

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT CHURCH LAWTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Chair: Roger Young; Vice-Chair Barbara Adams

**Councillors: Neil Harper; Sue Owen; M Dawson; Viv Jackson; Vic Tarrant; John Atkins
Cheshire East Councillor, Rhoda Bailey**

The Clerk: Sue Davies

Two members of the public

The Council Meeting commenced at 7:30pm.

17/53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies have been received from Cllr Vic Tarrant.

17/54 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF INTERESTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

17/55 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 19th July 2017

Resolved: The minutes of 19th July 2017 were approved as a correct record by all present.

The chair altered the order of the agenda to accommodate the members of the public who wished to hear the council's views regarding a planning application.

17/56 TO RECEIVE THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MIKE HALL AND NOTIFICATION OF THE VACANCY

Cllr Young informed the Council that he had received the resignation of Cllr Mike Hall in writing to him.

Action: The Clerk to inform Cheshire East and to put vacancy notices on the website and in the Parish Noticeboards.

17/57 PLANNING ISSUES

17/57/1 To receive new Planning Applications since the Meeting of 19th July 2017.

17/4535C Nursery Cottage, Cherry Lane, ST7 3QX

Listed building consent for the retention of window in gable end elevation and conservation roof light to existing roof. Comments deadline 19th October.

Resolved: Church Lawton parish Council have no objection to this application.

Action: The Clerk to submit the response to Cheshire East.

17/4529C Alsager Court, Sandbach Road north, Church Lawton, ST7 3RG

Outline application for the demolition of the existing care home and the erection of a new 73 bed care home. Comments deadline 12th October, Committee Date 1st November.

The chairman suspended standing orders to allow two members of the public to speak.

The residents felt that, although they don't object in principle to a nursing home, the sheer size proposed is a problem and is completely out of keeping with the surrounding properties. They felt that some nearby properties will be overshadowed and suffer a loss of privacy. Also,

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light pollution at night, including into bedrooms, will be a problem. There will be noise pollution from staff coming and going at antisocial hours.

The Chairman resumed the meeting and thanked the residents for their comments.

Resolved: Church Lawton Parish Council appreciate the need for more nursing home spaces, appreciate that the business needs to be viable and also that the employment the proposal would bring is locally needed. However, the Council supports and agrees with the comments raised by residents. In addition, it was felt that access is inadequate and the increase in parking insufficient. The bus service is infrequent and limited.

Action: The Clerk to draft a response.

17/4271C 64, Congleton Road North, Church Lawton, ST7 3BA

Attached garage Comments deadline 12th September.

The Clerk informed that based on email comments from councillors a response of 'no comment' was submitted.

17/4042C The Cottage, Cherry Lane, Church Lawton, ST7 3QZ

Agricultural Storage Building. Comments deadline 6th September.

The Clerk informed that based on email comments from councillors a response of 'no comment' was submitted.

17/57/2 To Update the Council on Existing Applications

17/3127 – View Fields, Bleeding Wolf Lane, Scholar Green, Cheshire, ST7 3BH

Proposed New Stable Block

Approved with conditions – 1st August 2017

17/3155C – 50, Congleton Road North, Church Lawton, ST7 3BA

Proposed single storey rear extension.

Approved with conditions – 28th July 2017

17/2759C – Rectory Farm, Old Knutsford Rd, Church Lawton, ST7 3EQ.

Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

No decision to date

17/2833C – 9, Denford Place, Church Lawton.

Proposed extension to kitchen/garage area.

Approved with conditions 20th July 2017

17/2416C – Retrospective application for the advertisement at Lawton Lights.

Refused

17/2161C – Variation of Condition 2 of existing permission 14/2351C – Construction of 14no semi-detached houses. Comments deadline 18th May 2017 – Now 24th May

No decision to date

17/1245C Outline application for proposed residential developments of three executive properties, 2, Liverpool Road West, Church Lawton, ST7 3DA Comments deadline 7th June 2017

No decision to date

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17/1163C Proposed two detached dwellings. Land at Sandbach Road, Church Lawton, Alsager.

Approved with Conditions 21st July 2017

17/58 WOODLAND FOR SALE

The Clerk reminded the Council of the background to this item.

The Woodland just north of the Wilbraham Arms has recently been advertised for sale and a group of residents (of both Alsager and Church Lawton) have met a few times and created a Facebook Group with a view to possibly crowdfund for the purchase. The Clerk and Cllr Adams have attended meetings.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the Woodland is in the Greenbelt and a further part of the woodland is owned by Cheshire East on which most of the footpaths lie.

The registering as a Community Asset was raised.

Resolved: If a committee is formed, Cllr Young and Owen agreed to attend.

Action: The Clerk to find out more about the Community Right to Bid.

17/59 TO DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING OF 19TH JULY 2017 AND OTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

17/59/1 FLY-POSTING ISSUES

The advertising hoarding at Lawton Lights is now being pursued. A letter is being sent to the landowner by Cheshire East Council informing them that they will be prosecuted if it isn't removed within 7 days.

