



Appleton Parish Council

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, Appleton, WA4 5EQ

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Minutes of the monthly Parish meeting of Appleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: - Councillor J Wheeler (Chairman)

Councillor K Arnett, Councillor B Axcell, Councillor I Axcell, Councillor S Bengler, Councillor M Browne, Councillor G Skentlebery, Councillor J Price, Councillor P Lewenz, Councillor J Walker and Councillor P Walker.

Mrs. J Monks (Clerk) four representatives from Bridgewater High School and one representative from the Stretton and Appleton Thorn Inland Border Facility liaison (SATIL) Group.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor J Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor R Johnson sent his apology for the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor J Wheeler declared that she was a member of Development Control Management Committee at Warrington Borough Council. As such she did not take part in any discussion or decision regarding planning applications.

Councillor J Wheeler had taken advice from Warrington Borough Council as Bridgewater High School were attending the Parish Council meeting with regards to their current expansion project. They have submitted a planning application for their expansion plans. Councillor J Wheeler therefore did not take part and did not pass any comment in relation to the plans submitted for Bridgewater High School.

Councillor P Walker declared that he was a substitute member of the Development Control Management Committee at Warrington Borough Council. As such he did not take part in any discussion or decision regarding planning applications.

3. Public Participation

No members of the public addressed the Parish Council under public participation.

4. Proposed Bridgewater Expansion Project

The clerk had received an email dated 9th December 2020 regarding a consultation of the expansion of Bridgewater High School. The consultation documentation can be viewed online at <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/expansion-project-consultation/>.

The Parish Council received a brief update and PowerPoint presentation from the Principal of Bridgewater High School and other representatives regarding the consultation of the proposed Bridgewater expansion project. The school has been asked to expand and extend by Warrington Borough Council due to the new housing which is being built in the south of Warrington. The school is looking to increase the student intake from 300 to 360 starting from September 2023. The school confirmed that they have liaised with Highways regarding access and have taken into consideration that access will be required at weekends due to the new football pitches which have been installed at Broomfield's Leisure centre.

Councillor J Wheeler thanked the Principle and the representatives from the school for attending and for providing an informative presentation.

5. PCSO / Police report

The clerk had circulated the PCSO report for the attention of all the Parish Councillors.

Councillor J Wheeler confirmed that there had been an incident on Bridge Lane, and this had been dealt with by the Police.

The Police had confirmed that there will be a dedicated community police officer who will be working seven days per week for three months to provide visibility and community reassurance and to respond to any issues regarding the Inland Border Facility. With regards to the surrounding roads, they have confirmed that there will be three or four specialist road policing officers working daily over three shifts, seven days per week for three months to provide a visible presence at and around the Inland Border Facility.

6. Minutes of last Parish Council meeting and matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Parish Council's monthly meeting held on Tuesday 15th December 2020 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The clerk confirmed that she had ordered the litter picking equipment as detailed in the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 15th December 2020 along with additional equipment for the Parish Ranger. The total cost of the equipment and postage was £126.75 plus VAT.

The clerk confirmed that she had booked Councillor P Lewenz on the Roles and Responsibilities Training course from Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

7. Minutes of Finance and General Purposes committee meeting and matters arising.

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2021 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

8. Parish Hall and Covid-19

Due to the lockdown restrictions re-opening of the Parish Hall cannot be considered. A meeting regarding re-opening will be arranged when re-opening can be considered.

The clerk has applied for a refund of £522.24 for the overpayment of the PRS Licence for the Parish Hall due to its closure since March 2020.

Warrington Borough Council have paid the amount of £6,239.21 to the Parish Council as a Covid-19 grant for the local restrictions and third national lockdown restrictions.

The Parish Council thanked the clerk, assistant clerk, booking secretary/cleaner and the parish ranger for their continued hard work.

9. Parish Hall Income and Expenditure

RESOLVED that;

The report on the Parish Hall Income and Expenditure for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020, as detailed in the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 7th January 2021 was accepted.

10. Quarterly budget review for all income and expenditure

RESOLVED that;

The report and recommendations for the quarterly budget for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020, as detailed in the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 7th January 2021 was accepted.

11. Quarterly Banking Reconciliation

RESOLVED that;

The quarterly banking reconciliation for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st December 2020, as detailed in the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 7th January 2021 was accepted.

The clerk will ask Councillor J Walker to sign the quarterly banking reconciliation along with copies of all bank statements as at 31st December 2020.

12. Community Policing Fund

Following the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee it was;

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council could not fund or support the proposed project of the installation of Eco Solar Motion welcome lights at this time.

13. Planning

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 4th January 2021 and Monday 18th January 2021 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor S Bengler reported that several residents had attended the Planning Committee meeting on Monday 18th January 2021 regarding a planning application for 11 Chessington Close. Councillor S Bengler confirmed that the Parish Council had now submitted a formal objection to the Development Control Department of Warrington Borough Council and that Councillor B Axcell as the Borough Ward Councillor will ask for the planning application to be 'called in' for a decision by the Development Management Committee at Warrington Borough Council.

14. Inland Border Facility

The Parish Council received a brief update from the Stretton and Appleton Thorn Inland Border Facility liaison (SATIL) Group regarding the Inland Border Facility. The group had produced a report, and this had been circulated to all the Parish Councillors for their attention.

