

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM

AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr. J Moore (Chairman)

Cllrs. D. Houston, D.Lucas,, G.Roberts, B.Squirrell, M Simon, D Millington

In Attendance : Kerri Wilcox (Clerk) 1 Member of the Public

105 APOLOGIES Cllr's Kilkenny, Moore

106 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2022, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr's Squirrell and Houston declared an interest in Agenda item 6 Chairmans Report on the Memorial Hall.

108 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/POLICE MATTERS/CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon reported that the patching of the rope lane has been completed the work and a majority of the public are very happy with it. There are still problems with the road surface of Rope Lane Bridge which has been reported on Fix My Street and it is on the agenda

The footpath from the new Kingfisher Estate down to Wistaston Green Road has been converted from steps and is now a steep slope.

The steep drop at Hinging Bank Covert that was reported by members of the public was quickly dealt with by the Park Ranger and Conservation group.

109 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) The following planning decisions have been notified from Cheshire East Council

21/5613N – Demolition of the existing conservatory and construction of a single storey rear extension – 77 Lear Drive – **approved with conditions**

21/5149N – Single storey garage to side elevation, utility to side/rear elevation - Cherry Tree Cottage, 74 Church Lane – **approved with conditions**

110 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was received by the Council and accepted.

1. Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT)

It was agreed that any plans would be put on hold until the Cheshire Wildlife Trust get in touch with the Clerk as the Wellbeing Project plans have not yet been made.

2. SID installation

The Chairman reported that Cllr Simon has received a reply from Cheshire East Council's Chief Executive which asks lots of questions which have already been answered and also confirmed that there is a consultation underway with regards to any further SID installations, so we are able to have our original post installed but no further posts until a decision has been reached. Both the Chairman and Cllr Simon are going to try and get in touch with the Sarah Hemmings at Cheshire East with regards to obtaining an installation date.

3. Memorial Hall (MH)

A request has been made from the Secretary Bill Heath on clarification of the Parish Council's role for the premises.

A reply has been sent to the points raised.

a) Ownership?

The area is owned by the Parish Council under the conveyance in 1947.

b) Whose name is on the Land Registry?

The area is currently not registered. **(It was proposed by Cllr Millington and seconded by Cllr Squirrell that the Clerk will register the land).**

c) The committee are considering a change in the charitable status.

Details have been requested as this will require a legal review between the Parish Council and the Charity Commission. **(Cllr Squirrell explained that the current Charitable status means that the placing of contracts are not covered by the insurance so if there are any problems then the trustees would be liable. It was agreed to await more information from the Memorial Hall Committee)**

d) Should the Parish Council become more closely involved and lead the development?

The MH is managed by the Committee who have powers to maintain and develop the area.

111 CO-OPTION OF CASUAL VACANCY

Council approved the co-option of Mrs Samantha Perry as a Councillor in the St Mary's Ward.

112 CLERK'S REPORT

i. Memorial Tree Wistaston Flower Club Diamond Anniversary Tree

I have received an email with regards to a Tree being planted with a plaque to commemorate Wistaston Flower Club's Diamond anniversary.

The Council **APPROVED** the request for an anniversary tree and the Clerk will ask them to contact the Conservation group with regards to location / type of tree etc.

ii. Renewal of Microsoft Office

The subscription for the Microsoft Office expires on the 21st April 2022 which needs to be renewed for another year at a cost of £59.99 (Funded from Line 2 Printing Stationery and Advertising).

Council **APPROVED** the Microsoft Office renewal.

iii. Website Hosting Renewal

An invoice has been received for the renewal of the Website hosting from Paragon Internet Group t/a Tsohost for the period 20/03/2022 – 19/03/2023 at a cost of £36.00 & Vat. (Funded from line 14 Website Hosting / Maintenance)

Council **APPROVED** the renewal of the Website hosting

iv. Replacement Mesh on the Boardwalk

As per Cllr Robert's Environmental report from February 2022 the mesh on the Boardwalk needs replacing, after discussions with the Park Ranger the cost for a thicker mesh which would last longer would be about £130.00 & delivery. (funded from line 29 Environment general)

The Council **APPROVED** the purchase of the mesh and Council will look into costs of a different options.

iii. February 2022 Stakeholder Newsletter from John Dwyer

Enclosed in your papers is the latest newsletter from John Dwyer for information purposes only.