17/59/2 NOTICEBOARD REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The clerk reported that there has been no progression with this until Doug Smith returns from his holiday.

17/59/3 CHESHIRE EAST BUS SERVICE – UPDATE

There are no more updates on this at present.

17/59/4 BENCHES FOR THE CANAL BANK

The Clerk informed of the progress of Cllr Hall regarding this issue. The Canal and River Trust has been contacted and requested that the Parish Council contact them formally.

Action: The Clerk to pursue with the Canal and River trust.

17/60 TO RECEIVE CHESHIRE EAST MATTERS FROM CLLR RHODA BAILEY

17/60/1 CREWE HISTORY CENTRE

Cllr Bailey informed that Crewe Library is being converted to an archive/history centre

17/60/2 CONSULTATION ON DOG FOULING AND DOG CONTROL.

Cllr Bailey informed about the current consultation.

17/60/3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

The draft charging schedule of the Community Infrastructure Levy is due for consultation.

17/60/4 SIDS

Cllr Bailey requested where we felt the PCSO SID should be placed. Current requests are Congleton Rd North and South, Sandbach Road, Cherry lane and Crewe Road.

It was raised whether the Parish Council should purchase their own SID. A sum of money was budgeted for the purchase in 2017/2018.

Action: The Clerk to research the costings.

17/61 POLICE ISSUES AND SPEEDING

17/61/1 PCSO UPDATE

The Council received the latest PCSO update.

17/61/2 THE CLERK INFORMED OF THE PCSO SURGERY DATES.

The dates have been advertised on the Council website. It was requested that Councillors attend when they are able.

Action: The Clerk will request if bike marking could be made available.

17/62 CONSIDERATION OF HEDGE CUTTING PROBLEMS AND RESPONSE TO CHESHIRE EAST REARRANGING THEIR LETTER TO RESIDENTS.

The letter sent by Cheshire East to residents was discussed and it was agreed that the wording was too harsh. It was also felt that our parish had appeared targeted. The draft letter written to Cheshire East Highways by the Clerk was discussed and it was agreed that it should be sent with the addition of a comment that some people have had letters with incorrect information such as ownership and footpath locations. It was also felt that the Parish Council should be notified.

Action: The Clerk to amend and send the letter to the relevant officers at Cheshire East.

17/63 HIGHWAYS MEETING – AN UPDATE

The Clerk updated the Council. The meeting has been rearranged by Odd Rode for the evening of 27th September at 7:00pm. Unfortunately, Councillors are not able to attend this.

Action: The Clerk to arrange a separate meeting for Church Lawton Parish Council and also a separate meeting with Ian Darlington of Cheshire East Highways.

17/64 CHURCH LAWTON BARROWS – UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORKING PARTY

The Council was updated: A meeting has been held with WainHomes attended by Cllr Young, Adams, Harper and the Clerk. The issue of the footpath through the woodland and the open space was discussed. Cllr Bailey has discussed this with the Planning Officer and it seems that the area must be included as Green Space.

Resolved: To write to Cheshire East to express the Council's concerns regarding the path and to ask if it must go ahead, that a plan be put in place to protect the Barrows area and possibly fence off the area.

Action: The Clerk to draft a letter of support on behalf of the Parish Council to support the Barrows Group.

17/65 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

17/65/1 REVISED CONSTITUTION

The Clerk presented and explained the revised constitution which has formed an inner Steering Group within the main Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Resolved: The modified constitution was approved.

17/65/2 GRANT APPLICATION

The Clerk explained that although the Neighbourhood Plan group has applied for the grant, the Parish Council is accountable. The application has been successful (£5,600). It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Group should be thanked for their work.

The Clerk raised that the Council has not set an upper limit for their contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan.

17/65/3 UPDATE ON THE FIRST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

Cllr Dawson gave an update on the responses received to date. Early results are showing people are against more housing and want the environment protected.

17/65/4 CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST SURVEY

Resolved: That the Clerk can initiate this survey (quoted at £1300 + VAT) on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Group to be paid out of grant monies.

17/65/5 WEBSITE

The Clerk asked if some pages for the Neighbourhood Plan could be added to the website. Money is available from the grant received.

Resolved: To Add pages to the website.

17/66 COMMUNICATION - NEWSLETTER, THE EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST AND THE POTENTIAL USE OF A FACEBOOK PAGE

The Clerk raised that a newsletter is due to go out.

The email list can now begin to be used.

The Clerk presented the use of Facebook pages and their benefits if it is only used to distribute information.

Resolved: That the Clerk set up a Facebook Page as a trial. Cllr Dawson and Cllr Jackson will also be made administrators to cover when the Clerk is away.

17/67 INITIAL REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MR DOUG SMITH

The Clerk will circulate the Risk Assessment prior to the next meeting.

