



Appleton Parish Council

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

Telephone 01925 268153 Email clerk@appletonpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Appleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 7pm at Appleton Parish Hall

Present: -

Councillor K Critchley, Councillor C Critchley, Councillor M Browne (present from 7.35pm), Councillor G Chapman, Councillor M Jervis, Councillor B Kidley, Councillor M Marshall, Councillor P Walker and Councillor J Wheeler. As per item four newly co-opted Councillor L Chapman.

Mrs J Monks (Clerk) and Mrs I Derbyshire (Assistant Clerk), two members of the public and a representative from Stockton Heath festival for agenda five and six.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor K Critchley welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor M Delaney, Councillor S Brookes and Councillor P Lewenz sent their apologies for the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S Brookes, Councillor K Critchley chaired the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor M Jervis and Councillor J Wheeler declared that they were members of the Development Management Committee of Warrington Borough Council. Councillor P Walker declared that he was a substitute member of the Development Management Committee of Warrington Borough Council.

Councillor G Chapman declared an interest in relation to item four, the co-option of a Parish Councillor as her husband has applied for the vacant seat and she left the room for this agenda item and did not vote on the co-option.

Councillor K Critchley and Councillor C Critchley declared an interest as they knew one applicant who had applied for the post of Parish Council via St Matthews Church in Stretton.

Councillor K Critchley, Councillor C Critchley, Councillor M Jervis and Councillor B Kidley declared that they were members of the conservative party.

3. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillor to Thorn Ward

Councillor G Chapman declared an interest in relation to item four, the co-option of a Parish Councillor, as her husband has applied for the vacant seat, and she left the room for this agenda item and did not vote on the co-option.

The clerk noted that there had been four applications, however two applications had been withdrawn and as such two candidates remained.

Both candidates were interviewed separately in alphabetical order.

Voting took place without the candidates present and the votes were counted by the assistant clerk and verified by the clerk.

RESOLVED that;

Councillor L Chapman was co-opted onto the Thorn Ward for the Parish Council.

Councillor L Chapman signed the acceptance of office and declaration of interest forms and was given a Parish Councillor induction pack. The clerk will arrange for induction training to be organised.

Councillor G Chapman re-entered the room and the newly elected Parish Councillor joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

5. Presentation from representatives of Stockton Heath Festival

The treasurer of Stockton Heath Festival gave a presentation regarding the festival and how the festival was run and activities that were undertaken during the festival. The treasurer confirmed that the festival is run by volunteers and that it is a registered charity with four trustees which has operated over several years and is supported by donations and sponsorship from different organisations.

Councillor M Browne arrived at the meeting at 7.35pm.

6. Stockton Heath Festival Grant 2023 grant application for £1,100

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council approved the grant application of £1,100 for Stockton Heath Festival 2023.

Councillor J Wheeler left the room at 7.45pm.

7. Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2023

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2023 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

8. Minutes of Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14th February 2023 and matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14th February 2023 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Senior Planning and Enabling Manager of Homes England regarding Appleton Cross and they had confirmed that they are still working on options and a development strategy as such they don't have any update on Phase Two of Appleton Cross development.

The clerk confirmed that she has submitted a request for Pineways and Beechways to be included on the winter gritting route for Warrington Borough Council as it was a route used by parents to drop off school children for Bridgewater High School.

Councillor J Wheeler re-entered the room at 7.50pm.

9. 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 2nd March 2023, (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

10. Parish Council van

RESOLVED that;

The retrospective expenditure of £247.50 for the repairs to the Parish van following the breakdown and emergency expenditure authorisation from the clerk and Chair of the Parish Council was approved.

The clerk reported that the Parish Ranger has been advised to regularly take the van out on long runs to avoid any future issues.

11. Grant application for Energy for Tomorrow

RESOLVED that;

The grant application as drafted by the clerk and circulated to all Parish Councillors was approved for a £50,000 grant for a new electric van and installation of up to three vehicle public charging points for the Parish Hall car park.

12. Planning

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Planning Committee on Tuesday 14th February 2023 and Thursday 2nd March 2023 (Copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

13. Accounts for 2022/2023 and Payments Schedules

The February 2023 statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2022/2023 was noted, and the Members noted the Bank Statement as of 28th February 2023.

RESOLVED that;

Payments were to be made in accordance with the payment schedule for March 2023.

14. Dingle and Fords Rough Working Party

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Dingle and Fords Rough Working Party on Wednesday 8th March 2023 were approved.

