

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Tim Parry Community Centre

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

**Also Present:** C Wakefield – Clerk  
8 Members of the public  
PCSOs J. Coburn & R. Unsworth  
N. Davies, Warrington Guardian  
J. Bouch & P. Hudson – candidates for co-option

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

Cllr Gore sent his apologies.

The Chairman suspended the meeting at this point to record the thanks of the Council to those who had organised or participated in the recent Remembrance Sunday ceremonies. A minutes silence was then observed in commemoration.

The Chairman then heard reports from the Police and received a written report from PCSO Grady. He then took questions from the public. The meeting then resumed.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 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 PC/2009/80 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October as a true and accurate record**

**3 To consider applications received from candidates wishing to be co-opted to the vacancies in Sankey South Ward (no poll was claimed) and vote on whether to select the applicants.**

Two people had applied for co-option and their applications had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked for a vote on accepting Mr Phil Hudson as a member of the Council. He was accepted unanimously (apart from two abstentions). The Chairman asked for a vote on accepting Mrs Jean Bouch as a member of the Council. She was accepted unanimously.

**RESOLVED PC/2009/81 To co-opt Mrs Jean Bouch and Mr Phil Hudson as members of the Parish Council**

**4 To witness declaration of acceptance of office from Co-opted members**

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Both candidates for co-option had been provided with copies of the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in advance of the meeting. Each of them confirmed their willingness to accept office and abide by the Code and they signed their declaration forms to that effect in the presence of the Council and the Clerk. The Chairman welcomed them to the Council.

**5 To be informed that a poll has been claimed to fill the casual vacancy in Whittle Hall Ward, and be updated as to the date an election is to be held.**

The Clerk confirmed that Warrington Borough Council had decided to hold the election on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

**6 To nominate and elect Councillors to fill one vacancy on the Employment Group and three vacancies on the Youth Projects Group. To agree the frequency and schedule of meetings for the YPG.**

The Chairman asked for volunteers for the vacancies and encouraged the new members to become involved. Cllr Phil Hudson volunteered to join the Employment Group and Cllr Bouch volunteered for the Youth Projects Group. Cllrs Veronica Hudson and Trudi Wood also agreed to serve on the Youth Projects Group. All 4 placements were agreed by the Council. It was proposed and agreed that members of the Youth Projects Group would confer after the meeting to arrange their schedule of meetings.

**RESOLVED PC/2009/82 To confirm Cllr Phil Hudson as a member of the Employment Group, and Cllrs Jean Bouch, Veronica Hudson and Trudi Wood as members of the Youth Projects Group**

**7. Finance Committee business**

**7.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009.**

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted.

**7.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, 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.

The cheques for 3 donations which had been authorised at the meeting were signed – cheque 8381 for the Hood Manor OAP and Bingo Club, cheque 8382

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for Hood Manor Residents Social and Bingo Club and cheque 8383 to Warrington West District Scouts. Each was for £50.

- 7.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009, authorised payments of £6041.68 for net wages and £1897.31 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 9% more than September (and 11% more than March) but the difference is that October pay includes arrears for the pay award dating back to April 2009.**

The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

- 7.4 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 and decide whether to accept them**

No recommendations had been made.

- 7.5 To receive the draft minutes of the extra Finance Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

No recommendations had been made, the minutes were for information.

- 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 Carter, Lee and Wood declared an interest in this item as employees or other associates of United Utilities.

The only information to report was that the Public Inquiry relating to the application for Village Green status for Stocks Lane field had been deferred to January; the planning application relating to the same field had also been deferred; and that there had been no reply as yet to the letter sent to UU asking for an update on the flood relief situation overall in the Pyecroft Road area.

- 9 To be updated about progress with running a 15 week Boxing course for young people in the Parish. To consider a request to have a banner advertising the course at each of the Community centres it will run in.**

The Boxing Project had got off to a slow start, in terms of numbers, due to a printing delay and half term but it is now building up. It is due to move to Tim Parry centre on 27<sup>th</sup> November and more interest is expected there but it is vital that the scheme gets more publicity. Councillors have raised the subject with the High Schools who will help to promote it, and Cllr Regan raised the issue of allowing a publicity banner to be put up on the fence, to be placed there on Friday mornings and removed after the sessions on Friday evenings. Cllr Wheeler had checked and this would be acceptable under planning regulations as it non-profit making. Parish Council policy is that each case be considered on its merits, and after discussion it was agreed that an advertising

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banner could be allowed for the Boxing course, on the terms outlined by Cllr Regan.

**RESOLVED**                    **To approve the use of an outdoor advertising banner for  
PC/2009/83**                    **the 15 week Boxing course.**

- 10    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 brought photos and gave an update on refurbishment work at Manchester Road cemetery, just to illustrate what improvements can be made.

She had met with Penketh Parish Council about the cemetery and with Neil Simpson from WBC Bereavement services, who had given her their management plan, a copy of which had been given to Penketh PC. During discussion it emerged that burials are still taking place in family plots, though it is closed for new graves; there are some unsafe headstones which need attention; and that WBC have the legal rights to the cemetery. Cllr Wood confirmed that Mr Simpson is looking into the legal aspects, including liaison with the Arch Diocese over the dangerous headstones. WBC had taken over maintenance of the cemetery without being allocated any extra resource. Penketh PC had enquired if GSPC would like to write jointly to WBC to query how much had been spent on the cemetery last year, but Cllr Wood volunteered to find this out, as lead member of the working group, and send the information on to Penketh. This was agreed.

