

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 9th December 2009 in Tim Parry Community Centre

Present: K. Gleave (Chairman)
Councillors: J. Regan P. Carter C. Lee
L. Smith T. Wood P Hudson

Also Present: C Wakefield – Clerk
7 Members of the public
PCSOs S Grady & L Garaven
H Bargery, Warrington Guardian

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A. Litton, V. Hudson and J. Wheeler, who all had work commitments, and Councillors K. Reynolds, R. Smith, J. Bouch and P Gore

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

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th November 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/2009/87 11th November as a true and accurate record

3. Finance Committee business

3.1 to be informed that the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd November 2009 (already received) were approved and accepted without amendment at the meeting on 1st December 2009.

The Council noted that the minutes had been accepted.

3.2 To receive the draft minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on 1st December 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 Committee had approved getting a new photocopier from the same company when the lease on the old one expired, and the Clerk was expecting it to be delivered the following week. She asked permission to get 2 of the Finance Committee to sign the mandate for the direct

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debit payments in advance of the next meeting, and this was agreed, as the transaction had already been approved.

- 3.3 To be informed that Finance Committee, at the meeting on 1st December 2009, authorised payments of £5500.85 for net wages and £1531.23 for payments to Inland Revenue. This was a difference of 14% less than October, which was unusually high because of pay award arrears, but only 2% less than March, a more typical month..**

The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

- 3.4 To also be informed of an error in reporting total wages for October. Total wages were actually £6302.97 (not £6041.68 as previously reported), a difference of 13% more than September because of arrears for the pay award dating back to April 2009.**

The Clerk explained this was because of an error on a spreadsheet, which did not recalculate the formula for a total when lines were inserted. The Council noted the figures and accepted the explanation.

- 3.5 To consider recommendations made by Finance Committee at the meeting on 1st December 2009 and decide whether to accept them**

Having reviewed the useage and results of Playschemes over a number of years, the Finance Committee made 2 recommendations. Resolution FC/129/2009 was to commission WBC to run Playschemes for 2 weeks each at Tim Parry, Whittle Hall and Bewsey Barn Community Centres, during Summer 2010, as these had been so successful and well used in previous years. It is understood the cost will be similar to the previous year. The Council considered the recommendation and voted to accept it.

**RESOLVED
PC/2009/88**

To commission WBC to run Playschemes for 2 weeks each at Tim Parry, Whittle Hall and Bewsey Barn Community Centres in Summer 2010 (LGA 1976 s19)

The Committee also recommended that WBC be asked to situate a mobile Play Team in Hood Manor during Summer 2010. It was agreed that this would be useful, as the Parish Council is keen that children in Hood Manor should not miss out just because the Community centre is not suitable. Cllr Litton will be asked to see if it can be sited at the school car park, and the Clerk was asked to request that this should be for 2 weeks, not one.

**RESOLVED
PC/2009/89**

To ask WBC to situate a mobile Play team at Hood Manor (at a site to be arranged, possibly the school car park) for 2 weeks in Summer 2010 (LGA 1976 s19)

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- 4 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 Public Inquiry relating to the application for Village Green status for Stocks Lane field is scheduled for 4 to 6 January. UU informed the Parish Council of an alternative solution, involving the installation of underground storm water storage pipes in the land off Friends Lane, and new sewers connecting Pyecroft Road to this storage. This would be a gravity operated system not requiring pumps or structures above ground. As such it would not require a planning application, UU have a statutory right to do this. UU are in the process of informing affected members of the public about this. It is not known if UU will continue to object to the Village Green application, or whether they will wait for the outcome of the enquiry before starting work. There was discussion of some of the technicalities of the new scheme, Cllr Lee cautioned that UU had been put off this solution previously because of technical issues, so advised keeping a watch on developments.

Cllr Wood mentioned that she had concerns about whether the proposed re-development of the Dawson House site could have any impact on the flooding issue. This was endorsed by other Councillors, and would be considered separately.

- 5 To be updated about progress with running a 15 week Boxing course for young people in the Parish.**

The Boxing course was building up slowly. Further to that Cllr Regan reported that the Finance Committee had agreed that Tom Mellor could have free use of Hood Lane Community Centre on 2 evenings a week until the end of the financial year as a venue for sports coaching sessions for young people. He has already obtained funding from the Arts and Sports Engagement Council for coaching fees, and can re-use the boxing equipment, so it will not cost the Parish Council any cash but will provide more activities for youngsters to try to keep them off the streets. The Parish Council has tried many ways to promote the boxing course, including via schools, Youth Workers and PCSOs. It was suggested that publicity is an issue that the Youth Projects Group can address, Cllr Smith said they need to set a date for their next meeting urgently.

