

# CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2007

Present:

Cllrs P Harper, B Charlesworth, O Kelly, and W Macpherson.  
Borough Councillor Goff; three members of the public; Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Goodwin & Wallis.

RESOLVED

That the apologies be accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 15th August 2007 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising

United Utilities Traffic. Members considered that there had been a slight reduction in the volume of traffic, though continued monitoring would be necessary.

Litterpicking. The Clerk reported that the Council's contractor had been unable to carry out any litterpicking because of pressure of other work. He would seek to arrange for work to be carried out if possible. Members reported a number of sites which had been subject to flytipping.

Village Hall. Members noted with appreciation the work that had been carried out to improve the appearance of the gardens at the front of the Village Hall car park.

Council vacancy. Formal notice of the vacancy had been posted by the Clerk; co-option would be an option for the January meeting, subject to there being no request for a poll.

Scaffolding at Church. It was reported that the work had been protracted due to the inspection requirements of English Heritage. Lead was now being placed in position and it was anticipated work would be completed in the next week or so.

Church Minshull sign. The Clerk to follow up the order placed with the County Council.

#### **4. Future of Badger Inn**

Members reported on the meeting held with the Schofield Brothers to view the latest plans for the proposal to refurbish the Badger, to be enabled by a residential development on adjoining land. The meeting had been attended by Cllrs Harper, Kelly, Macpherson and Wallis. In its latest form the proposal involved seven residential units, and a total of 48-50 parking spaces. Cllr Harper had also visited the developers' completed scheme at Hanmer and reported on his impressions of that project, though stressing that it was a very different set-up from the circumstances at Church Minshull.

Schofield Brothers had asked the Parish Council to facilitate a public meeting at which they could outline their proposals to local residents. This had been arranged for Monday 26th November at the Village Hall. Although the Parish Council had arranged the meeting, and Cllr Harper would act as chairman as necessary on the evening, it would not constitute a formal meeting, no decisions could be made on behalf of the Council, and it was simply an opportunity for the developer to make the public aware of what development they had in mind.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting briefly to allow members of the public present to comment on the proposals.

Members considered their general view of the scheme as it stood, without prejudice to any consideration of the formal planning application. The general view was that the proposed refurbishment of the public house was excellent, but that a residential development of seven units was likely to be excessive, and that the layout was inadequate.

Members asked whether there was a likely timescale for the submission of the planning application. It appeared that the developers were seeking an early submission and decision, but there were extensive pre-application discussions under way. Borough Cllr Goff and the Clerk would both seek to monitor progress and it was hoped that the application might be submitted in time for the Council's January meeting. Members felt it was important that the application should be discussed at a full meeting, even if that required the calling of a special meeting.

## 5. Community Speed Watch Scheme

The Chairman reported little further monitoring had taken place because of the shortage of willing volunteers. Such monitoring that had taken place suggested that the scheme was having an impact, as the number of speeding cars per hour had fallen significantly from around 20-22 per hour in the early days to around 4-8 per hour.

## 6. Accounts for payment and Audit Trail

RESOLVED

That the following accounts be authorised for payment:

Church Minshull Village

Hall Committee	hall hire	£ 88.71
	Hall hire	£ 30.20
G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£268.88
UHY Hacker Young	audit fee	£ 88.13

Relevant bank statements were tabled by the Clerk, who reported that statement 166 (Oct 07) was not to hand, but that statements 165 & 167 could be balanced. On this basis the statements were presented, checked and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk reported that the external audit report for 2007-08 had now been received from the auditors (UHY Hacker Young of Chester) and that it was again a clean report.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be thanked for his efforts in maintaining the Council's financial affairs.

## 7. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the Local Government Pay Award 2007 had now been determined, involving an increase of 2.5%. Members were asked to consider their response.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk's salary and terms be amended in line with the agreement, and that payment continue to be based on SCP (spinal column point) 21, giving an hourly rate of £9.579 (annual rate £998.90).

The Clerk reported a new option for parish council insurance policies, underwritten by Zurich Municipal, and offering significant potential savings.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk make further enquiries regarding this option.

The Clerk advised members of the Borough Council's consultation on the Core Strategy of its Local Development Framework. This was a complex document, but one which could be of considerable significance to the future of the Borough.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be asked to convey to the Borough Council the Parish Council's views in the following terms:

That in determining its Local Development Framework the Borough Council should allow villages to respect and maintain their distinctive character in terms of both development (residential and commercial) and traffic impacts.

The Clerk reported to members that the new Code of Conduct had now come into force, but that members were required to determine whether or not they wished to adopt the provisions of Paragraph 12(2), relating to the right to speak (or otherwise) of members with prejudicial interests.

RESOLVED

That the Council does not wish to adopt the provisions of Paragraph 12 (2), and that members of the Council with prejudicial interests should take no part in discussion, and should have no right to speak to the matter. (This is in line with current policy).

The Chairman reported that he had now received a decision notice in respect of the planning application for a marina at The Outlanes. Permission had been granted. An application for a machinery store at Wades Green Farm had been withdrawn.

## **8. Any other business**

Members expressed concern at the condition of the highway and pavement in Cross Lane. A member of the public submitted a paper outlining the problem, which was accepted by the meeting with thanks. It was agreed that the paper would be forwarded to the County highway engineers.

Borough Cllr Goff reported that the Borough Council had agreed to take up Cllr Kelly's suggestion of a What's On publication. It was possible that such a feature would be incorporated within the next edition of News & Views.

A member raised concern regarding groundworks being carried out at the Eardswick Lane landfill site. The Clerk would check that work was being carried out in accordance with permissions granted.

A member expressed concern about hedges obstructing footways in the village. This would be raised with the County Council, who were the responsible authority.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Monday 7th January.