

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 14 September 2021

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

Bob Holt

Val McDermott

Jill Johnston

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Norman Wright

4 Members of the Public

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Public Open Forum

There were 4 Members of the Public present. They were attending to express their views regarding the possible change of Budworth Lane and Cock Lane to make a one way system.

The Chairman outlined the background – CWAC Cllr Lynn Gibbon had been in touch with Parish Councillors in Marbury Ward regarding budget allocation from the Government for cycleways and footpaths and seeking information about locations where there was a need. We had identified Budworth Lane as a potential location where there was often concern about the lack of a footpath. It was understood that the funding was allocated to other potential opportunities.

Following a Ward meeting to discuss Highways issues at Marbury Hollows and general speed issues in Anderton with Marbury and Comberbach, signs stating ‘no footway’ had been installed at Budworth Lane. The Parish Council had included an item in the Village Newsletter for September seeking residents’ views on the possible one way proposal and footpath/ cycle route.

Members of the public raised the following points:

- The importance of those with land being able to access it via a 2 way highway to avoid the need for additional journeys
- The route may be unsuitable for agricultural machinery and caravans
- Cock Lane was an unclassified road and the speed limit was 50mph, which was considered too high
- The importance of farming to the rural economy
- The overall increase in traffic due to local roads being used as a rat run
- That there were existing footpaths but they were overgrown and this could be addressed to provide a solution for pedestrians

- Traffic queuing at the blind bend on the A559 to make a right turn from Great Budworth into Budworth Lane would be dangerous.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and approved from Councillors Jim Bradley, Richard Chandler and Steven Hornby.
Apologies were also received from CWAC Councillors Lynn Gibbon and Phil Marshall.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2021

(21/48) RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. Casual Vacancy

Cheshire West and Chester Council had now confirmed that no election had been requested and the Parish Council would be able to fill the vacancy by co-option. The vacancy had been advertised in the Village Newsletter.

(21/49) RESOLVED that the update be noted.

5. Cheshire West and Chester Councillors' (CWAC) reports

CWAC Councillor Wright updated as follows:

- He and Cllr Gibbon had undertaken a site visit to all Parishes and reported all potholes and requested the overgrowth obstructing the interactive sign be cut back at Great Budworth
- Esther McVey MP had visited on 1 September regarding Winnington Bridge
- He had attended a presentation on HS2 which was hoped to be operational in 13 years.

6. Progress Reports and Updates

6.1 Replacement posts for the swing had been ordered and were expected for delivery later in September. They would be fitted by the Chairman, volunteers and Maintenance contractor. Members discussed seeking information from other local Councils regarding maintenance works and inspection regimes.

6.2 Dog waste bags had been obtained by Cllr McDermott and would be promoted in the Village Newsletter.

6.3 The Clerk had contacted BT regarding the scruffy and overgrown state of the BT Exchange on Senna Lane and had been informed that this had been referred to the Facilities Team for review.

6.4 Grant funding opportunities at the Recreation Area would be discussed at Finance Committee, provisional date of 12 October.

(21/50) RESOLVED: that

(a) the Clerk contact local clerks to seek information on who they employ for inspection, maintenance and repair works at their Recreation Areas; and

(b) the Clerk contact Northwich Town Council to confirm they can undertake the inspection for October.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

The Parish Council considered:

7.1 An update from the Chairman on the Recreation Area – the Wet Pour had been jet washed and branches cut back. An additional bench had been sited at the Pump Track and a third bench would be sited by the sign.

7.2 The regular inspection reports were submitted. Some residents had suggested the swing seat height was too low and the Chairman agreed to check.

7.3 The Grass Cutting and Maintenance Contract was due to expire in March 2022. A specification was attached for consideration and it was recommended that invitations to quote be circulated.

7.4 The purchase of safety matting for the wall of the storage unit.

(21/51) RESOLVED: That

(a) the update from the Chairman on the Recreation Area and Pump Track be received;

(b) the Inspection Reports be received and the Chairman will check the swing seat height;

(c) the Clerk invite quotes for the contract for grass cutting and maintenance from the present incumbent, Northwich Town Council, relevant advertisers in the Village News and advertise the opportunity on the website, with a deadline of mid-November; and

(d) a budget of £200 be approved for safety matting for the wall of the storage unit.

8. Highways and Streetscene

The Council considered:

8.1 Budworth Lane to Cock Lane possible one-way traffic scheme – it was agreed that this be deferred to the next meeting to await any views from residents. Councillors would also seek information on footpaths in the village.

8.2 Speed indicator device – the SID had been collected by the Chairman and was currently in situ on Gibb Hill. The data could be downloaded via a USB cable to a PC. There were a number of locations where the SID could be deployed including Marbury Lane and Senna Lane. If the Parish Council decided to operate a Speedwatch scheme with volunteers collecting number plate information then locations would need to be agreed with CWAC.

