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MEETING OF CHORLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 17th October 2018
7.30pm at Lindow Community Primary School

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Richard Barraclough, Cllr Kim Maxwell (Vice Chair of Chorley Parish Council and Chair for the meeting) & Cllr Margaret Rainey
Also Present – Ashley Comiskey Dawson (Clerk)
No members of the public

1) **Apologies for absence: 18/108**

Apologies received from Cllrs Durbar and Watkins.

2) **To receive Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (DPI): 18/109**

None.

3) **Parishioners attendance:** Introduction and opportunity for attendees to share points of Parish interest & Open Forum- Comment and questions concerning items on this agenda may be put to the Council by the public during this period. The maximum time allotted for public speaking is 15 minutes: **18/110**

None.

4) **To approve and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 05th September 2018: 18/111**

Cllr Rainey proposed, seconded by Cllr Barraclough to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 05th September 2018.

Resolved: Unanimously.

5) **Matters Arising 18/112**

- i. Cemetery Gatehouse – Residents Interest. – No Update.
- ii. Chorley Playing Field equipment – Update from resident by clerk.

A resident has been in discussion with the relevant officer at ANSA and has come to an agreement to purchase and replace one standard swing in the Beswick's Lane play area with one baby swing.

iii. Upcast Lane Parking Issues.

Cllr Maxwell noted that she had been approached by a number of residents who had complained about parents parking in the area near to Lindow School. These residents often had their driveways blocked some were verbally abused and threatened by some parents. The residents have complained to the school but to no avail. The clerk advised all councillors to ask residents to report any and all instances of obstructive parking and verbal or threatening behaviour to the police non-emergency 101 number.

The PCSO provided a written report to the Parish Council, this is detailed below:

Incidents of note:

- 08/09/2018 – report of sheep on Chelford Road. On police attendance none were found.
- 24/09/2018 – Officer came across a car which had been left insecure on Beswick's Lane. Vehicle confirmed as being legally in order and information created for owner's awareness.
- 24/09/2018 – report of theft of machinery from building site on Knutsford Road during the weekend of 21/09/18 to 24/09/18. Unknown offenders have entered the site and taken a dumper truck, having taken advantage of an unsophisticated starting mechanism. There were

no witnesses or CCTV of the incident, however a forensic sample of a footwear mark was collected. The investigation has been closed pending any further development.

- 26/09/2018 – racially aggravated public order offence recorded at an address on Knutsford Road. An investigation found that the incident formed part of a long civil dispute and the reporting party did not wish to pursue action against the suspect other than words of advice.
- 02/10/2018 – report of suspicious vehicle on Upcast Lane. Checked out and found to be all in order.
- 12/10/2018 – officers assisted ambulance with gaining entrance to a property on Knutsford Road where a person was reported ill. Police left after ambulance arrived.

In recent weeks there has been a trend of tools being stolen (or attempted to be stolen) from vans across the Macclesfield LPU area. Additionally, in the last two weeks Greater Manchester Police in Stockport have seen a large rise in burglaries involving the taking of cars keys and subsequently the cars themselves. Although only the issue relating to tools has affected the Wilmslow area (thankfully neither issue appears to have been present in Chorley), there is always the possibility that these problems may spread, particularly as long nights are upon us. Officers are aware and crime prevention advice can be found at cheshire.police.uk and Wilmslow police station helpdesk. Suspicious activity should be reported through 101 or 999 in an emergency.

Other issues:

- Trucam enforcement generated 2 activations on Knutsford Road from four outings.
- Macclesfield Local Policing Unit has a new chief inspector at its helm: Jez Taylor replaces Laura Marler, who has moved to superintendent of other parts of the county.

Questions:

- The behaviour of parents arriving at Lindow Community Primary School during pick-up and drop-off times continues to be monitored by myself. I have not encountered or been made aware of any inappropriate behaviour or parking obstructions during my patrols, however I have engaged with parents regarding such subjects. I have spoken to the site manager of the school who has noted no such incidents since the start of the school year.

Lindow is not alone in its traffic issues as schools across the area experience similar issues during peak times. This is due to the fact that parents arrive to drop-off or collect their children at the same time, consequently causing an increase in traffic and occasionally, as a result, agitation amongst those parents. The school are now informing parents weekly of any traffic related complaints they have received in order to educate parents to conduct courtesy and common sense when driving. I have previously suggested staggering school attendance and leaving times (with different year groups arriving and leaving at different times), however this has not been taken up. The traffic difficulties at Lindow are aggravated due to the narrow entrance along Upcast Lane, however accessibility to a carpark is an asset which offsets some demand and is a benefit which does not exist for many other schools.

