

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 14th April 2010 in Tim Parry Community Centre

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

Also Present: C Wakefield – Clerk
5 members of the public
PCSO L. Garaven
Mrs K Power WBC

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs R. Smith and L. Smith (holiday) and Cllr Wheeler (working).

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 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 PC/2010/18 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th March 2010 as a true and accurate record

The Chairman suspended the meeting at this point to hear reports from the Police, and take questions from members of the public. The meeting then resumed.

3 To receive a talk from Karen Power, a mentor from the NHS Warrington Wellbeing Service, and to have the opportunity to ask questions.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Power, who gave a talk explaining the service she and her colleagues offer and answered various questions. She also provided some leaflets and explained that she has visited several groups that use the Community Centres to give them information about what is available from her team. The Council agreed that it seems a worthwhile service, and asked the Clerk to help publicise it through the website and next Newsletter. The Chairman thanked Mrs Power for the informative talk.

4. Finance Committee business

4.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2010 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 6th April 2010.

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted.

4.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 6th April 2010, to be informed of the items approved for payment at

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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.

4.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 6th April 2010, authorised payments of £5777.88 for net wages and £1876.07 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 18% more than February (which was a low month because of half term) but only 7% more than the previous March, which was a more typical month.

The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

4.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 6th April 2010 and decide whether to accept them

Three recommendations had been made by the Finance Committee. Resolutions FC/31/2010 and FC/32/2010 concerned the rate of the Chairman's Allowance and the Chairman's Discretionary Allowance respectively. The Finance Committee recommended both remain unchanged at their present rate of £500 per year each. This was agreed unanimously, apart from Cllr Gleave who abstained from voting.

RESOLVED PC/2010/19 To retain the Chairman's Allowance unchanged at £500 per year for 2010/11 (LGA 1972 s15(5)).

RESOLVED PC/2010/20 To retain the Chairman's Discretionary Allowance at up to £500 per year for 2010/11 (LGA 1972 s15(5)).

Resolution FC/37/2010 recommended giving a donation of £100 to Warrington Association for Special Children (WASC) to help fund holiday playschemes for local children with learning difficulties and other health problems. The Committee was content that children from Great Sankey benefit from this specialist provision. The recommendation was agreed, and cheque number 8485 signed at the meeting for that purpose.

RESOLVED PC/2010/21 To make a donation of £100 to WASC to help fund specialist play provision for local children this summer (LGA 1976 s19)

5 To receive the draft minutes of the Youth Project Group meeting held on 4th March, and a verbal update on progress of any actions arising from the meeting.

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting, and Cllr Hudson expanded slightly upon them. There were no questions.

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6 To appoint a member of the Employment Group to replace Cllr V Hudson, who has resigned from the Group.

Cllr Bouch volunteered to join the Employment Group. This was seconded by Cllr Lee and accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED To elect Cllr Bouch to join the Employment Group
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7 To receive a verbal update of progress on the Playbuilder project.

Cllr Newton informed the meeting that the Working group for the Playbuilder project had met at 6pm that evening. The Group had made some changes to the draft plan, set a provisional schedule of meetings and agreed a method of reporting back to Council, which will be written reports and updated plans, with verbal reports in between. They had looked at the existing play area, and commented that the project is very timely, as there a number of items that are now in need of repair. The first priority will be to gather information from WBC about the amount of money awarded, any constraints and information about any approved suppliers. The Clerk is going to set up a meeting with the Playbuilder Co-ordinator for this. The group will also explore how much of the existing equipment can be usefully kept and refurbished.

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

Councillors Wood, Carter and Lee declared a personal interest in this item. The Council had received an email from United Utilities giving information about the solution which is now being implemented to alleviate the Pycroft road flooding. The work is expected to take approximately 10 months to complete. It was suggested that the Parish Council should continue to monitor the situation, and also the flood alleviation work going on at various other sites in Great Sankey. This was agreed, the agenda item will be amended to reflect the wider scope.

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 she had met with The "Look of the Borough" team about the cemetery, not Groundworks Merseyside as previously stated. They and Bereavement Services are taking forward work on tidying up the bushes and getting a fence erected; sorting out the raised bed; continuing to make memorials safe; sorting out the overgrown trees. There were comments about possible security issues, she will take this up after the elections. Cllr Litton thanked Cllr Wood for her work on this. She in turn praised Bereavement Services for the excellent work that they have been doing and asked that the Council write to Neil Simpson to thank the Team. This was agreed. There

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were also favourable comments made about the LoTB and the Council was happy to hear that this will become a rolling programme in future budgets.

10 To hear report about the Warrington West Neighbourhood Area Board

Cllr Wood was able to report on part of the last meeting, she had not been present for all. The Board had been given a very interesting talk by Mr D Ryan of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Cllr Regan said that it would be helpful to organise Mr Ryan to come to a future meeting to talk on the subject.

Cllr Wood reported that applicants had now come forward for the final residents vacancies, so the Board is more or less complete now.