8.3 Winnington Bridge – the Council considered a presentation outlining 3 options for the bridge. Members felt it was important that there was a coordinated approach between transport and planning and that no further development should be granted until funding was confirmed for a solution to the bridge replacement.

8.4 Members received the Little Leigh travel plan.

8.5 A car had been parked for a number of weeks at the Bowling Club and appeared to have been abandoned. The PCSO had advised this was a matter for CWAC Regulatory Services as the car was on private land rather than the public highway.

(21/52) RESOLVED: that

(a) the item relating to Budworth Lane/Cock Lane be deferred to the next meeting to await any views from residents;

(b) the update on the SID be received;

(c) the Clerk draft a response to the Winnington Bridge proposals to include the points made by Members and circulate to all Members for views prior to submission to CWAC; Option C being the most advantageous as the bridge would be wider and also would reduce the narrow Winnington Sandstone Bridge as a potential pinch point for HGV's as is now. The request is to ensure that both Highways and the Planning Department have a joined up coordinated approach to any increase in housing as outlined in the recent planning application for a further 1200 homes.

(d) the Little Leigh travel plan be noted; and

(e) the Clerk contact CWAC Regulatory Services regarding the abandoned car.

9. Accounts and Financial Matters

9.1 The Parish Council Accounts at 30 August 2021 were submitted at Appendix 1.

9.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

9.3 The External Audit had been successfully concluded with no issues raised.

(21/53) RESOLVED That

- (a) the accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £22,028.88 and £21,374.67 in reserves be noted;
- (b) the payments in Appendix 2 be approved;
- (c) the RFO be congratulated on a successful External Audit.

10. Projects

10.1 The Council had advertised in the Village News seeking volunteers to take part in a Village Task Force to carry out general maintenance throughout the village.

10.2 The Council had also sought views on commemorating the Queen's Jubilee in 2022. As the Newsletter had not yet been circulated it was agreed to defer both items.

(21/54) RESOLVED That:

- (a) the Village Task Force be deferred to the next meeting; and
- (b) the Queen's Jubilee commemoration be deferred to the next meeting.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3.

11.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(21/55) RESOLVED: That the planning update be noted.

12. Staff Appraisals and Clerk's Cilca Qualification

12.1 Both staff had achieved successful appraisals. It was proposed that staff contracts be reviewed to ensure they were up to date and were fair to current staff while also taking account of the current market position. It was proposed that advice be sought from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

12.2 The Clerk had now passed the Certificate in Local Council's Administration and her contract stated that 2 increments were due on completion of the qualification; this was agreed.

(21/56) RESOLVED: that

- (a) the Chairman contact Chalc for advice regarding staff contracts; and

(b) the Clerk be awarded two increments with effect from 1 July 2021.

13. Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted. The Clerk noted additional correspondence received relating to an application to introduce a change of use from footpath to bridleway and an update from Cheshire Community Action regarding carrying out a Housing Needs Survey.

(21/57) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

14. Exclusion of Public and Press – Part 2

That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed which relates to details of an individual.

Part 2

None

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 26 October 2021.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 August 2021 were approved

Current account: £22,088.88	Reserves: £21,374.67
Cash book: £43,403.55	Unpresented cheques: none

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External audit fee 20/21	£240.00	LGA 1972 s 111
HMRC – PAYE Jul-Sep 21	£252.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Synchroprint – CVN September 21	£182.00	LGA 1972 s 111
J Ryder – reimbursement materials costs	£285.29	LGA 1972 s 111

CPRE – subscription 21/22	£36.00	LGA 1972 s 111
D French – mileage, expenses & software subs'n	£89.15	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Date	Power
Synchroprint – CVN July 21	£182.00	20/07/21	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 3 Recent planning decisions by CW&C

20/03702/OUT - demolition of the existing garage and passageway of Senna House and erection of two four bedroom detached houses15 Senna Lane	Pending
20/03809/FUL - <u>Removal of existing garage, two storey side and single storey rear extension and new dormer to roof</u> , 5 Mather Drive	Approved
21/00584/TPO - Oak on boundary line in hedge - Fell to low stump due to poor previous Pruning, 17 Goosebrook Close	Approved
21/01937/S73 - Single storey side and rear extension and creation of first floor (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of planning permission 19/01832/FUL) 31 Senna Lane	Pending
21/01836/FUL - Proposed one-bedroom (self-build) dwelling in replacement of existing garage and detached residential outbuilding, land at Comberbach Post Office, Senna Lane	Pending
21/02469/FUL – single storey rear extension and loft conversion, Mill Bank	Pending
Lime (T1) - Reduce crown by approx 1-2m. Dying Ash (G2) - Fell to low stump due to decline showing in crown; 7 Freshfields	Pending