I understand from previous Parish Council meetings that Cheshire East Council has been approached to provide informative signage in the area and this would undoubtedly result in clear communication with drivers, deterring challenging behaviour. White "T-bar" lines can also be requested from CEC to be painted in front of driveways; although these are unenforceable, they do prevent vehicles obstructing driveways. There are no enforceable restrictions on entering the unadopted part of Upcast Lane. Restrictions such as access-only orders can be requested from CEC, however as the road is unadopted this requires liaisons between the management of the road and CEC.

- Regarding reports of drug activity at Lindow Community Primary School, I have carried out several patrols of the area since and have not encountered any suspicious people or vehicles. I have also spoken to the site manager of the school to make him aware, however he has not noticed any discarded canisters.

It is likely that the items found were nitrous oxide canisters (laughing gas) as these have become relatively popular in recent years and form part of a group of substances previously known as "legal highs" – "psychoactive substances" nowadays. The Psychoactive Substances Act banned importation or supply of nitrous oxide for human consumption, but it is not an offence simply to possess it. With car occupiers, legislation under the Road Traffic Act would likely be considered: if the driver of the vehicle is unfit to drive through drugs, then that may constitute an offence.

I will continue to patrol the area at weekends and in the evenings, which are the most probable timings for such activity to occur.

6) Highways Issues 18/113

- i. Consolidated List attached as a separate spreadsheet. – Updated

Concern was raised by councillors regarding the Area Highways Group decision to refuse to install the new school signage, as promised by CE highways. Cllrs to discuss with Cllr Brookes. The council have also written to CE Highways to ask for the reports which they state were conducted to be sent to the parish council. Connection of drain on B5085 – LHO had a site visit with UU on 17/10/18, clerk has asked for an update. The bracken on Foden Lane was once again cut back on 11/10/18. The flooding issue on Foden Lane has been placed on a future schemes list by CE Highways and Flood Risk team. Cllrs noted that the road surface on Foden Lane is generally poor and the clerk is to report this to Highways.

7) To receive a report from the relevant councillor regarding CPC attendance at the recent Town & Parish Council conference. 18/114

Cllr Rachel Bailey opened the conference and praised the work of CEC, notably informing us of the new contract with Ringway Jacobs which is for a 15 year duration with a review clause after 8 years. The focus will be on service delivery.

Kath O'Dwyer, Acting Chief Executive was introduced and talked about warts and all. She talked us through several points:

- 1 NALC awards scheme recognising the role of town and parish councils who show service delivery to the community and onward progress. Three awards were announced.
- 2 Brighter Futures Together – a fancy name regarding their bullying culture! CEC have commissioned a review looking at bullying in the workplace throughout the council, from elected members through to anyone with a supervisory role. The review was completed in January which confirmed bullying, and they then commissioned a company to work with the council to help manage a culture of change.
- 3 Staffing/disciplinary. The CEO resigned over the summer, the Head of Legal resigned before xmas and the Head of Finance is still suspended. All were suspended for possible wrongdoing re procurement, and the last of the three is an ongoing matter with the CPS. It's cost the council £800k in total and she stated that no-one had been paid off.
- 4 Police investigations. As a result of the above, they have examined all internal practices and have uncovered 5 further cases which are currently being investigated primarily relating to land transactions. This has been ongoing since December 2015 and will take as long as needed.
- 5 The 'Place Directorate' has delivered :
 - 55.2% recycling rate, and are in the top 10 in the country
 - 99% council tax collection rate
 - £5m in capital receipts
 - Last year they had 6,027 planning applications, 92% determined on time.
- 6 The 'People's Directorate' has changed the modus operandi for adult social care and have restructured their teams into hubs. There is a new vision statement for the Council, and the strapline "Working for a brighter future together" has been adopted.

Budget The new Head of Finance talked through the budgeting process, stating that the council spends £2million a day on services, that they have £10m in reserves (enough for 5 days) and that they have now lost £40 million from central government grants. It's the tightest position they have ever been in financially, but it's a fine balancing act which he feels relatively secure with. He appeared to be the least defensive of all the speakers, and clearly knew his stuff.

The conference then followed with three speakers from different Parish or Town Councils discussing projects around: Helping people to remain independent, Community transport and Dementia Friendly Communities. All were interesting, but had little relevance to tiny parishes such as ours. Hopefully the council will forward their notes in due course!

