would increase the precept to a Band D property to**
£20 per year (LGA 1982 s150).

5. To consider recommendations on budget for 2010/11 made by Finance Committee.

A paper detailing how the Finance Committee recommended allocating the budget had been circulated prior to the meeting, and the Chairman explained in more detail how the projections for income and expenditure had been made. There were questions on some particular items and discussion. Cllr Lee proposed accepting the draft budget, seconded by Cllr Smith, and this was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED **To accept the draft budget recommended by the Finance**
PC/2010/04 **Committee, including continued funding for 4 PCSOs**
subject to agreement on SLA (LGRA 1997 s31).

6. To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee on modification of the draft Service Level Agreement with Cheshire Police for PCSOs. To decide on final format of SLA to use to propose to Cheshire Police.

The Finance Committee had considered in detail the draft SLA for PCSOs to be funded by the Council from April 2010 and decided to recommend acceptance, subject to some modifications. A list of these modifications had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, and the Chairman expanded on them and put them into context.

The modifications mainly concerned finance and long term commitment (eg timing of payment, length of contract, period of notice); and control (deployment, contact numbers, notice of absence, rotas, written reports). It was also noted that part of the agreement reached with Inspector Heywood was that Great Sankey would be allocated one of the centrally-funded PCSOs in addition to the four being funded by GSPC. After some discussion the Council agreed to accept the list of modifications, although it was suggested that it might be possible to consider payment by instalment in arrears in negotiations. It was also agreed that the formal point of contact for the Council should be the Chairman. Cllr Gleave was therefore tasked to liaise with the Clerk to put the requirements into a document to go to Cheshire Police, and progress the issue.

RESOLVED **To accept the draft SLA to continue funding 4 PCSOs,**
PC/2010/05 **subject to the modifications recommended by the Finance**

PC/2010/3

Chairman's signature and date.....

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Committee, with Cllr Gleave to progress the negotiations (LGRA 1997 s31).

- 7. To receive an update report on actions taken since the last meeting over the Pyecroft Road area flood alleviation proposals and decide if there is any further action to be taken at this stage.**

Cllrs Wood, Carter and Lee all declared a personal interest in this matter, because of their connections to UU as either employees or a pension Trustee respectively.

There was nothing to report directly about the flood alleviation since the last meeting, but there had been developments on a spin-off issue, which was the application for Village Green status for Stocks Lane playing fields, which may have future implications. Cllr Lee had attended for the Council and gave an update.

There had been a change of venue which had not been communicated efficiently to all parties, causing a delay to the start of the Inquiry. The applicants had put their case forward well, although he found their definition of the community strange, being based on a map from 1937 when the area was only partially built up. However witnesses supporting the case had made a series of erroneous statements, which he was not able to counter at the hearing on the first day. Foul weather prevented him getting to the meeting on day 2 and it was wound up a day early, meaning he did not get the chance to correct the errors. He had therefore sent the Inspector a statement of facts (supported by photographs) to set the record straight. This had been copied to the Councillors by email. A decision is expected from the Inquiry in 2 months.

Cllr Lee expressed disquiet at the way the Inquiry had been handled, in particular the publicity. It had not been publicised in the local newspaper, nor to a wide enough audience. Many interested parties had expressed disappointment that they had missed it due to lack of publicity. Other Councillors also felt concern that the process for informing the public seemed to be lacking in this case, and it was agreed to send a letter from the Council to WBC enquiring what is the usual custom and practise elsewhere for informing the public of such Inquiries.

- 8. To receive an update from Cllr Wood on progress with the suggestion to set up a group to take action over concerns about the state of the cemetery at St Mary's, in liaison with other interested parties**

The working group had now been formed (Cllrs Wood, Gore and Reynolds) and they will set up a meeting. They are going to look at Burtonwood cemetery, as an example of what can be done, and will then get interested people together in a "Friends" group. In the meantime WBC are continuing to maintain the cemetery and check for dangerous headstones.

- 9. To hear report from Cllr Wood from the Warrington West Neighbourhood Area Board**

PC/2010/4

Chairman's signature and date.....

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Cllr Wood reported that there had been no further meetings since before Christmas.

10. To consider planning applications received by the Council - Appendix 1 – and consider if any objections are to be raised.

