

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at 7:30pm May 7th 2024 in the Parish Hall.

(In the authority of East Cheshire)

1973 - Election of Chair of the Council. Cllr Weerdenburg was Proposed by Cllr. Waltho and Seconded by Cllr. Goodwin. Carried.

1974 - Election of Vice chair of the Council – Cllr. Waltho was proposed by Cllr. Weerdenberg (Chair) & seconded by Cllr. Cook.

Present : – Cllrs. Weerdenburg (chair), Waltho, Goodwin, Cook, Thorpe, Harrison. Ward Cllr. Smetham and Lizzie Worrall,

Residents. Julie Lyne, Kate Hart, Craig Harrison, D Waite.

Apologies: Cllr. Cohen.

1975 - Signing of The minutes of the March meeting.

The minutes were approved verbally, as the official copy is with Adam Kepple-Green for the internal audit.

1976 - Council Vacancy Update –

Signing of Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest forms for Craig Harrison.

Cllr. Thorpe & Cllr. Van Weerdenberg witnessed.

1977 - Clerk Vacancy – Approval and signing of contract

Lizzie Worrall is pleased to be appointed as the new Clerk, starting on July 1st. The contract of employment was signed in front of the council by Lizzie and Cllr. Weerdenberg (Chair).

1978 - Online banking details and TCS Management - Cllr Waltho

The council agreed to adopt TCS as formal PAYE company etc. £17 per month. Helen Barber is the contact for TCS. Tax to be paid 1/4ly. Salary monthly. This will be authorised electronically by two Cllr's. There will be three designated signatories, of which two are required for payments/cheques.

1979 - Document storage - Cllr. Waltho

Anything for public viewing can be shredded? The new Clerk will store minutes and accounts for 10 yrs.

Documents at Dorothy Waite (Retired Clerk's), Retired Cllr. Ian Bonners and in the Parish Hall can be archived with the Chester archives.

Cllr. Waltho proposed we collect all minutes and accounts from Dorothy and decide what to archive. Planning documents are online from 2005. Anything before we should retain if we wish. Chester archives is closing on 1st July for refurbishment, for 18 months. Documents can be dropped off Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment.

Thurs 9th May is agreed to go through the documents in the Parish Hall, meeting at 18:30.

Action. Cllr. Waltho and Cook to collect files from Dorothy on Thurs.

1980 - Flooding update re Fire service action etc.

The Fire Service, at Cllr. Waltho, s request, examined the fire hydrant and asked United Utilities to replace it, which they did. The hole around it was left open and was full of water to the top.

Cllr. Cook & Waltho met with the land agent from Fisher German and the tenant to walk the fields. The fields were very wet as was the front garden at No 19 Beechwood. The fields did appear to be draining correctly but the tenant agreed to dig an area of the field to check for a collapsed drain. Fisher German sent an email confirming that the fields were draining correctly. In their opinion, the main issue is within the Beechwood Drive drainage system.

The new hydrant appeared to be leaking and United Utilities tested the water in the hole. It contained Chlorine as per tap water. They came back and tightened the Hydrant.

Meanwhile Andy Simpson of CE came out and noticing that two gardens at the top of Beechwood Drive were very wet, had the culverts outside of these properties jetted.

Overnight the leak became very large with considerable pressure, yet despite water running out very fast, the hole had emptied. United Utilities came out and repaired the leak.

By the next day the gardens appeared to have drained too!

The council tried to find out what happened to the water on Putty row on the evening of the flood. No records of what happened at Putty row seem to be available.

UU have recommended the separation of the Sewerage and surface water drainage system further down, but no timelines have been given for this work.

In conclusion, the water appears to be draining away now and the road and cavity around the fire hydrant are dry but the root cause is not clear.

1981 - Ward Governance review comments

Eaton PC have put their proposals in to CE which request that we stay in Gawsforth ward with similar villages and keep our existing boundaries as agreed at the CE boundary review. This matches with CE's own proposals.

1982 - Broadband Digital Cheshire meeting 2 - Project Update

Cllr Cook had a meeting update with Dean Burrows of digital Cheshire and the Project Gigabit supplier has now been chosen from the tenders. This is a Government large-scale procurement to seek a broadband provider to deliver full-fibre broadband to areas who don't currently have it. The properties in the village may be within the scope of this project but, more likely, they will not which means that they will be identified as eligible for the Gigabit voucher project where they mop up properties outside of the main projects. This project will start this year.

The successful supplier for Project Gigabit has yet to be announced Dean will let us know when they have. He will then contact them to see if our properties are in or out of scope.

1983 - Update on Boundary sign request and siting plan

Lesley to contact Andy Simpson to see if boundary signs are eligible for this budget. The cheapest way to obtain them seems to be to procure the signs. Agree with highways where they have to go then put them in themselves. One or two may be able to be placed on the reverse of existing boundary signs for neighbouring villages.