8) MOTION: To discuss information received by the clerk regarding the installation of a new (or refurbished) Chorley Sign on Knutsford Road. 18/115

Noted that: Mr David Savage has offered to pay for the purchase and install costs of the sign up to a maximum of £5,000.00. However, this pot of money is also going to be used to cover tree maintenance. The council have now received designs and costings for a new sign. These costings are £2,888.00 including VAT for purchase, and carriage. There will be an additional cost of £250.00 for installation of the sign. Councillors were in agreement that they liked the look of the new sign and its artwork design. The clerk advised that the parish council should purchase the sign, recover the VAT and charge Mr Savage only the net value and cost of installation. The sign would remain the property and responsibility of the parish council. Councillors also discussed proposals for disposal of the old sign but were agreed it would be stored after installation of the new sign and ideas would be sought.

Cllr Rainey proposed, seconded by Cllr Maxwell to agree to the above.

Resolved: Unanimously.

9) MOTION: To review and discuss a new ongoing projects list – template to be made available with suggestions. 18/116

The projects list was discussed at some length and Cllrs were assigned responsibility for each specific project. The list will be published on the website if adopted by the council.
Cllr Maxwell proposed, seconded by Cllr Rainey to approve and adopt the new CPC projects list.

Resolved: Unanimously.

10) MOTION: To discuss any funding priorities in Chorley, which councillors wish to feedback into New Homes Bonus community scheme. 18/117

Cllrs discussed the New Homes Bonus fund and what they felt should be prioritised in the Wilmslow area group. It was agreed that Chorley Parish Council would support the priorities set by Wilmslow TC, Alderley Edge and Handforth PC's, the commissioning of a new community bus scheme.

11) MOTION: To agree a Rights of Way review. 18/118

The Rights of Way Review has been added to the adopted CPC projects list. Once Cllr Rainey has received the training in November she will report back to full council. The following was noted by all present:

I know a person who made it her winter project to attempt to identify Rights of Way and begin their 'claims'. I thought it would be a good place to start given that this person lives in Chorley to ask if she had in fact already claimed the path we know to be a Right of Way but doesn't appear on our Parish map. (the small path which would have once been behind North Cheshire Garages which is accessed between Upcast Lane and Hemmingway house/Farm). Barry highlighted that he had walked this route to School.

When I contacted the resident of Chorley who has made many Claims she said that she hadn't included this one but added that she and four of her friends regularly rode this route on horseback when they were stabled at Trafford House Farm. These people would also be happy to confirm this in writing as part of the Claim.

This now leads me to believe that we should be asking for a multi user use for this route in that both walkers and riders can provide evidence that they have used this route unchallenged over a considerable number of years.

The reason I raise this is that I had started out thinking this would be a footpath claim only but now I need to make it known that it will be multi user.

12) Planning

1) Decided List: 18/119

- a) **18/2882M** – CARR FIELD FARM, CARR LANE, ALDERLEY EDGE SK9 7TQ – Construction of a single storey rear extension, construction of proposed porch and conversion of existing garage. **Awaiting Decision.**
- b) **18/3723M** – Kindle Cottage 60A KNUTSFORD ROAD, ALDERLEY EDGE SK9 7SF – Attached Double Garage. **Awaiting Decision.**
- c) **18/4121M** – 7 KNUTSFORD ROAD, ALDERLEY EDGE SK9 7SD – Demolish existing dwelling and build new two storey dwelling. **Approved with conditions.**

2) New Applications: 18/120

None.

Weekly planning lists – circulated by email

13) Finance 18/121

- i. Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for financial year to date 2018/19 to be agreed and signed
- ii. Order of payment of accounts & Cheques for October & November 2018 to be agreed and signed

Cllr Rainey proposed, seconded by Cllr Maxwell to approve and sign the accounts and cheques for October and November 2018 totalling £1,352.12.

Resolved: Unanimously.

14) Notices & Correspondence 18/122

- i. All correspondence has been circulated to all councillors either by hand or via email
- ii. New Homes Bonus – First meeting 22nd October 2018.

- iii. Manchester Airport Group meeting – Update.
- iv. ChALC AGM – 25th October 2018.

15) Date of next meeting **18/123**

Meeting closed at 8.51pm

**Chairman of Chorley Parish Council
Cllr B Durbar
17th October 2018**

**Chair for the meeting held 17th October 2018
Cllr K Maxwell**