17/68 TO INITIATE A REVIEW OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk will circulate these by email for comment.

17/69 TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

The Clerk will circulate these by email for comment.

17/70 HARVEST FESTIVAL – TO APPROVE A DONATION AND AGREE PARISH COUNCIL ATTENDENCE

It was agreed that Cllr harper and Cllr Atkins will attend for the Council.

Resolved: To approve the payment for the Parish Council's donation.

17/71 FINANCE

17/71/1 TO RECEIVE THE RESULTS AND COMPLETION OF THE COUNCIL'S EXTERNAL AUDIT.

The Clerk reported that the external audit has been completed by BDO and that there are no issues arising nor recommendations. Prior to completion, further information had been requested about some of the expenditure breakdown.

17/71/2 TO RECEIVE THE EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET UP UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST 2017 AND TO REVIEW THE ALLOCATION OF BUDGETED AND ALLOCATED MONEY

The Council received an updated expenditure against budget with the Notice boards included.

Resolved: The following changes were approved:

The budget for the newsletter to be increased to £300.

Up to £1000 be allocated from reserves towards the Neighbourhood Plan to supplement the grant.

That the Parish Council potentially allocate up to £2500 of reserves to assist the Community Group if the group can show that it has a suitable plan, including for the future management, and if correctly constituted.

That £5000 of reserves be allocated to unexpected election costs.

Action: The Clerk to update the budget in the accounting file.

17/71/3 To Approve Receipts (Received during July and August 2017)

See appendix 1

Resolved: To approve receipts

17/71/4 Approval of Payments:

See appendix 1.

Resolved: To approve payments

17/72 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE INCLUDING:

17/72/1 An invitation has been received to Alsager Town Council Civic Service but unfortunately neither Cllr Adams nor Cllr Young can attend.

17/72/2 A letter has been received from Frank Byatt asking for the Council's support against Cheshire East that Rectory Grange is a suitable name. It was agreed that the Council would confirm that Rectory Grange is considered a suitable name.

Action: The Clerk to contact Cheshire East

17/72/3 A letter has been received from the British Legion asking for donations towards a book about Alsager and district in the second world war

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Resolved: That a donation of £30 be provided.

17/72/4 The clerk informed on the dog fouling consultation which runs until October 10th. It was decided that individual responses be made by those who wish to.

17/73 TRAINING AND MEETINGS

Meetings attended have been covered: The meeting with WainHomes and with the community regarding the woodland for sale.

17/74 MEMBERS' ITEMS

17/74/1 Cllr Harper received an email during the meeting from one of the residents thanking for the opportunity to speak.

17/74/2 Cllr Fernihough raised that there is no waste bin at the entrance to The Spinney.

17/74/3 The current LED light program was commented on and some of the work is being left a mess.

17/74/4 Cllr Adams presented Cllr Young with a small gift on his recent birthday.

The meeting concluded at 21:15

To agree Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th October 2017, at 7:30pm

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Appendix 1:

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ACCOUNTS – 20th SEPTEMBER 2017

RECEIPTS SINCE THE MEETING OF 19th AUGUST 2017

31/7/17	NATWEST	Interest	£0.05
31/7/17	NATWEST	Interest	£0.05
1/9/17	Cheshire East Council	Precept 2 nd Installment	£6000
TOTAL			£6000.10

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Retrospective

2/8/17	Sue Davies	Salary July + back pay + wfha	£565.03 (S/O)
25/8/17	Sue Davies	Salary August +wfha	£433.70 (S/O)

Others

20/9/17	Shire Pay Services	Quarter 2	£25.50 (cheque)
20/9/17	The Clerk – Sue Davies	Stationery and print cartridges	£85.50 (cheque)
20/9/17	B Adams	Harvest Festival	£31.39 (cheque)
25/9/17	Cheshire Community Action	Subscription	£50.00 (cheque)
25/9/17	Sue Davies	Salary Sept + wfha	£433.70 (S/O)

BANK BALANCES

Bank Reconciliation		
Church Lawton Parish Council		
Financial year ending 31 March 2018		
Prepared by: Sue Davies, Parish Clerk & RFO		
Date: 31st July 2017		
Checked by:		
Date:		
Balance per bank statements as at 31st July 2017	£	£
Current Account	£12,695.94	
Reserve Account 1	£6,000.20	
Reserve Account 2	Closed	
		£18,696.14
Less: any unrepresented cheques at 31st July 2017		
Cheque 1055 - Coopers Electrical	£429.60	
Cheque 1056 -Blueprint Printing	£100.00	
D Smith handyman	£367.24	
		£896.84
Add: any unbanked cash at 31st July 2017	None	
Net bank balances as at 31st July 2017		£17,799.30
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows		
CASH BOOK		
Opening Balance		£16,048.55
Add: Receipts in the year		£6,077.44
Less: Payments in the year		£4,326.69
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 31st July 2017 (must equal net bank balances above)		£17,799.30