The representative confirmed that a formal complaint had been submitted to the Inland Border Facility regarding cars parking in a layby. However, they had not yet received a response to this complaint. They confirmed that the Police were actively patrolling the area and they are now receiving weekly updates regarding traffic flow and type of vehicles using the roads. They confirmed the number of vehicles were however much lower than expected.

Councillor G Skentlebery had joined the Stretton and Appleton Thorn Inland Border Facility liaison (STAIL) group. There were ongoing discussions regarding tree planting and the clerk was asked to contact Warrington Borough Council for an update on this matter. There were also ongoing discussions regarding the possible installation of an air pollution monitor for the area and Councillor P Walker will provide the representative with details of one that Stockton Heath Parish Council has installed.

Councillor J Wheeler thanked the representative from the resident's group from attending and providing a comprehensive report.

15. Clerk's Report and approve of accounts and payments

The December 2020 statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2020/2021 was noted and the Members noted the Bank Statement as at 31st December 2020.

RESOLVED that;

Payments were to be made in accordance with the payment schedule for January 2021.

The clerk confirmed that Councillor J Walker undertook the verification of the bank reconciliations for all accounts as at 31st December 2020.

The clerk reported that the annual direct debit payment of £35.00 was due on 20th February 2021 for the payment for registration for the Information Commissioners Office/data protection renewal fee.

The electrical supply for the Parish Hall is due for renewal and the assistant clerk has researched and obtained three quotes. Scottish power, who is the current provider remains the cheapest as such this has been renewed on a two-year deal.

The clerk has circulated information relating to the Census which will take place in March 2021.

The clerk has received an email dated 22nd December 2020 from the Planning Policy and Programmes Team at Warrington Borough Council regarding approved revisions to its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is available at www.warrington.gov.uk/statement-community-involvement.

The clerk confirmed that Councillor P Lewenz will attend the Parish Council Liaison meeting on Thursday 11th February 2021.

The clerk confirmed that the Christmas lights loaned to St Mary Magdalene's church will be returned to the Parish Council this week. However, one string of lights is broken as it was vandalised when it was on the Christmas tree at St Mary Magdalene's church.

16. Members of Working Parties and Committees

RESOLVED that;

The following members be appointed for 2020/2021;

Planning Committee – Councillor S Benger, (Acting Chair), Councillor B Axcell, Councillor T Stansfield, Councillor R Johnson and Councillor J Walker.

Finance and General Purposes Committee– Councillor P Walker (Chair), Chairman Councillor J Wheeler, Deputy Chairman Councillor B Axcell and Councillor S Benger.

Working Parties

Environment Working Party –Councillor J Wheeler, Councillor K Arnett, Councillor T Stansfield, Councillor P Lewenz and Councillor J Walker.

Media Working Party – Councillor G Skentelbery and Councillor J Wheeler.

Employment Working Party – Chairman Councillor J Wheeler, Councillor P Walker and Councillor S Bengier.

PCSO Liaison Working Party –Councillor S Bengier.

Community Event Working Party - Councillor T Stansfield.

Youth Working Party - Councillor J Wheeler:

17. Replacement street tree planting

Councillor J Wheeler asked if the Parish Council could consider funding replacement street tree planting. This will be investigated, and a recommendation made by the Environment group working party for consideration by the Parish Council at a future meeting.

18. Contract for Planters

Councillor J Walker had contacted All Seasons regarding the contract for the 2021 summer and winter bedding plants. A further quote has been requested however this has not yet been received. Councillor J Walker confirmed that the new quote was for the planters only and did not include the plot adjacent to the shops at Bridge Lane.

RESOLVED that;

A maximum figure of £500.00 was approved for All Seasons for the planter contract for 2021 for the summer and winter bedding for the planters at Bridge Lane.

19. Litter bins

Councillor J Wheeler reported that she had received some complaints regarding overflowing litter bins over the festive period.

Warrington Brough Council had confirmed it would not be possible to increase the number of litter bins due to service capacity.

The clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of the replacement of the current bins with larger double bins and the costs relating to this. The clerk was also asked to confirm the locations and obtain a map which shows the current locations of litter bins in Appleton.

20. Training

The clerk had circulated the most recent training schedule from Cheshire Association of Local Councils. The cost was £40 to £45 per person per course.

RESOLVED that;

Councillor M Browne and Councillor P Lewenz will attend a planning course from Cheshire Association of Local Councils at the cost of £45.00 per person.

21. Parish and Borough Councillors Reports

Councillor P Lewenz confirmed that he had attended the South Warrington Parishes Liaison meeting with regards to the Local Plan and that he would circulate his notes on the meeting.

Councillor P Lewenz and Councillor G Skentlebery raised concerns regarding the increasing use of The Dingle and that routine maintenance was required to make the paths safe. The clerk confirmed that she would report this accordingly to the owners of the site.

Councillor J Walker reported that the path along the Bridgewater Canal was very muddy and badly maintained and asked the clerk to contact the owners and Warrington Borough Council regard to its condition.

Councillor J Wheeler asked if the Parish Council would like a presentation on the upcoming census at the next Parish Council meeting. A decision on this would be made before the next Parish Council meeting in February.

22. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended at 21.17pm.