Other Councillors expressed support for the refurbishment but pointed out that it would be expensive. This is why setting up a Friends Group is important, as they can access other sources of funding, and Cllr Wood is trying to set one up urgently. She will consult the Burtonwood Friends group for information.

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

At the last meeting members had been given information on funding and how money has been spent so far. Working groups have been established and by December the Neighbourhood plan should be completed, so the sub groups can concentrate on priorities. There is still a vacancy for a resident from Sankey North – no qualifications are needed, just interest.

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

Cllr Wheeler declared a conflict of interests and left the room at this point. The Council considered and discussed the applications on the list circulated prior to the meeting. Cllrs R. Smith, T Wood, P Carter and C Lee all declared a personal interest in 2009/15442 because of connections with the school, either as Governors or through relatives attending the school. After discussion there were no objections to be made to any applications.

Cllr Wheeler returned to the meeting.

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**13 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. The Council considered and noted all items. The following produced further discussion.

Item 1 - Notes from Parish Liaison meeting 26 Oct 09 - presentation on borough-wide speed limit review and the proposed changes to speed limits/speed management measures that are required on various routes. There was some discussion over whether the Council feels this is an appropriate forum for discussion of this sort of information. There was some concern that these issues are being discussed in a forum that appears to have no public access or involvement and at which it seems that Councils can be represented by Clerks.

The Council decided it would like some more information about the remit and the role of these liaison meetings and asked the Clerk to write to WBC for clarification.

Item 2 – letter from Penketh PC to WBC asking that the needs of older people are considered equally important as those of younger people. Request for support on this issue from Penketh PC. There was a lot of discussion about this topic, with the Council happy that it had demonstrated its support for older residents in several practical ways already. It was agreed that a letter should be sent voicing support for the principle involved, and the Clerk was asked to draft a letter for approval by the Council.

Item 5 - Invitation to Cheshire Community Action AGM on 19th Nov 09. It was agreed that any Councillors interested should respond via the Clerk

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

Cllr Wood echoed the sentiments already expressed about Remembrance Sunday and asked if the thanks of the Council could also include the Police. After discussion with other Councillors it was agreed that the Clerk would write on behalf of the Council to formally thank the Clergy, British Legion, Police, Scouts and Army Cadets.

Cllr Liz Smith said she was delighted to welcome the new Councillors to Sankey South ward.

Cllr Litton was happy to report that following negotiations between residents, developers and Councillors, work has now started on Briarswood Village to progress the issues raised by residents. He commended the action of the many residents who got involved, and who are now pleased to see their concerns being addressed.

Cllr Reynolds reported that he still has a concern about the possible use of Warrington as a site for a new prison. A letter had been sent by government

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to many local authorities about this, including Warrington. When questioned about it MP Helen Jones had replied stating that there was to be no Titan Prison, but she did not rule out the possibility of different type of prison. He urged people to check out the WRAPP website for further news.

Cllr Reynolds also made a suggestion that the Council could aim for 25<sup>th</sup> October, the anniversary of the Charge of the Light Brigade, as a target date for the renovation and re-dedication of the cenotaph.

The Chairman raised the subject of an email from Penketh PC referring to a football match that had been going on in an adjacent playing field while the Remembrance ceremony was conducted. The Council supported Penketh in condemning this action, and suggested they should approach the school that owns the field rather than the teams.

- 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 PC/2009/84 To exclude the press and the public from the remainder 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 was no further information to report.

- 17 To consider proposed amendment to Standing Order 1.1 line 2 to remove the words "except August", thereby allowing the Council to have a full Parish meeting every month.**

There was some discussion about this, in particular the resource implications. Eventually it was decided to lift the restriction on August meetings without actually committing to having one as a matter of course. The following form of words was proposed and agreed as an amendment to Paragraph 1.1 "Meetings of the Council shall be held at 7pm on the second Wednesday of every month, including August should one be required, at the Tim Parry Annexe unless the Council decides otherwise at a previous meeting."

**RESOLVED PC/2009/85 To amend Standing Order para 1.1 to lift the restriction on August meetings without committing to having one.**

- 18 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.**

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The Clerk withdrew before this item was discussed, Cllr Litton provided notes of subsequent proceedings for the minutes.

Cllr Litton recommended that the complaint be dealt with by the Employment Group, as is normal procedure. As all members of that group were present and a copy of the letter had been received by all Councillors the discussion continued. Cllr Litton proposed that Mr Tim Date, the solicitor and monitoring officer of Warrington Borough Council be invited to carry out an independent investigation of former Councillor Bird's complaint and to report back to the Employment Group, via the Chair. The Employment Group would then consider this report and any recommendations Mr Date may make and decide on any action it felt to be necessary and appropriate.

This proposal was agreed.

**RESOLVED**  
**PC/2009/86**

**To invite Mr T Date carry out an independent investigation of former Cllr Bird's complaint and to report back to the Employment Group, via the Chair, for any further action required.**

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