There were no relevant new applications to consider. A report was given of the meeting held with representatives of United Utilities before Christmas, to discuss concerns felt by the Parish Council over planning application 2009/15525. These mainly involved the effects of the development on drainage in the area. All issues had been addressed at the meeting, and the Parish Council representatives were re-assured that this development would not cause the problems which had been anticipated. In addition they were happy that a longer-standing concern about noise from the Data Centre was being tackled. There was some disappointment that a separate pedestrian access would not be provided through the back of the site, but this did not amount to grounds for an objection. The Clerk was therefore asked to inform WBC Planning that GSPC did not want to object to the application.

11. To consider correspondence received by the Council - Appendix 2 - and consider if any action is required.

A list of correspondence and copies of letters were tabled at the meeting. The Council considered and noted all items. The following caused further discussion.

Item 1 – invitation to WBC/Parish Council Liaison meeting. The Clerk pointed out that this meeting is on Thursday 18th March, not Wednesday as stated, and so she would not be able to attend. Any Councillors wishing to attend should let the Clerk know.

Item 2 – suggestion from PCSO Grady to advertise Parish Council meetings on the Cheshire Police website. It was agreed this could be useful, the Clerk will liaise with Steve about it.

12. To receive reports from Councillors and consider if any action is required.

Cllr Phil Hudson remarked about work that is being done on the paths alongside Whittle Brook, and asked if a cycleway will also be made there. No-one knew, but Cllr Wheeler said she would find out.

Cllr Regan said that in a few weeks, when the weather improves, a group will be going out in the evening to talk to young people hanging round local hotspots, such as Lane Ends and Mary Ann Meadows, and try to engage with them. The group will include himself and other local Councillors, some of the PCSOs, 2 representatives from WBC, Damien from Phoenix Boxing Club and Ms Bargery from the Guardian. He invited anyone else who is interested to join in.

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Cllr Litton informed the Council that he has recently become Chairman of the board of Governors at Sankey Valley Saint James school. He was pleased to find out through that how much GSPC is appreciated by the school, and that the Council's support over the years has been valued.

Cllr Wood reported that the bridge across the brook at Whittle Hall has now been improved by having a non-slip surface laid on it. She asked if there are any plans to put a pedestrian crossing over Whittle Avenue between Whittle Hall and Chapelford, near the roundabout, in view of the increasing number of young people using that route to school. She was told this is unlikely in view of the existing crossing at the top of the road.

Cllr Wood extended her congratulations and welcome to Cllr Newton, and also said she felt thanks should be given to everyone who had struggled through the bad weather to attend the meeting.

Cllr Liz Smith said she was conscious that the Youth Project Group had not met for some time and asked all members to stay behind and set a date for the next meeting.

The Chairman said that the recent snowfalls had served to accentuate the problems with dog fouling in the area, and asked whether it would be possible to get WBC to do some extra enforcement on this. This prompted contributions from other Councillors reinforcing this view, and suggestions for ways in which GSPC might be able to take some practical action to encourage people not to leave dog fouling around. This latter to be considered more formally when some costs are available.

- 13. Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and Press leave the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items**

It was resolved to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED **To exclude the press and the public from the remainder**
PC/2010/06 **of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business**
 to be transacted.

- 14. To be informed of the current position over Wroxham Road centre and decide if there is any action for the Council or decisions to be made at this time.**

There had been no news from WBC about the building. A contractor had been out to board up the building and made a mess of part of the field when his van got bogged down, however the damage has now been sorted out.

- 15. To be updated by the Chairman of the Employment Group on progress in dealing with letter from Mr Bird dated 23rd October.**

PC/2010/6

Chairman's signature and date.....

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 13th January 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Cllr Litton reported that Mr Date had informed him he would be in possession of Mr Date's report on the letter of complaint by the end of the week. He therefore called for a meeting of the Employment Group to consider the report and report back to full Council about it. This was set for 26th January.

16 Payment to Caretakers

In week commencing 4th January all the Community Centres had effectively been shut down because of cancelled bookings due to the exceptionally bad weather. Caretakers hours and pay are dependant on bookings. The Clerk had produced a chart showing the average hours/pay for Caretakers from September mid December. Cllr R Smith proposed that Caretakers should be paid their average hours for the week commencing 4th January 2010. Cllr Lee seconded the proposal and it was carried by 14 votes in favour, with one abstention.

**RESOLVED
PC/2010/07**

To pay Caretaker/Cleaners their average hours for week commencing 4th January 2010.

PC/2010/7

Chairman's signature and date.....