

DRAFT MINUTES OF ALPRAHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Calveley Chapel on Tuesday 28 February 2017

Present: Cllrs P Howson (Vice Chair); A McLennan; J Crook; E McElroy; S Crank; Cllr M Jones (Ward Councillor); S Sparks (Vacancy Applicant); Clerk: S Stockton

Community Questions – There were none.

22/17 Apologies for absence: Cllr R Wilson (Chair) -Work Commitments; T Webster -Work Commitments; Cllr Howson stood in as Chair for the meeting.

23/17 Declarations of Interests

As previously declared. In addition Cllr Crook declared that he was a friend of the applicant for the vacancy on the Parish Council.

24/17 Approval of Minutes of Meeting – 31 January 2016.

The minutes were approved.

Proposed: Cllr A McLennan - Seconded: Cllr E McElroy

25/17 Vacancy for Parish Councillor

One application had been received from Steve Sparks and he had been invited to attend the meeting. Councillors spoke to Mr Sparks and he left the room while his application was discussed, it was decided to offer the place on the Parish Council to him, this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands (Cllr Crook abstained as he had declared an interest). When Mr Sparks returned to the meeting he agreed to take the position. Cllr Howson asked Mr Sparks to take on the lead role in the Highways section of the Parish Council as he had already been doing voluntary work with the speed gun, the previous road safety work and road safety generally. This was agreed.

26/17 Suspension of Standing Order 3.8: Order of Items on the Agenda

It was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3.8 in order to discuss at length a specific inappropriate Objection letter submitted to Cheshire East Planning by a resident regarding the planning application below.

27/17 Planning Application 17/0062: The Cottage, Pinfold Lane: Install Flood Lighting to Manage

This was discussed at length in particular in relation to a comment submission supposedly on the application which in fact only commented on the Parish Council's considered submission. At the meeting it was proposed that an email be sent to Cheshire East Council management asking them to remove this from their planning website. Subsequent to the meeting more serious possible issues were noted on the subject. Because of this the next meeting agenda (28th March in the Planning Matters section) will now also include this specific topic for further discussion and consideration.

**28/17 Report on Improving Alpraham's Environment
Bench around Yew Tree**

EM/AM/JC/SC

Cllr Crook tabled a second £750 quote for a replacement bench (which may include fixing the Notice Board). Cllr Crook will contact the supplier he put forward to get a definition of work and materials to be delivered. A decision can be made on value for money at the next meeting.

New Notice Board repairs

Cllr Crook is still progressing this.

Playing Field Inspections

The playing field inspections were carried out and the reports pending.

Electricity Supply for Christmas Lights in Yew Tree

Cllr McElroy is progressing this item.

New Waste Bin for dog waste

Cllr McElroy has this in hand.

Litter PickingThe Parish Council wish to record their thanks to the litter picking team for all their hard work in keeping the village clean and tidy.

29/17 Report on Resident Safety and Security TW/RW
Defibrillator

The substitution of 'signage saying" Defibrillator' and 'www.alprahamvillage.co.uk' for 'Telephone' in the telephone box containing the Defibrillator - being progressed by Cllr Wilson (not at the meeting.) RW

30/17 Report on Highways PH (one off – for new Councillor)
Conifer Hedge by Bus Stop (Blocking operational use of the Speed Camera)

This has been cut back and hopefully the Speed Camera can be activated.

Sign to Rushton via Hilbre Bank

Cllr Howson has been trying to get one of the confusing road signs to Rushton removed by Cheshire East.

30 mph advance sign: A51/Long Lane Junction

Still awaiting the sign to be installed by Cheshire East Highways

7.5 Ton Limit of back lanes

As discussed at previous meetings - this has been implemented by Cheshire East Highways with no involvement of the local Council - much to the dismay of Alpraham Parish Council.

School Bus problems

This matter will be pursued again to try to get the proper bus route via Hilbre Bank reinstated. Cheshire East Highways have indicated that they may resurface the length of road causing the issue in the next Financial Year.

Speed Gun etc.

