

Weaverham Parish Council

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at UPA Weaverham on Monday 20th June 2016, 7pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Peter Wilkinson (Chairman), John Freeman (Vice Chairman), Eileen Bland, Julian Bland, John Taylor, Cyndy Lloyd, Michelle Budden, Paula Williams.

APOLOGIES: Lynne Baird, Roger Moss, Gillian Edwards (apologies reported as would be late arriving).

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Stockton (Clerk)
John Wilson, (Weaverham Trust)
Cheshire West & Chester Cllr Paul Williams

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

John Wilson (Weaverham Trust) raised the matter of overgrown hedgerows at various points on footpaths FP4, FP 5, FP6 and FP8.

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

Clerk agreed to report both matters to CW&C.

22. Apologies for Absence – As noted above.

23. Declarations of Interest-no new declarations were made. The Chairman requested all Parish Councillors to visit the Parish Office to check that their current Declarations of Interest forms remained accurate.

24. Approval of minutes of meeting of 17th May 2016 – Approved subject to the following corrections:-

24.1 Add Paula Williams to attendees.

24.2 Request to include individual names to record of Members' Meetings attended (by Cllr E Bland).

25. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 17th May 2016 not dealt with elsewhere on this agenda

25.1 Owley Wood Road-tree stumps still require removal-**Clerk to chase CW&C.**

25.2 Public Rights of Way representative-**Clerk to write to Bernard Cook** to ascertain his willingness to continue as a representative of the Parish Council.

25.3 Allotments-Clerk has continued to research position regarding land at rear of Brownie Hut as far as restrictions on land use is concerned.

25.4 A49 roundabout and Lime Avenue transfers of maintenance responsibility-Clerk reported on meeting with Jamie Barron of CW&C on 25th May. CW&C have been asked to grass over the roundabout prior to any transfer, meet with the Parish Council's maintenance contractor and identify appropriate compensation to be offered to the Parish Council given transfer of maintenance responsibility. **Clerk was requested to formally ask CW&C to detail the maintenance schedules adopted for grassed areas and verges and also the emptying of gullies within the village.** The negative impact of the current situation was noted as far as the Community Pride entry was concerned.

Cllr Edwards joined the meeting

25.5 Dry stone wall, Elston High St. Clerk confirmed that a FOI request was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council on 24th May asking for sight of the structural report.

25.6 Queen 90th Birthday celebrations. Cllr Freeman thanked all those involved in the event on 12th June for a very successful day.

25.7 RRPP repairs. Cllr Taylor asked for clarification regarding why only one quotation obtained for repairs to RRPP equipment. The Chairman explained as the amount was below £1,000 and the work was of a specialist nature being undertaken by the Council's current maintenance contractor, it was considered that this was the optimal approach to procuring the necessary repairs.

37. Cheshire West & Chester Council matters-this item was taken early to allow Cllr Williams to depart on holiday **(Standing Orders were suspended for this item in order that the CW&C Cllr could address the meeting).**

37.1 Cllr Williams noted the problem of Japanese knotweed in the Church St car park was still a matter of concern in terms how it might be dealt with by CW&C.

37.2 Cllr Williams also noted the problem of inconsiderate car parking within Rowan Road in particular and reported he had asked Cllr Fifield to contact the Clerk to explain the background to this longstanding issue.

26. Finance & Personnel Committee

- 26.1 The purchase of a refurbished office copier in the sum of £750 (plus VAT) from Claymore Business Services was approved.
- 26.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2016 were received.
- 26.3 The management accounts for April 2016 were **approved**.
- 26.4 The management accounts for May 2016 were **approved**.
- 26.5 The quotation from MCGM in the sum of £913.60 (plus VAT) for repairs to the RRPP equipment was **approved**.
- 26.6 An ex-gratia payment of £200 (without prejudice) to ChALC for services received whilst the Council was not a paying member was **approved**.
- 26.7 The balance of monies due to Nemisis Ltd in the sum of £1,300 was approved for payment at the beginning of July. It was also agreed that a meeting of the Bonfire Committee be convened as soon as possible to commence planning for the event. **Clerk to arrange**.
- 26.8 The Clerk reported on the Internal Audit report for 2015/16. The only significant issue concerned the Internal Auditor's view that the current level of general cash reserves held by the Council could well exceed 100% of the year's budgeted expenditure by year end unless specific action was taken. 12 months reserves was generally considered to be a maximum. The Chairman suggested various actions and asked the Finance and Personnel Committee to monitor the situation.

