

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16th March 2016 AT CHURCH LAWTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Chairman Roger Young; Vice-chair Barbara Adams.
Councillors Neil Harper; John Atkins; Austin Fernihough Mike Dawson
Cheshire East Councillor, Rhoda Bailey

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

133/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hall and Cllr Cartwright

134/15 To receive any Declaration of Interests regarding Agenda Items

None

135/15 To approve Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17th February, 2016

The minutes of 17th February, 2016 were approved as a correct record.

136/15 To Introduce the Reverend Steve Clapham of All Saints', Church Lawton.

The Chair introduced the Reverend Steve Clapham, who is attending the meeting as an observer, to the Council. In turn, everyone present introduced themselves to the Reverend.

137/15 To co-opt Mrs Susan Owen onto the council

It was agreed by all present that Mrs Susan Owen be co-opted into the role of Parish Councillor for Church Lawton. The chair welcomed Mrs Owen to her first meeting as Parish Councillor. The Acceptance of Office was signed by Mrs Owen.

138/15 To Discuss Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of 17th February 2016

138/15/1 Brown Avenue, cost of Grasscrete

Cllr Bailey is progressing this and will report back at the next meeting.

138/15/2 Building work and tree felling in Lawton Woods

The clerk reported that investigations by Planning Enforcement at Cheshire East and by the Forestry Commission are continuing.

138/15/3 Fly Posting

Signs have appeared for Ghandi's Circus which will be performing in Newcastle-under-Lyme at the end of the month. It was agreed to wait and see if they are removed in a timely manner after the performance before taking action.

138/15/4 Street Lights and Pavement – A50 towards Rode Heath

Deferred to the April meeting.

138/15/5 Parking Damage to Grassed Areas by Rutland Cottage

The clerk informed that she has been informed by Cheshire East Highways that it is inadvisable to place stones on the edge of the grassed. It was agreed that the clerk discuss the matter with the PCSO.

138/15/6 Damage and removal of Hedge at EE Mast

It was agreed that a further letter be sent to the contractors and to both EE, who have already removed hedge, and Vodafone, who plan to subject to permission to upgrade their mast. The clerk was also asked to write to Planning at Cheshire East to raise the matter.

138/15/7 Litter Clean Up Arrangements (Clean for the Queen)

The clerk informed that she had spoken to the Canal and River Trust and to the Parish insurance company. Arranging a litter clean up along the canal would involve detailed risk assessments and a further premium. Since the parish has no safe roads for a litter clean up and land ownership would be an issue in Lawton Woods, it was agreed that a litter pick is not practical for the Parish Council to organise. The clerk agreed to enquire whether there are any events organised by the Canal and River Trust to which residents and councillors could contribute to.

138/15/8 Repair of Cheshire Railings

Deferred to the April meeting.

138/15/9 Gritting of the School Route

Cllr Bailey reported that she is still pursuing the gritting of the school route although she has managed to get Cheshire East to put the school on the list for a 20mph speed limit.

139/15 To receive Cheshire East Matters from Rhoda Bailey`

Cllr Bailey reported that Odd Rode do not plan to have a beacon for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Cllr Bailey also reported that there have been complaints about the state of verges in various locations but that Stuart Bateman of highways has reported that they need to be on the list to be dealt with, otherwise they won't be done. It was suggested we could get our own quotes but felt that Cheshire East Highways are responsible.

140/15 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk confirmed that the hall is free for the Parish Council's use on the 27th April. It was agreed the start time will be 7:30 and that the banners will need to go up. Cllr Adams agreed to arrange for the tea and coffee.

141/15 Arrangements and Date of the Civic Service

The date has been agreed between the Parish Council and All Saints Church. The Civic Service will take place on June 12th and will also celebrate the Queen's Birthday. The Reverend Clapham confirmed that refreshments after the service will again be provided by the Church. The Parish Council gave their thanks. The clerk was asked to send remaining invitations out.

142/15 Local Plan Update

The Cheshire East revised Local Plan Consultation was considered. It was agreed by everyone present that Church Lawton parish Council have no comment to make.

143/15 Neighbourhood Planning

The response to Alsager Town Council's letter regarding views on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Alsager was agreed by all present. The clerk confirmed that Cheshire Community Action have offered to give a presentation at the APM to inform residents about Neighbourhood Planning and all present agreed that this should be confirmed. It was also agreed that up to £100 could be spent to produce a leaflet advertising both the APM and the Neighbourhood Planning Talk.