We Need a quote for signs, Four signs minimum. **Action Cllr. Cook.**

1984 - Bus stop repair

This has been completed. During the work a further roof beam that was rotted was discovered and replaced alongside more smaller pieces. This has increased the cost. D Waite has claimed the VAT back, which mitigates the extra cost.

1985 - Plough Inn

A resident had noted that the Plough Inn directors came to this meeting in May of 2023 to discuss the issues of Parking, Noise Nuisance and Anti-social behaviour that have been affecting residents in the village as a direct result of the Wedding venue.

Despite a lengthy and positive discussion and several proposals to deal with this, to date there has been no discernible improvement in any of these stated issues.

Several attempts to invite the directors back to this meeting to discuss this have not happened.

The parking issues, around safety and public transport access, have only become frequent since 1) the reduction in spaces due to the Smithy being separated off and 2) The increase in guest capacity due to the building of the conservatory.

When the planning consent for the conservatory was supported, the Parish Council stated “whilst not objecting to this, the Council is concerned about the parking implications of this and the very strong possibility of noise issues, to the detriment of residents.”

We agreed to Invite the Plough Management to the next meeting to discuss these issues with the aim of seeking a successful resolution. **Action: Cllr. Van Weerdenburg (Chair).**

1986 - Parking restriction line request

Cllr. Van Weerdenburg (chair) emailed Andy Simpson at highways to install the line over the bust stop pedestrian access to try to keep this clear of obstructions.

1987- Near Hillmoor Illegal tipping update. Nothing to report.

1988 - ROSPA report

There were a number of items to be repaired.
The possible pinch points on the inner gates.
The inner Fence is rotting and needs stabilising.
The ground under slides and swings need resurfacing.
At least one bench is rotting on the seat.

The grass, which used to be mowed by the contractors for the quarry is very long despite assurances at the last Quarry liaison meeting that this would be done.

Cllr. Goodwin has spoken to the contractor for the quarry and he has had the go ahead to resume mowing. This will hopefully start this week.

Action: Cllr's Thorpe, Harrison and Waltho will visit the park and list the work and prioritize it.

1989 - General Maintenance of the park and Tarmac contracts

A Liaison meeting to be arranged with Tarmac before 2nd July.
Contact Steve Williams. Not Wed or Thurs. **Action: Cllr. Waltho.**

1990 - Orchard project update. –

The tree planting is complete. Thanks to Cllr. Waltho and John Dines.

1991 - Website maintenance – Cllr. Thorpe.

Julie Lyne has now handed this over to Cllr. Thorpe and the website is up to date. All files are now uploaded and this means Julie can now clear her PC.

1992 - Permitted path flooding.

Many residents have reported that the Quarry path is currently impassable. It is thought that the pond near it has had drainage into it increased and the drain from it is no longer working. This is a safety issue as people may attempt to cross the flooded path by climbing along the fence.
Can we discuss this with the quarry.

Action: Cllr. Cook to Email Steve Williams to discuss this issue and request remedial work.

1993 - Governance, Statement of Accounts and Certificate re-approval.

Following the incorrect exemption certificate being used, the council is being presented for resolution the governance statements for approval, signed by the clerk and also a second presentation of the accounting statements signed by the RFO for approval by the council. Each set of statements to be signed by the Chair prior to return to the auditor to complete his audit. Re-approved.

1994- Accounts for payment

Cheques were signed for CHALC, ROSPA and Zurich.

1995 - Finance report, precept receipt

Brought forward half the precept and balanced the accounts.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to go into the bank to advise of new clerk details.

1996 - Magazine report

This Now goes to Sue.Conway54@icloud.com. The deadline is May 14th

To include:

New Cllr. Craig Harrison

Thanks to Julie Lyne

Dorothy Waite retirement and replacement

Flooding & drains update

Root cause unknown.

Permitted path/quarry path
Bus stop repair completed thanks to Tom.
Working party – park
Parking line request keep pedestrian clear & safe.
Action Cllr Cook

The Next meeting will be held on 2nd July at 7.00 pm

Signed Date

Action List

Action: Cllr's. Waltho and Cook to collect files from Dorothy on Thurs and take to the Parish hall

Action: Cllr. Cook to obtain a quote for the boundary signs

Action: Cllr. Van Weerdenburg (Chair). To invite the Plough Management team to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr's Thorpe, Harrison and Waltho will visit the park and list the work and prioritize it.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to arrange a Liaison meeting Tarmac, before 2nd July.

Action: Cllr. Cook to Email Steve Williams to discuss the permitted path.

Action: Cllr. Waltho to go into the bank to advise of new clerk details.

Action: Cllr. Cook to produce the magazine report and send to Sue Conway