- 6 To consider paragraphs 19.2 and 19.7 of Standing Orders in the light of information recently gained by the Clerk and decide if the Council wishes to make any alterations.**

An assumption had been made by a former Councillor, and accepted as common practise, that paragraph 19.2 of Standing Orders required both Chairman and Vice Chairman to be members of every Committee of the

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Council. This would have implications for the number of members required for a Quorum, particularly in the case of the Employment and Youth Groups (para 19.7). After debate the Council decided that it did not require a change to the Standing Orders, but that it would apply them literally, ie either the Chairman or Vice Chairman would be a member of each Committee but not necessarily both.

7 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 she and Cllr Gore had made a site visit to the cemetery, they now need to meet with Cllr Reynolds about it. Neil Simpson from WBC Bereavement Services, had given her information about spend by WBC. Although WBC had taken over maintenance of the cemetery without being allocated any extra resource, in 2008/09 about £3500 had actually been spent on the cemetery. They are now tendering to get some tree work done, and completing memorial inspections and risk assessments. Cllr Wood had thanked Mr Simpson for the amount of time, money and effort which had already been devoted to St Mary's cemetery.

Cllr Wood had also been putting up leaflets to try to generate interest in setting up a Friends Group, and had received some response, so things are looking hopeful.

8 To hear report from Cllr Wood from the Warrington West Neighbourhood Area Board

Cllr Wood reported that at the last WWNA Board meeting members had received briefings from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and about the Playbuilder Fund. The CDRP briefing had been very interesting and provided a wealth of information about crime statistics and priorities.

The 4 sites in Warrington West that are to get Playbuilder funds in the first year have been decided, but not the 2 sites to be funded in year 2, so there is still time to put in a bid to refurbish the play area at Tim Parry recreation ground. The Clerk is trying to get costings together for a bid.

The Chairman reported that the WWNA Board had already allocated £2000 to GSPC for the Boxing Project and £5000 for outdoor exercise equipment. Three sets of indicative costings had been received for the gym equipment but he needs to visit some installations to check up on the quality as the costs were so different from firm to firm. After that he will be able to put in a bid to WREN, and get a proper tender process in place.

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

The Council considered and discussed the applications on the list circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Wood declared a possible personal interest in application 2009/15413 as she lives nearby, but there no comments on this. Cllrs Wood, Carter and Lee all declared a personal interest in 2009/15525

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because of their connections with United Utilities. The plans for this were looked at in some detail, because the Council is concerned to ensure that the possible effects of such a large development on the already overloaded drainage system in the area have been fully considered and addressed. The plans are large and complex and Councillors identified some possible anomalies which they would like clarifying, before deciding on whether to comment. It was suggested and agreed that a meeting between some of the Council and UUs Developments section would be helpful in clearing up these points. The Clerk was asked to set up a meeting, and to inform WBC Planning section what was happening, in case GSPC need to lodge an objection after the implications have been made clearer.

After discussion there were no objections to be made to any of the other applications listed.

RESOLVED **To inform WBC Planning that the Council may wish to**
PC/2009/90 **object to planning application 2009/15525, and to meet with**
 UU to clarify certain aspects of the plans

10 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. There were no comments

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

Cllr Lee referred the Council to correspondence that been printed in the Warrington Guardian about the Mersey Gateway crossing. He had been surprised at the apparent general level of public ignorance about the implications of the crossing for Great Sankey and so had replied through the correspondence pages on the lines of the Parish Council's previously agreed submission to the planning application and Public Inquiry. He would continue to monitor and report back to the Council.

Cllr Lee also mentioned the recent suspected water leak at the Tim Parry Recreation ground and thanked the Clerk and her team for their endeavours in getting a satisfactory conclusion to the issue.

Cllr Regan had obtained a copy of the Policing Pledge, which had now been circulated to members for information.

The Chairman reminded members of the election to fill the Council's casual vacancy, on 17th December.

Cllr Wood pointed out that there is still a vacancy for a resident from Sankey North to sit on the WWNA Board, and asked the members of the public still present to consider volunteering for it.

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- 12 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/2009/91 To exclude the press and the public from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- 13 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.

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

Cllr Litton was not present to give an update, however the Clerk was able to inform the meeting that progress was being made with the course of action decided at the last meeting, as Tim Date had contacted her and arranged a meeting.

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