Councillor J Wheeler reported that the project was progressing well, and the volunteers were thanked for their continued hard work on various projects. The group will try and establish ownership of the path to progress this project.

15. Membership of Cheshire Association of Local Councils for 2023/2024

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not join Cheshire Association of Local Councils for 2023/2023 at the cost of £1510.87.

16. Society of Local Council Clerks Membership for Clerk

RESOLVED that;

The clerk's annual membership fee for the Society of Local Council Clerks of £220.00 be approved.

17. Society of Local Council Clerks Branch meetings

RESOLVED that;

The clerk and assistant clerk can attend the following branch meetings;

Wednesday 22nd March at Holmes Chapel.

June meeting (details to be confirmed).

Wednesday 6th December at Stockton Heath Library.

18. Environmental Issues in Appleton

Councillor J Wheeler requested a meeting of the Environmental working group to look at wildflower and bulb planting and tree replacement planting in Appleton.

The clerk confirmed that the bulb planting for this year, 2023, has already been finalised by Warrington Borough Council.

The clerk confirmed that the current members of the Environmental working group were as follows;

Environment Working Party –Councillor S Brookes (Chair) Councillor P Lewenz, Councillor C Critchley, Councillor J Freeman, Councillor B Kidley, Councillor K Critchley, Councillor G Chapman and Councillor M Browne.

RESOLVED that;

The members of the working party will be amended at the Annual meeting in May and following this an environmental meeting will be arranged.

Councillor J Wheeler will prepare the details with regards to a proposal for bulb planting and tree replacement tree planting so that this can be considered as agenda items when the Environmental working party meeting has been arranged.

19. Litter on Barleycastle Lane

Councillor J Wheeler reported that she had contacted Warrington Borough Council and they had confirmed that a road closure would have to be in place to undertake a litter pick around Barleycastle Lane and the trading estate.

The clerk had also contacted Warrington Borough Council who confirmed that this was a two-day job which would need to be undertaken over a weekend. The cost, including traffic management and overtime would be approx. £3,500 to £4,000 per weekend/litter pick.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to invite a representative from Warrington Borough Council to the next Parish Council meeting and ask them to confirm in writing the exact cost of a litter pick.

20. Land to plant trees

Councillor P Lewenz had received an enquiry from Cheshire Wildlife Trust regarding sites where they could plant trees in Warrington.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would suggest that Cheshire Wildlife Trust contacts the local school and Appleton Thorn prison to see if they are interested in any tree planting.

21. Kings Coronation in May

Councillor J Wheeler asked the Parish Council to consider doing something for the Kings Coronation in May such as planting a tree or a bench.

Any Parish Councillor was requested to forward any suggestions to the clerk, so costings could be researched, and to consider these at the Parish Council meeting in April.

The clerk confirmed that several groups who hired the hall were having events in celebration of the Kings Coronation and the clerk has organised for the Parish Hall to be decorated with bunting for the duration of the events.

Councillor C Critchley reported that there was a planned event at St Mary Magdalene's church for the Kings Coronation.

22. PCSO funding for 2023/2024

The Parish Council currently fund 50% of a PCSO with Stockton Heath Parish Council. The current cost of this is £16,640 per year.

The cost for funding 50% of a PCSO for 2023/2024 has increased by £2,339 to £18,979. The budget for 2023/2024 is £20,000.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council will fund 50% of a PCSO for 2023/2024 and the expenditure of £18,979 was approved.

RESOLVED that;

No amendments would be requested regarding the service level agreement for 2023/2024.

23. PCSO / Police report

The clerk had circulated the PCSO report to all the Parish Councillors for their attention. There were no PCSOs in attendance.

24. Parish Councillor reports and feedback from other meetings

Councillor P Walker reported that he had attended a meeting with Warrington Borough Council regarding Stockton Heath swing bridge.

Councillor G Chapman expressed concerns regarding the land at the corner of Green Lane would be made part of a residential garden. The clerk confirmed that the land was being mowed by the Parish Ranger and Councillor G Chapman suggested this area could be utilised for bulb planting.

25. Dates and time of next meetings

Thursday 6th April 2023, 9.30am Planning Committee meeting.

Thursday 6th April 2023. 9.45am Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Tuesday 18th April 2023, 6.30pm Planning Committee meeting.

Tuesday 18th April 2023, 7pm Parish Council meeting.