

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

**Present:** K. Gleave (Chairman)  
**Councillors:** J. Regan P. Carter V. Hudson J. Bouch  
L. Smith T. Wood R. Smith P. Gore  
J. Wheeler K. Reynolds

**Also Present:** C Wakefield – Clerk  
6 members of the public  
PCSO L. Garavan & Sgt Langley  
L. Gledhill & K. Sephton, WBC

**1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee, Newton, P. Hudson and Litton. Cllr Wheeler also sent apologies as she was at a WBC meeting, but was able to join this meeting in time for agenda item 4.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at this point to hear reports from the Police. There were no questions from the public. The meeting then resumed.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

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/2010/08** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010 as a true and accurate record

**3. To be informed about “The Look of the Borough” programme coming to Great Sankey, and for Councillors and Members of the Public to submit ideas for the programme**

The Chairman welcomed Lisa Gledhill and Kathy Sephton from WBC who gave a short talk about the “Look of the Borough” programme which will be working in Great Sankey for 14 weeks starting 22 February. They explained the kind of work which can be done by the programme, answered questions and encouraged those present to submit their suggestions for areas which need attention. The Clerk will collect these in and Kathy will pick them up on 16<sup>th</sup> February. The Chairman thanked them for attending.

**4. To be updated on developments with the application for Village Green status for Stocks Lane Playing field. To consider if the Parish Council wants to make a comment about the Consumer Council for Water paper to Ofwat.**

Cllrs Wood and Carter declared a possible personal interest due to their employment with UU. The meeting was informed that the recommendation from the Public Inquiry was not to give Village Green status to Stocks Lane

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playing field and WBC Traffic Committee had upheld this recommendation. A further point had been raised by Cllr Lee by correspondence. He had seen a paper produced by the Consumer Council for Water in response to an enforcement order made by Ofwat against UU and was concerned that the position of the Parish Council had been misrepresented. CCWater had used information from UU without checking the facts with GSPC and this flawed information is now in the public domain. Councillors at the meeting shared this concern and resolved to ask the Clerk to write to CCWater and Ofwat to put the record straight.

**RESOLVED**                      **To write to CCWater and Ofwat to correct misinformation**  
**PC/2010/09**                      **published by CCWater**

## **5. Finance Committee business**

**5.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010.**

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted.

**5.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 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.

**5.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, authorised payments of £5260.75 for net wages and £1434.59 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 2% more than December. It would normally have been more than that, but some bookings in early January were affected by the bad weather, which is reflected in the pay.**

The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

**5.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 and decide whether to accept them**

One recommendation had been made (FC/12/2010). The Finance Committee had considered its own existing financial controls and the service provided by JDH Business Services as Internal Auditor and decided they were both satisfactory and did not require changing. They therefore recommended retention of both. After discussion this was agreed.

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**RESOLVED PC/2010/10 To maintain existing financial controls and authorise the Clerk to renew the engagement of JDH Business Services as Internal Auditor to the Council**

- 6. To receive the latest draft minutes of the Youth Project Group meeting , or a verbal update, and decide if there is any action for the Council at this time.**

The draft minutes were tabled at the meeting. Cllr Hudson reported that she had been elected as Chair of the Committee and they had set themselves targets and dates at the meeting. The Group are taking forward the existing projects involving Sankey All Stars and the Boxing (they have a meeting set up with the Boxing Coach next week). They would also be interested in hearing any new ideas for youth projects and encouraged other Councillors to contribute ideas.

The change in Chairman necessitated changing the main contact details for Awards for All and so the required form was completed and signed at the meeting by members of the Committee.

- 7. To be updated on progress with the draft Service Level Agreement with Cheshire Police for PCSOs. To decide if there is any further action for the Parish Council.**

The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to Cheshire Police detailing changes required in the draft Service Level Agreement, as agreed at the last meeting. He is now awaiting a response.

There was discussion of current levels of absence among PCSO's which was mentioned during the Police reports earlier in the evening. The Council is concerned that it is not being informed officially of absences. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the local Inspector expressing this concern and asking for official notice of absences during the remaining life of the current SLA.

- 8. 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 and Carter declared personal interests in this due to employment with UU. It was noted that there is an enforcement order on UU to complete this work within a set timeframe, and that UU are exploring another option to solve the issue.

Cllr Wood noted that there is a detention tank being installed near Mill Avenue and the work seems to be going well.

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- 9. 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**

Cllr Wood reported that quite a lot of work had been done, she and Cllr Gore had been on another site visit and she passed round photographs showing some of the work WBC had done to fix unsafe headstones and tidy up. She had compiled a list of other improvement work which could be undertaken and will meet with Burtonwood Friends Association and someone from St Mary's Church to discuss moving forward. One project which she would like the Parish Council to consider is renovating the cenotaph and possibly adding some decorative panels to it. She had been approached by Penketh Parish Council some time ago concerning how much had been spent on the cemetery by GSPC and WBC and she had compiled a report on this. It was agreed she should send the draft report to the rest of the Council for comment before finalising it and sending it on to Penketh PC. It was suggested that some work on the cemetery could possibly come under the "Look of the Borough" programme and that might include some of Penketh's allocation too. Cllr Wood said she would bring this suggestion to WBC and to Penketh PC when she sends them her report.

