

# **CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2008**

Present:

Cllrs B Charlesworth, P Harper, O Kelly, W Macpherson, L Stent and D Wallis.  
Also Borough Councillor Goff, four members of the public and the Clerk.

### **1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED

That Cllr Harper be elected Chairman for 2008-2009, and that Cllr Wallis be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2008-2009.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

The Clerk indicated that he had received an apology for absence from Cllr Goodwin, who had also indicated that he would be resigning from the Parish Council for personal reasons.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest on agenda items at this point.

### **4. Traffic conditions – Cross Lane**

At the suggestion of the Chairman discussion of this item was brought forward in view of the degree of public interest in the matter. Members noted the continuing issue of road safety in Cross Lane, and the continued deterioration in the road condition which had been apparent. In particular the pavement was splitting under vehicle weight, and there was a danger of total collapse of the road surface. Following a recent accident some measures had been undertaken including improved road markings and gully emptying. Community Speed Watch activity had revealed a continuing issue of speeding, with 16 vehicles guilty in a period of one hour and top speeds of 46 and 48mph.

During consideration of this item the Chairman briefly adjourned the meeting in order to allow members of the public to contribute.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the local highways engineers in the following terms:

- a) to request a further survey of traffic volumes/ speeds;
- b) to request information on highway works currently being carried out or planned;
- c) to stress that the pavement is dangerous to use, and that the County Council is in breach of its statutory duty to provide a safe footway, and may be in breach of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act);

- d) to ask for an investigation into the feasibility of providing a dedicated footbridge outside the existing structure, or the provision of traffic light controls;
- e) to point out that there are unrecorded incidents and/or accidents on Cross Lane, and involving collisions with other vehicles and walls of nearby properties;
- f) to ask for appropriate highway engineers to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.

## **5. Annual business**

The Clerk reminded members of their statutory requirements to appoint a Responsible Financial Officer, to undertake an annual risk assessment, and to consider a review of Standing Orders.

### RESOLVED

- a) that the Clerk (Mr Gwyn Griffiths) be reappointed as Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2008-2009;
- b) that the Council, having carried out an appropriate risk assessment, considers the interests of the Council to be adequately protected;
- c) that the Council does not wish to review its Standing Orders.

## **6. Minutes of the last meeting**

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2008 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

## **7. Matters Arising**

Satellite Navigation. The Clerk reported that any progress on this issue would depend on the County Council preparing a Hierarchy of Roads policy, and that there was no timescale for this to be completed.

20 mph Limits. A member suggested that a 20mph limit within the village should be sought by the Parish Council. The Clerk would progress this with the highway authority.

Bus Services. The Clerk reported that the County Council had indicated that it could not provide financial support toward the restoration of a direct bus link to Nantwich.

Litterpicking. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a further comprehensive litterpick to be carried out across the parish, as recent verge cutting had made litter more visible.

High Farm, Eardswick Lane. The Clerk reported that the site had now been tidied, and the buses stored at the site had been removed.

Cross Country Magazine. The Clerk reported that he had received a very appreciative phone call, thanking the Council for its support of the magazine.

## **8. Badger Inn**

There was still no concrete progress to report, despite assurances that a planning application was “imminent”. The Clerk and Borough Councillor Goff would continue to press the matter, and the Clerk would seek an update from Schofield Brothers.

## **9. Community Speed Watch Scheme**

The Chairman gave members an update on the operation of the scheme. Five checks had been carried out in the past fortnight. On Cross Lane 16 vehicles had exceeded the

38mph figure in a little over an hour, with maxima of 48 (car) and 46 (motorcycle). The average speed of the 16 vehicles had been 42mph, and only two cars had been travelling at under 30mph. At the Village Hall site no vehicles had exceeded the 38mph figure; the general speed was 35mph.

The Chairman briefly adjourned the meeting to allow a member of the public to express a view that the scheme was not succeeding, and that the investment in the equipment had been a waste of money.

Members defended the scheme by pointing out that, although the volunteers had no powers to initiate prosecutions, they were receiving support from the Police, and the consistent presence of the Scheme within the village had some deterrent effect.

## **10. Accounts for payment and Audit Trail**

There were no accounts for payment.

Relevant bank statements were tabled by the Clerk, checked and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk presented for members' consideration the summary accounts for 2007-08, together with the Annual Return Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance. Income and expenditure had been in line with expectation (the receipt of a contribution toward the hire of Community Speed Watch equipment from Worleston PC had contributed to a higher than usual income). Members were satisfied that the returns accurately reflected the Council's transactions during the year, and were in accordance with the Council's budget and policy objectives for the community.

### **RESOLVED**

- a) that the Annual Return Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance be approved, and signed by the Chairman and Clerk;
- b) that Mrs JD Bratherton be reappointed to serve as the Council's Internal Auditor, on the terms previously agreed.

## **11. Correspondence**

The Clerk presented details of correspondence received since the last meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

That in respect of the request from Church Minshull Village Hall Committee financial support for the provision of a replacement cooker be offered on the basis of 50% of the balance outstanding (i.e. 25% of the total cost), subject to a maximum grant of £300 (payment to be subject to the provision of invoices).

The Chairman reported that no objection had been lodged to a planning application at Ashbrook Towers Farm, as it was not visible from the public highway. Members noted that a planning application at Manor Farm (considered by the Parish Council at its March meeting) had been refused by the Borough Council.

## **12. Any Other Business**

A member suggested that Winsford Town Council and Darnall Parish Council should be contacted regarding their possible involvement in a Community Speed Watch Scheme to compliment the work already being done on the B5074.

A member reported that there were signs in the Bunbury area warning heavy traffic not to rely on SatNav, and thus end up on inappropriate lanes. This might be useful in the Church Minshull area. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

A member asked if any progress had been made regarding the Church Minshull 'entrance' sign. The Clerk would pursue the matter.