Cllr Williams left the meeting

27. Environment Committee

- 27.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8th June were received.
- 27.2 **2016 Bonfire Event-the Clerk was asked to write to the volunteer's representative** to thank them for their proposal which unfortunately had now been withdrawn as a result of the non-availability of evidence of appropriate insurance cover.
- 27.3 **Withens Lane fencing-** a discussion regarding vehicle parking issues in various locations within the village took place.
- 27.4 **Dog Fouling signage-**this matter was referred back to the Environment Committee.

28. Planning Committee

- 28.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May were received.
- 28.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2016 were received

29. Youth Committee

- 29.1 No matters raised.
- 29.2 Next meeting 29th June at 7pm at the Scout Hut, Church St.

30. Property Committee

- 30.1 An update was given to the Council by the Clerk concerning the content of a recent meeting with Mike Dix of CW&C Council regarding the future management arrangements of the swimming pool. Following discussion, it was agreed that a meeting be held with Fineswim Ltd to get their perspective on the way forward. **Clerk to arrange**.
- 30.2 It was suggested that the Clerk should obtain copies, on a regular basis, of the Health and Safety checks carried out by Fineswim Ltd in order to protect the Council's position regarding this aspect of the pool's operation. **Clerk to arrange**.

31. Community Pride Committee

- 31.1 Cllr E Bland gave a verbal update on the meeting held on 21st June with the Community Pride judging panel. It was agreed that the Weaverham Trust would be invited to future meetings of this group.

32. Weaverham, Cuddington & Acton Bridge Cemetery Committee

- 32.1 Cllr Edwards gave the meeting an update on meetings held with JCC Clerk and various site meetings.

33. Community Safety Action Group-has not met.

34. Policing Matters

- 34.1 No report as no Police representative attended. **Chairman requested the Clerk write to Inspector Snasdale** expressing concern regarding the continued absence of a Police representative at Parish Council meetings.

35. Members' Meetings Attended

- 35.1 Cllr Edwards has attended meetings with JCC, Community Pride judges and Weaverham Trust.
- 35.2 Cllr E Bland has attended meetings with Community Pride judges
- 35.3 Cllrs Wilkinson and Freeman have attended a meeting with Mike Dix of CW&C.

36. Any Other Business Considered Urgent by the Chairman

- 36.1 The Clerk gave an update regarding swimming pool signage, Christmas tree lighting invoices and a letter of thanks from the Rose Fete Committee for the Council's recent £800 donation.
- 36.2 The Clerk reported an invitation had been received from the Weaverham Memorial Orchard charity to an ecumenical Service of Dedication and Remembrance to be held at the Orchard on 12th September 2016 at 2pm.

37. Cheshire West & Chester Council Matters

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

No matters reported.

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

No further matters raised.

39. Part B-Exclusion of the Public

Resolve to exclude the Public under the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A PART 1(i)

- 39.1 **Clerk's salary award** of 1% effective from 1st April 2016 in line with national Local Government award approved.
- 39.2 **Pension arrangements**-The Council **agreed** to join the NEST pension scheme and requested this be done before the statutory staging date of 1st August 2016. Chairman to write to Clerk as required by law to offer this pension arrangement.
- 39.3 **Clerk's 2015/16 performance review**. This will be carried out by nominated Councillors on Monday 27th June at 8.00am-Clerk to attend at 8.30am.

Meeting ended at 9.20pm