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

Cllr Liz Smith volunteered to speak on this. The Area Board had been given a presentation about the Playbuilder fund and had voted on allocation of the remaining funds. She was pleased to say that the GSPC bid for funds to refurbish the Tim Parry Play Area had been successful, funds would be allocated for work to be done in the financial year 2010/2011. A play area near Evelyn Street school was also awarded funds. The Area Board had also been given an update on crime figures. The Board's working groups are all meeting in the next two weeks; Cllr Smith pointed out that 2 residents are needed to become Board members for Sankey North and Sankey South and she appealed for anyone interested to come forward.

- 11. To consider planning applications received by the Council and consider if any objections are to be raised**

Cllr Wheeler declared an interest and left the room. The Council considered the list of planning applications which had been circulated. Cllrs Wood and R. Smith declared a personal interest in planning application 2010/15850. No objections had been raised by residents to any of the applications listed and the Councillors did not have any comments, other than to say that the meeting they had had with developers prior to the submission of 2010/15846 had been useful. They were pleased that suggestions made at the meeting seemed to have been taken on.

Cllr Wheeler returned to the meeting.

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## 12. To consider correspondence received by the Council and consider if any action is required.

A list of correspondence and copies of letters had been circulated by email prior to the meeting and one further item was tabled. The Council considered and noted all items. The following caused further discussion.

Item 1: letter from WBC Public Protection Team offering to give a presentation to the Council. The Councillors agreed they would like a talk and asked the Clerk to arrange it and also invite a representative from the Warrington Guardian to attend.

Items 2, 3, 4 and 8 were invitations and are for individuals to respond direct.

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

Cllr Wheeler mentioned an upcoming event at Sankey Forum – a family Fun Day on 28<sup>th</sup> February to encourage sports activities.

Cllr Reynolds referred to incidents in Lander Close mentioned in the verbal report from the PCSO and said he will follow up on this with the Police.

Cllr Hudson reported that former Cllr Terry Lewis had been remembered as a past player at the rugby match on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr Wood reported that she had attended a Parent's Forum at St Gregory's school and been extremely impressed by a talk by Geoff Mather, a Police Liaison Officer, about the dangers to children online. Mr Mather goes regularly to local schools to give talks aimed at 3 levels – juniors, seniors and parents – but his position may be under threat because of pressure to put more police on the beat. She intends to write to Cheshire Police to support the post and urged other Councillors to do the same. Cllr Liz Smith suggested that if members felt strongly about it, the Council could explore the possibility of setting up an open evening on the subject, including a talk from Mr Mather, at one of the Community Centres. However after discussion, including feedback about numbers attending the Parent's Forum, this was not taken further.

Cllr Gleave reported that he and Cllr Reynolds had attended a meeting about the proposed new 6<sup>th</sup> Form College at Great Sankey High School. There had been a lot of rumours circulating about this, but the meeting had confirmed,

- it is not intended to increase the size of the school in terms of numbers of pupils;
- the new building will be at the back of the school on the land currently occupied by Portakabins;
- it will be 3-storey
- it is intended to make 60 more car parking spaces at the end of the Forum and improve the car park layout

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The Headmaster hopes to help with alleviating the traffic problems on and around Barrow Hall Lane, including making provision for drop-offs for children attending the Infants/Junior school (there had recently been a child involved in a traffic accident there). He also wants to improve the playing fields around the Forum. He is trying to bring money in to do this and encourage more use of the facilities by residents. The Councillors had complained to the Headmaster about the amount of litter dropped by pupils in the area, especially at lunchtimes. It is hoped that the planned works, which will include improved gates and fencing, will prevent pupils from leaving the school grounds at lunch times.

- 14. To decide on any Parish Council representation for the Parish liaison meetings, starting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010.**

Cllr Liz Smith explained that the purpose of the meetings is to get Parishes together to share good practise and that it is hoped that Councillors will attend as well as Clerks. Several Parishes have already signed up to attend. Councillors Bouch and Regan volunteered to attend, and Cllr Wood will also try to get there. The Clerk was asked to email those Councillors not present at the meeting to see if they would also like to attend.

- 15. 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/2010/11                      of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business  
to be transacted.**

- 16. 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 has been no news from WBC about the centre.

- 17. To be updated by the Chairman of the Employment Group on progress in dealing with letter from Mr Bird dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October, to hear any recommendations made at the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and decide whether to accept them.**

The Clerk was asked to withdraw during this item.

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