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

There were no relevant planning applications to consider.

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 a further item was tabled. The Council considered and noted all items. The following caused further discussion.

Item 5 – information from WBC concerning pedestrian and cycle accessibility improvements to Bruche and Chapelford. The Council was happy to hear about these improvements, but would actually see a lot of merit in extending the scheme further to cover the whole of Lingley Green Avenue. It was agreed to write to WBC to request this.

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

Cllr Lee brought up an issue to do with the Mersey Gateway Project. The Inspector's report had not been received and would not now be released until after the election. A recent NHS re-organisation means that there will be a lot more work transferred between Warrington and Halton hospitals which will result in more patients and visitors having to travel between the two towns and the tolling of the bridge could make that very expensive. He wondered if the Parish Council wished to write to WBC about this to raise a protest. There was widespread concern about the issue, however Cllr Lee was assured that the Borough Councillors already intend to raise this point.

Cllr Reynolds reported that he had recently been speaking to Cllr Jackson from Burtonwood about allotments, and would continue to liaise with him for information. Cllr Litton reported that there are 2 schemes to set up more allotments in Warrington being considered, both are at a very early stage as yet. Cllr Wheeler also reported a possible interest by Arena Housing in using some of their land for allotments, but this is also at the earliest stage of consideration.

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Cllr Reynolds noted that there had been some criticism in a local magazine about the money spent by GSPC on the Boxing Course, however the Council is ready to defend its position if needed.

Cllr Litton spoke about the long-standing concern about the waste disposal vehicles going to the landfill via Liverpool Road. Councillors have already spent a lot of time with residents and engineers from Highways trying to resolve this issue, but he feels it is timely to consider the longer term future of the landfill at Arpley. As circumstances change locally and nationally the impact on residents may also increase and he thinks the Parish Council should begin to consider the possible implications for residents now and put its support into policies which will bring the best outcome for local people.

Cllr Lee supported this view, pointing out that if the proposed Mersey Gateway development goes ahead Halton BC intend to dispose of the hazardous waste from the footings at Arpley.

Cllr Veronica Hudson reported that she had been contacted by a resident about wheelchair access to Hood Manor shops. She passed it on to WBC and is happy to report that new ramps have been put in as part of the re-vamp there.

She enquired about the need for a new Disabled Access Audit following a discussion at the last meeting. The Clerk had spoken to Dave Connor about it and he had informed her there had been no significant changes in the legislation since the last Audit had been done. After discussion it was agreed that there is no need for a further Audit at this time, as the Council had taken all the remedial action it was reasonable to do after the last one.

Cllr Gore asked about the state of "Our Wood" as he has had several queries from residents about in in respect of a lack of maintenance, dog fouling and youths using it for a venue for drinking. There was some discussion about who is responsible for the land, and it was concluded that it is still David Wilson homes. Cllr Gleave has asked the PCSOs to keep an eye on it regarding the drinking, and it was agreed to contact David Wilson homes re the maintenance.

Cllr Wood commented on the excellent work that has been done by the Look of the Borough Team and mentioned various other areas she has asked them to improve. She also stated that Mersey Forests have said they will fund and maintain wildflower meadows for the first year and will help with planting. She has asked them to liaise with Kevin Mc Creadie about the verge on the A57 opposite the Butchers Arms.

It was asked if LoTB can do something about clearing the ditch between the High School and Sankey Forum. There was discussion of this and the conclusion was that the problem was mainly down to pupils discarding polystyrene boxes from fast food shops. Two approaches were discussed – talking to the shops about more eco-friendly packaging, and talking to the school about littering. This issue has already been raised with the school, with very little success. Cllr Wood said that she will bring this to the attention of the Environmental Group of the Neighbourhood Board.

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Cllr Gleave reported that he had received complaints from residents of Farmleigh Gardens about fly-tipping and other activities on the land between their estate and the railway line. He had asked LoTB to clear it.

- 14 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 of the PC/2010/23 meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

- 15 To be updated if there is any news about the 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.

- 16 To receive an update from the Employment group**

Cllr Litton informed the Council that a meeting of the Employment Group is being convened on 20th May to consider the final version of the report by Mr Date.

- 17 To consider if the Council wishes to invite a member of the public to become a member of the Youth Projects Group.**

There was a great deal of discussion about the propriety of inviting a member of the public to participate in YPG meetings when an investigation into a complaint by that person has not been concluded. It was felt that the person concerned had information and experience which the Council did not wish to lose. After discussion it was proposed, and agreed that the Council could not consider inviting the person to participate in the YPG meetings until after the ongoing matter has been settled.

However it was also agreed that the Chairman of the YPG should request to meet the person concerned, and a representative from Warrington Wolves Foundation, and gather as much information as possible about the running of the SAS in the past, to feed into organisation of the SAS in future.

RESOLVED That the Council should not consider inviting a person involved PC/2010/24 in a complaint against the Council to participate in Council business until the complaint has been satisfactorily resolved.

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