

Weaverham Parish Council

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at UPA Weaverham on Monday 18th July 2016, 7pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Peter Wilkinson (Chairman), Eileen Bland, Julian Bland, John Taylor, Cyndy Lloyd, Michelle Budden, Paula Williams, Roger Moss & Lynne Baird.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs John Freeman, Bill Reynolds and Gillian Edwards (apologies reported as would be late arriving).

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Stockton (Clerk)
Pat Mills, (Weaverham Trust)
Cheshire West & Chester Cllrs Paul Williams, Charles Fifield and Harry Tonge
Matthew Eccles, Mr A Ball and Mrs S Ball (residents of Rowan Road)
Sgt. Kevin Davies-Cheshire Police

40. Public Forum (A maximum of 10 minutes is allowed for this item)

Mrs Ball raised the problem of the lack of car parking facilities in the environs of Rowan Road, Weaverham. She provided the Council with pictorial evidence of this long-standing problem and also evidence of previous e-mail correspondence dating back to 2013. Mr Eccles also provided a letter making similar points of concern-copies attached to these minutes. Cllr Fifield responded on behalf of CW&C Council acknowledging that this issue has been a cause of concern for some time. He, however, drew attention the fact that CW&C had limited sources of finance and therefore had to invest these limited funds where they would deliver most benefits to the largest number of Council Tax payers. A general discussion then took place regarding the car parking strategy currently being consulted on by CW&C and the content of a meeting held the previous week on this matter with Mott MacDonald Ltd.

CW&C Cllr Paul Williams again raised the matter of overgrown hedges along the left hand side of an alley way close to Shady Brook Lane.

Clerk agreed to again report the matter to CW&C Highways.

41. Apologies for Absence-John Wilson (Weaverham Trust)

42. Declarations of Interest-no new declarations were made.

43. Approval of minutes of meeting of 20th June 2016 – approved.

53. Policing Matters-Standing Orders were suspended to allow the Police to address the meeting

Sgt. Davies gave a breakdown of 56 incidents that had occurred in the last month within Weaverham. He mentioned that the holding of further youth events e.g. skateboarding remained a possibility but was being delayed as a result of the sickness absence of PCSO Nixon. Sgt. Davies reassured the Council that Weaverham was receiving 24/7 police cover despite there being a number of vacancies at PCSO level. Sgt. Davies requested all incidents be reported officially (using 101) so an intelligence picture can be constructed (rather than by direct contact with PCSOs). Parish Cllrs raised concerns regarding the availability of the 101 service when needed.

Cllr Taylor requested a definition, as far as vehicle parking was concerned, of what matters were the responsibility of the Police and what were matters for other bodies e.g. CW&C Highways. Sgt. Davies gave the Council an update regarding the rollout of new technology within the “beat” police which would see “tablet” devices being issued to Officers to enable admin tasks to be performed without the need to return to police stations. To be completed by November 2016.

Sgt. Davies left the meeting; Cllr Edwards arrived at the meeting

44. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 18th June 2016 not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda

44.1 Allotment provision-Clerk reported on a meeting with Tony Daffern regarding land conveyance of early 1950s. It appears that there is no legal impediment preventing the conversion of land at the rear of the Brownie Hut into allotments. However, the Clerk noted the Council has yet to make a decision in principle regarding this matter.

44.2 Public Rights of Way representative-Clerk had spoken with Bernard Cook who indicated his willingness to continue as a representative of the Parish Council and be available for advice.