Cllr Sparks reported on the times when the speed gun had been used – he found that the majority of drivers kept to below 37 mph. It was thought that SIDs would be a good investment and enquiries would be made regarding the financial implications of the different SIDs to see if funds could be made available from Parish Council's reserves.

Footpath from Mr. Cheers' Field on to A51

This item will be progressed as part of the Highways matters.

Street Lights on the A51 (Nantwich side of the Village)

Cllr McElroy has notified Cheshire East Highways about this and it will be corrected.

30/17 Planning Matters in Alpraham Parish

(a) Applications since last meeting

None

(b) Decisions Made by Cheshire East

16/6100 – Vine Tree Farm: New Dwelling and Garage/Vehicular Access

Approved.

16/6141 – Land Adj to Cherry Tree Cottage: Reserved Matters re 16/0105

Approved

(c) Decisions Awaited from Cheshire East Planning

16/4408: Land at Chester Road: Outline Permission for 2 Residential Dwellings

16/6067 – Willow Grove Farm: Outline Resubmission: Key Worker's Cottage

17/0062 – The Cottage, Pinfold Lane: Install Flood Lighting to Manage

17/0302 – Land Adj to the Cottage, Chester Road: 2 Detached Dwellings/Garaging

(d) Other matters - Parish Council Planning Responsibilities and Cheshire East.

Cllr Howson asked whether the Parish Council should continue to send their comments on Planning Applications to Cheshire East Planning Department as they were almost always ignored. Cllr Jones said that, although this was the Parish Council's right to do this, he thought that comments should still be sent.

31/17 Report on Social Activities and Future Vision Working Group PH/ EM

a) New Village Hall

Cllr Howson distributed a draft plan of the proposed new village hall to the meeting and outlined what would be happening in the coming months.

A motion was called for Cllr Peter Howson to be authorised the lead person / signatory for any Grant applications submitted to WREN. The show of hands was unanimously in favour.

Proposed: Cllr McElroy - ~Seconded: Cllr Crook

b) Play Area

Work on this is progressing slowly. Cllr Howson asked if a planning application would need to be prepared and submitted for the play area. Cllr Jones said that if the footprint was the same as the existing Play Area then no planning application was necessary, although if a Zip wire was required this may not be the case. The practicality of having a Zip wire was discussed and the Clerk was asked to obtain a price for the insurance excess if one was installed. Cllr McElroy will contact other Parish Councils to find out what their insurance is as a result of acquiring this item.

Clerk/EM

c) Section 106 and other contributions

Cllr Jones told the meeting that the Wardle Employment development is now confirmed as going ahead soon and thus a Puffin Crossing will be funded in Alraham as a result. The Parish Council expressed their concern that apart from the above crossing being funded by the Wardle development there seems to be no other funding from the 16 or 9 House developments towards the Alraham Parish facilities etc. It should be noted that Wellcome not only fund all the Village |Hall and Green facilities but also they are contributing just under £50,000 to secondary schooling in Nantwich!

Cheshire East Local Plan

Because of the rejection of the Cheshire East Local Plan announced in November 2014 it would appear that not only have the housing floodgate's been opened but also the proposed potential of funding from individual new houses to village amenities has vanished.

32/17 Finance

Report on Finance Matters

Clerk

a) Internal Audit (Statement of Accounts)

The up-to-date Statement of Accounts was available at the meeting.

b) Expenditure

The proposed accounts for payment were presented to the meeting as follows:

| Cheque | Date | Amount | Payee |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 787 | | CANCELLED | S Stockton (Salary etc. Jan 17) |
| 788 | 31 01 17 | 382.60 | Post Office (Clerk's Tax Jan 17) |

Proposed: – L McElroy - Seconded: P Howson

c) Receipts

No receipts since the last meeting.

33/17 Ward Councillor's Report and Reports on Meetings Attended

Cllr Crook will attend the next Police Cluster Meeting in April.

Cllr Jones said that the increase in council tax would be 4.9%.

34/17 Complaints Procedure and Protocol on Harassment and Bullying

Cllr Wilson is progressing this.

RW

35/17 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 28 March 2017

(Agenda Items by 14 March 2017)

Signed: Chair

Clerk

Date:.....