The Clerk's Report was **accepted** by the Council.

113 FINANCE

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Accounts totalling £1761.85 and Receipts & Payments Statement for February 2022 have been approved.

114 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

WSLA VERBAL REPORT

Cllr Squirrell reported that the survey on the Drainage project will be in 2 parts and they are still awaiting a quotation for the 2nd part. The roof has been repaired after the recent storms. They have an appointment with the Solicitor next week to discuss the renewal of the Cricket Club Lease. The WSLA Annual General Meeting takes place on the 30th March 2022.

115 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Report completed by Cllr Squirrell was received by the Council and the Council are going to investigate cost implications of installing Grasscrete in area's where it is noted to be rather muddy underfoot.

The Environmental report was accepted.

116 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED : That the Press & Public be excluded during consideration of Item 13 on the Agenda. Pursuant to Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

117 GRASS / HEDGE CUTTING TENDERS

Three quotations have been requested for grass and hedge cutting, from Ansa Environmental Services Ltd. AS Landscapes and Countrywide Grounds Maintenance. Only one quotation has been received from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance, a copy is included in your papers as detailed below:-

QUOTE RECEIVED FROM	GRASS CUTTING JOEY THE SWAN MAIN FIELD/ GANG MOW FOOTBALL PITCHES/BOX MOW SENSORY GARDEN AREA/MOW COLLEGE FIELDS 15 OCCASIONS	HEDGE CUTTING AT JOEY THE SWAN 2 OCCASIONS	STRIM SHRUBBERY ROADSIDE EDGE ALONG VALLEY WOOD 2 OCCASIONS	TOTAL COST FOR ALL WORKS
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	£272.00+VAT per cut £4080.00+VAT	£89.00+VAT £178.00+VAT	£54.00 +VAT £108.00 +VAT	£4366.00 +VAT

Strimming work where mowing is not possible due to the topography of the land e.g. alongside the brook edge, the embankment at the side of the children's playground and the rear of the hedge to the roadside will be strimmed three times per year – April, June and the week prior to our Annual Duck Race being held in September 2022, by our Park Ranger, for additional hours pay.

The Budget provision for 2022/23 Recreational Grounds (Line 26) is £4,500. If the Council approve the recommendation below the cost would be £4366 which is within the Budget provision.

RESOLVED: That

1. The quotation from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance in the sum of £4366.00+VAT, be accepted to mow Joey the Swan, gang mow the football pitches, box mow the Sensory Garden area and mow college fields, fortnightly from end mid March to mid October 2022. To cut the hedge at Joey the Swan and strim back shrubbery on the roadside edge of Valley Wood, in July and September 2022, being the only quotation received from three

requested. One cut to be carried out in the week prior to the Duck Race in September 2022. (Funded from Line 26 – Recreational Grounds)

2. Strimming work where mowing is not possible due to the topography of the land e.g. alongside the brook edge, the embankment at the side of the children's playground and the rear of the hedge to the roadside, be carried out by the Park Ranger for additional hours pay. These areas be strimmed 3 times per year–April, June and the week prior to the Duck Race in September 2022.

118 CLERK AND PARK RANGER SALARY REVIEW FROM THE CHAIR OF FINANCE

The National Joint Council for the Local Government Service (NJC) has reached agreement on pay scales for 2021-2022. Consequently, the NJC recommend that the salary scales for all full and part time clerks and staff be adjusted in accordance with the new spinal column points (SCP). The new rates of pay should be applied from 1st April 2021. A copy of the details for 2021-2022 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks and other employees was included in Councillor's papers.

RESOLVED : That the revised Salary Scales be implemented for both the Clerk and Park Ranger for 2021 – 2022 back dated to 1st April 2021 and the previous clerk receives the increased pay scale for April 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.