- 44.3 Office copier.** Now purchased, installed and working satisfactorily.
- 44.4 Nemisis Ltd**-outstanding balance of £1,300 now paid to the firm for the firework display for the 2016 Bonfire event. The Chairman asked all Councillors to be available on the day of the event to assist in its management. Cllrs Paul and Paula Williams gave their apologies as would be unavailable. **Clerk requested to organise a planning meeting for the event as a matter of urgency.**
- 44.5 Swimming Pool signage**-an offer from CW&C to provide additional signage to help direct patrons was referred back to the Environment Committee.
- 44.6 Joint Cemetery Committee**-Cllr. Taylor raised concerns regarding the physical state of the cemetery and also of St Mary's churchyard. The Chairman referred Cllr. Taylor to Sue Fernandes at CW&C via the Clerk regarding the churchyard..
- 44.7 ChALC ex-gratia payment.** The Clerk reported that this has been sent to ChALC in the sum of £200 together with a letter explaining that this was in final settlement regarding advice received by the Council whilst in non-membership. No response received to date from ChALC.
- 45. Finance & Personnel Committee**
- 45.1 Cheshire Community Action**-membership fee of £100 was **approved.**
- 46. Environment Committee**
- 46.1 CCTV.** Cllr Edwards gave an update on a meeting held the recently with the Community Association and Crimewatch Ltd. Three options were identified regarding returning the system to operational use. It was agreed that another joint meeting be held to pursue this matter-possibly on the same evening as the Bonfire planning meeting. **Clerk to organise.**
- 46.2 Letter from Mid-Cheshire Grounds Maintenance.** The offer from MCGM to extend the existing contract for a further year at existing rates was discussed. The matter referred back to Finance Committee for further consideration. **Clerk to organise a meeting of the Committee to discuss this single issue.**
- 47. Planning Committee**
- 47.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June were received.
- 47.2** The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2016 were received. An additional concern was expressed regarding application 16/02347/FUL-23 Well Lane. This was in respect of loss of privacy for neighbouring properties. **Clerk to add to comments from Parish Council to CW&C Planning Dept.**
- 48. Youth Committee**
- 48.1** Minutes of the meeting held on 29th June received. Clerk reported that Cllr Freeman has spoken with Clare Morgan at Weaverham High School regarding a youth representative for the Parish Council. To be progressed in September 2016 at the start of the new term. Cllr Moss reported that a representative of Weaverham Community Football Club would like a meeting with the Clerk on Thursday 21 July at 2pm to progress the proposal regarding youth football on Lakehouse Field.
- 49. Property Committee**
- 49.1 Review of assets held by the Council.** To be carried out at the next meeting of the Committee.
Clerk to arrange.
- 49.2 Swimming Pool**-Clerk reported that Iain Lassiter was hoping to be available for a meeting in mid-August.
Clerk to chase.
- 50. Community Pride Committee**
- 50.1** Cllr E Bland reported that the Weaverham Trust would be invited to September meeting of this group.
- 51. Weaverham, Cuddington & Acton Bridge Cemetery Committee**
- 51.1** Cllr Edwards acknowledged problems with the physical appearance of the cemetery and indicated that this would be discussed at the meeting of the JCC to be held the following day. She also reported that the JCC was looking to acquire more land as the existing site would be full within a year or so.
- 52. Community Safety Action Group**-has not met.
- 54. Members meeting attended**
- 54.1 CCTV**-Cllrs EB, JB, MB and GE
- 54.2 CW&C Parking strategy**-Cllrs Peter W, CL, EB, JF and MB
- 54.3 A49 Roundabout**-Cllrs EB, JB, JF, RM, WR

55. Any Other Business Considered Urgent by the Chairman

55.1 FOI request to CW&C re wall at Elston, High St. The Chairman reported on the response received from CW &C regarding the Parish Council's FOI request for sight of the technical report on the safety of the wall (copy attached). Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Building Consultancy Manager at CW&C to obtain definitive assurance regarding the current and future safety of the wall insofar as the potential for future collapse was concerned. **Clerk to action.**

56. Cheshire West & Chester Council Matters

(Standing Orders may be suspending in order that Cheshire West Cllrs may address the Council)

Cllr Fifield reported on the setting up by CW&C of District Advisory Panels to "engage" with local bodies e.g. Parish Councils. Weaverham would be included in the "Rural" D.A.P. along with other, more distant parishes.

Cllr E Bland complained about the length it was taking to decommission the taxi rank on Northwich Road.

Cllr Moss drew attention to the fact the Japanese knotweed problem on the CW&C car park on Church St appeared unresolved. CW&C Cllr Paul Williams agreed to chase this up.

57. Return to Public Forum (A maximum of 10 minutes is allowed for this item)

57.1 Pat Mills of Weaverham Trust raised the issue of progress regarding the maintenance of the A49 roundabout and was given an update of the current position by the Chairman.

57.2 Mrs S Ball raised the issue of blocked alleyways at the rear of Rowan Road. Clerk confirmed this had been reported previously to CW&C and agreed to forward the CW&C report receipt to CW&C Cllr Fifield.

Meeting ended at 9.20pm