144/15 Appointment of an Internal Auditor

The clerk has received a quote from JDH Business Services, Wrexham of up to £150.00 + VAT. The company are ChALC recommended and have a lot of experience in conducting internal audits for Parish Councils. It was resolved by all present to appoint JDH Business Services Ltd as Church Lawton's internal auditors for the 2015/2016 financial year.

145/15 Review of the Asset Register

The clerk informed that she has learnt that the rules have changed on the information to be included in an asset register for a Parish Council. She has altered the register but needs to add the value of the Chairman's badges, bought annually. The asset register will be completed for signing off at the April meeting.

146/15 Website Progress

The clerk and Cllr Harper reported that the website is now almost complete.

147/15 The 'Alsager Tree'

The clerk reported that concerns have been expressed from some residents about the health of the 'Alsager Tree'. The clerk has established that the tree does not have a TPO and that Cheshire East have confirmed that the land is not registered to anyone. The clerk was asked to obtain three quotes and opinions from Arboricultural Contractors for the next meeting regarding the health of the tree and safety aspects, to remain in contact with Cheshire East and to pursue the land ownership.

148/15 Car Businesses from Residential Properties

This problem appears to have alleviated. The situation will be monitored.

149/15 Dog Fouling Issues

There have been more complaints and the clerk was asked to contact the dog warden to discuss the problem.

150/15 Speed Limit Issues

Cllr M Dawson raised concerns about the 40mph speed limit along Lawton Heath Road, especially the blind corner upon entering from Sandbach Road. Cllr Bailey raised that because buildings were only on one side, it was unlikely that this road would be considered for a 30mph. Cllr Bailey agreed

to pursue this issue along with the speeding issues on Sandbach Road and our wait for the loan of a SID programed for a 40mph road. It was agreed that it was very unlikely the speed data would become available from the SID that had been placed on Liverpool Road West earlier in the year.

151/15 T-Junction problems – Sandbach Road

Cllr Dawson raised a concern regarding the verge and speed of cars around the corner. It was agreed that Cllr Dawson talk to nearby residents and that this be put on the agenda for April.

152/15 Suggestions for Identification Badges/Cards for Councillors

Cllr Dawson raised the suggestion of identity badges or cards for members. The clerk was asked to discuss this with ChALC and to investigate further.

153/15 Finance

153/15/1 Receipts

Interest 29 th February:	Reserve Account 1- 0.54p	Reserve Account 2- 0.10p
Total -		£0.64

153/15/2 Payments

The following payments were approved by the Council:

Clerk's Salary February (to be paid on the 25th)	£325.00
Clerk's working from home allowance January	£17.33
SLCC Finance Course Contribution	£38.00
Mr Doug Smith – Work Conducted in the Parish	£320.25
Mr Doug Smith – Materials Purchased for the Parish	£24.98
Total -	£725.56

150/15 Planning

150/15/1 To receive and discuss new Planning Applications since the meeting of 17th February:

16/0728C Red Bull Hotel, 15, Congleton Road South, Church Lawton, ST7 3AJ

Comments deadline 23rd March

The Council resolved that they had no objection to this application.

16/1054N Proposed telecommunication installation upgrade and associated works, Linley Lane, ST7 3EU. Comments deadline 30th March

The Council retrospectively approved the response to the pre-consultation sent by Cllr Mike Hall. It was noted that this response was not acknowledged in the planning application subsequently received. It was agreed to resubmit the response to application 16/1054N.

150/15/2 Update on Existing Applications:

16/0699C 2, Greengate Road, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 3EG

Proposed detached garage.

Cheshire East Planning were contacted regarding the lack of a site notice and not all affected nearby properties being notified, in particular 2, Brattswood Drive. The Planning Officer, whilst pointing out that correct procedures had been followed, agreed to post a site notice and ensure 2, Brattswood Drive were notified. As a consequence, the comments deadline was extended.

15/5693C 1, Congleton Road North

Resubmission of application 15/0355C for proposed detached dormer bungalow.
This application has been refused.

151/15 Correspondence Received

The clerk reported on correspondence received including:

A request from Jackie Weaver (ChALC) asking what Parish Councils consider are the key issues for the forthcoming year. It was agreed to provide feedback that neighbourhood Planning is Church Lawton Parish Council's main issue.

A letter asking if we require a new copy of the Electoral Register. It was agreed to request a copy.

152/15 To Report on Meetings/Training Events Attended

The clerk reported that she has attended the SLCC Finance Course and this had proved very useful to ensure the parish Council was conducting its financial affairs correctly.

To agree Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday 20th April 2016 at 7:30