

Minutes of the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 26 October 2021

Present

Councillors:

John Ryder (Chairman in the Chair)

John Darwin

Bob Holt

Stephen Hornby

Val McDermott

Jill Johnston

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Lynn Gibbon

The Meeting started at 7.15pm.

Public Open Forum

There were no Members of the Public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received and approved from:

(a) Councillor Jim Bradley for a 2 month period due to bereavement;

(b) Councillor Richard Chandler due to family reasons.

2. Casual Vacancy

(21/58) RESOLVED That John Darwin be co-opted onto the Parish Council and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed in the presence of the Proper Officer.

3. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 September 2021

(21/59) RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

5. Progress Reports and Updates

The Clerk updated that she had had contact with other Marbury Ward Clerks regarding provision of maintenance and inspections at Recreation Areas, most local Councils used Northwich Town Council and Playsafety or Rospa, except one council that used an alternate provider.

The Clerk also agreed to send a reminder to BT regarding improving the appearance of the BT exchange on Senna Lane. The Chairman would also contact the Chairman of BT.

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

CWAC Councillor Gibbon updated as follows:

- The backlog in the planning department was ongoing; there remained a high number of planning applications that were awaiting a nominated officer and many deadlines for determining applications were not being met. Cllr Gibbon had submitted written questions on measures to address staff morale; use of IT systems and impact on the local economy of delays in planning decisions.
- There was a local issue around soil dumping and lack of enforcement.
- She had submitted written questions regarding the new chargeable green waste service to find out if the service would be self funded. Residents would be getting new wheelie bins in the new year to replace the recycling boxes.
- A 3 day clean up had started in Northwich and would finish on 28 October.
- Funding for projects could be sourced via Space Hive which was a Crowdfunding initiative.
- She was sourcing approximate costs for a walkway at Marbury Hollows so that funding bids could be submitted.
- She had asked for overgrowth on Budworth Lane to be cut back.
- No option had yet been selected for the Winnington Bridge proposals.
- Tata had applied for permission to increase tonnage at their plant at Lostock.

7. Recreation Area and Pump Track

7.1 The Chairman updated that he had undertaken a site visit earlier in the day. The matting under the zip wire would be ok for the time being pending repair or replacement. The broken swing legs would be repaired once parts arrived. The Pump Track continued to be well used.

7.2 The latest Inspection Report from Northwich Town Council was considered. Members noted the following points:

- Reference to missing parts – these had been removed years ago
- Securing the benches – this had been checked with the manufacturer and at the annual Rospa Inspection and the Council was satisfied they were secure
- Gate closing slowly – the Chairman had checked the timings and the gate closed in 5 seconds which was within the approved timing
- Zip wire matting – a quote would be sought for repair or replacement costs.

7.3 New projects – there was funding available through the FCC Community Action Fund. The latest round of funding closed on 1 December 2021. Members

agreed it was too soon to apply and that the Recreation Area and equipment would be reviewed to identify any future options. This would be discussed at the Finance Committee in the first instance.

(21/60) RESOLVED: that

(a) the Clerk contact Northwich Town Council for a quote to repair or replace the matting under the Zip Wire; and

(b) the Finance Committee consider possible future projects at the Recreation Area prior to discussion at the full Council.

8. Highways and Streetscene

The Parish Council considered:

8.1 Budworth Lane to Cock Lane possible one-way traffic scheme – the Council considered views submitted following the article in the Village Newsletter; members had also been circulated with the views that had been submitted to Great Budworth Parish Council. It was noted that residents had advised of near misses and the litter picking group often found wing mirrors on the highway. It was felt that some straightforward solutions could be implemented to improve the situation such as cutting back overgrowth, clearing footpaths and installation of a 'Stop' sign at the Comberbach end of Budworth Lane. It was recognised that there was not one single solution that would work for all road users and the local area.

8.2 Speed Indicator Device – the SID had been in use since September. There was an issue with accessing the data which was being progressed with the manufacturer. The Police and Crime Commissioner was visiting on 4 November following his grant support towards the SID.

8.3 Community Speedwatch Group – the call for volunteers in the Village Newsletter had not attracted any new volunteers. The Chairman would make further reference to Speedwatch in his next article for the Christmas edition of the Newsletter.

8.4 Pilot scheme to address speeding – this initiative was being progressed by Cheshire Association of Local Councils and 4 pilot schemes were to take place. Any council wishing to be involved would need to be able to commit annual funding of £5k per year. The Chairman would make reference to this in the next Newsletter.

8.5 It was noted that the data from the 'black box' would be available from CWAC later in the year.

8.6 Issues with dog poo around the village were discussed. There appeared to be issues at particular locations. Residents would be asked to report any issues to the Council.

8.7 There were issues with overhanging trees and hedgerows. Members agreed to do a walkaround and approach any particular properties with a request that the issue be addressed to ensure safe use of footpaths for everyone.

(21/61) RESOLVED: That

(a) in relation to the proposal for a one way solution at Budworth Lane and Cock Lane, the Clerk be granted delegated powers to draft a response after circulating to all members for views. The response will reflect the differing opinions raised, suggesting some highways solutions as discussed at the meeting and requesting that Highways officers meet with representatives of Comberbach and Great Budworth Parish Councils and the CWAC Marbury Ward Councillors to walk the route to discuss possible improvements that could be made to improve highway safety. All residents who have contacted the Council will be updated on this outcome and thanked for their response. The Clerk to Great Budworth Parish Council will also be advised of the Council's decision;

(b) the Chairman contact the SID supplier regarding downloading of the data;

(c) Speedwatch and the pilot speeding scheme be kept under review and discussed at future meetings;

(d) the data from the 'black box' be considered once available; and

(e) councillors will walk their patch to identify any issues with overhanging trees, hedgerows etc and approach the householder where necessary using a standard letter to be supplied by the Clerk.

9. Accounts and Financial Matters

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

9.2 The list of payments was in Appendix 2.

9.3 The list of additional payments was set out.

9.4 The Q2 Budget report was considered.

9.5 The council considered subscribing to Cheshire Community Action at a cost of £20.

9.6 The RFO reported that a number of advertisers in the Village Newsletter had now cancelled. This would impact on the current budget due to reduced income.

(21/62) RESOLVED That

(a) the accounts in Appendix 1 with a balance of £19,999.03 and £21,374.67 in reserves be noted;

- (b) the payments in Appendix 2 be approved;
- (c) the following payments be approved - £200 maximum for the village Christmas Tree; £50 maximum for a Remembrance wreath and £60 towards the purchase of Algon moss remover;
- (d) the Quarter 2 budget report be received and noted;
- (e) the Council approves a subscription to Cheshire Community Action in the sum of £20; and
- (f) all current advertisers be included in the next Newsletter but the RFO send a further reminder and invoice for the cost of the advert.

10. Projects

10.1 The advert in the Village News seeking volunteers to take part in a Village Task Force had attracted one positive response to the Clerk plus 4 verbal offers to help directly to the Chairman; it was suggested a further attempt be carried out in the spring. The Council had also received a request from Comberbach & Antrobus Scout Group to ascertain if there are any projects which could be completed by the Scouts as part of their community project.

10.2 The Council had also sought views on commemorating the Queen's Jubilee in 2022. There had been no expressions of interest so far. The Clerk reported that she had sought information from other Parish Councils in the Marbury Ward and some villages were arranging beacons and parties, but often not arranged by the Council and some were still considering whether to take part.

(21/63) RESOLVED That:

- (a) a reminder about the Village Task Force be included in the Village Newsletter next spring;
- (b) the Scouts be thanked for their offer and the Clerk will liaise with them regarding helping with a project to cut back overgrowth on Marbury Road; and
- (c) the Queen's Jubilee commemoration including the Beacon Project remain on the agenda for further consideration at future meetings.

11. Planning

11.1 Planning decisions were listed in Appendix 3.

11.2 There were no enforcement matters.

(21/64) RESOLVED: That the planning update be noted.

12. Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted. The Clerk noted additional correspondence received relating to a planning application at the Winnington site; the Cheshire Fire Authority Action Plan and John Heselwood of CCA had confirmed that there was no need to progress a Housing Needs Survey at present.

(21/65) RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

13. 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 9.00pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

Signed
Chairman

Appendix 1 Accounts for 30 September 2021 were approved

Current account: £19,999.03	Reserves: £21,374.67
Cash book: £41,373.70	Unpresented cheques: none

Appendix 2 Payments

Item	Amount	Power
Anderton with Marbury Parish Council – SID share	£323.56	LGA 1972 s 111
Royal British Legion – Lamppost poppies	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Comberbach Memorial Hall – car park light timers	£60.00	LGA 1972 s 111

Appendix 2b Pre-Authorised Payments

Item	Amount	Date	Power
D French – salary standing order adj	£11.25/m	07/10/2021	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
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
21/03798/TPO - 2 x Cherry trees - Fell, due to shading, Three Oaks Marbury Road	Pending
21/03580/LBC - Enlarge the small existing doorway between the kitchen and the library / TV room to the south and the creation of a new opening on the west side of the room, matching the style and proportion of the proposed enlarged opening on the east side, Cogshall Hall Senna Lane	Pending
21/04035/PAA - Construction of an additional storey making the single storey dwelling a two storey dwelling, The Croft The Avenue	Pending
20/03702/OUT - Demolition of the existing garage and passageway of	Pending

Senna House and erection of two three bedroom detached houses, 15 Senna Lane	
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