

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017 AT LAWTON MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCH LAWTON**

Present: Chairman: Mr Roger Young; Vice-Chair: Mrs Barbara Adams  
Parish Councillors: Mike Hall; John Atkins; Mike Dawson; Sue Owen; V Jackson; V Tarrant  
Cheshire East Cllr Rhoda Bailey; Mr & Mrs Doug Smith;  
Eighteen members of the public.

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The Annual Parish Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

The Chairman, Mr Roger Young welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman then introduced Cllr Rhoda Bailey, Cheshire East Borough Councillor.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Parish Councillors: Cllr Neil Harper

**2. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The minutes for the last Annual Parish Meeting were approved.

**3. a) To receive the Financial Statement**

A copy of the draft 2016/2017 Financial Statement was circulated at the meeting. The clerk presented the Financial Statement & explained the variances.

*(A copy can be found on the website.)*

**b) Any questions on the Financial Statement**

None

**4. To receive the Chairman's Report**

**The Chairman presented his 2016/2017 report:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and presented his report:

*New members Viv Jackson and Vic Tarrant have recently been co-opted onto the Parish Council.*

*The Council has continued to review its policies and financial regulations have been issued.*

*Whilst reviewing the asset register and checking assets for condition, it was identified that several noticeboards are in a poor condition. The Parish Council aim to gradually replace these and make at least some of them more of a community notice hub.*

*To comply with the Transparency Code the Parish Council now has a website and we hope that you will all find this of value.*

*The Parish Council has successfully received funding for two defibrillators. One is to be situated at the Lawton Arms and one at the Horseshoe Inn. Installation is currently being arranged. Training sessions are being organised with the North West Ambulance Service and we hope that some of you will attend.*

*Fly-posting continues to raise problems, especially that at our busy cross roads where it can risk causing a distraction to drivers. The Parish Council works hard to keep flyposting at a sensible level by contacting the worst offenders.*

*There is a Parish Council supported working group looking at the future of the Barrows, an important archaeological site and very important to Church Lawton. Cllr Neil Harper, The Clerk and Cheshire East Councillor Rhoda Bailey all attend these meetings along with several members of the public and a couple of Alsager Town Councillors.*

*The woods where the Lawton Tree is situated has been put up for sale by the owner and Church Lawton Parish Council is in talks with Alsager Town Council about how this sale could impact our communities and how to take this forward.*

*Street Lighting continues to find a place on the agenda. Cheshire East Council has turned off some street lighting and we feel that some has been turned off in areas where it is badly needed.*

*We have been trying to address speeding and policing in the area. We have had a meeting with PCSO Nigel Hobbs to consider ways of resolving this. The police mobile Speed Indication Device (SID) has been employed in our Parish as a deterrent and to gather data.*

*The number of Planning Applications that we have been consulted on has more than doubled this year and we have received 33 applications. Many are householder ones (extensions etc).*

*However, those applications that have involved inappropriate building in the Green Belt have been opposed by the Parish Council and, as well as submitting written responses, members and the Clerk have spoken at both the Southern and Strategic Planning Committee. We urge members of the public to write to Cheshire East to oppose those applications that affect them or about which they have strong feelings.*

*We have now initiated a Neighbourhood Plan Group which the chairman, Mr Ray Yates, will be telling you more about.*

*I would like to thank all Parish Council Members for their time, knowledge and commitment as the demands have increased because of new policies and responsibilities brought in by the Government.*

## **5. To Receive a Neighbourhood Plan update**

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group, Mr Ray Yates, presented a report.

After thanking the Chairman for having the opportunity to speak, My Yates gave an impassioned talk about protecting Church Lawton from unwanted development. The following points were raised regarding the progress of the neighbourhood Plan:

- The Neighbourhood Plan is a tool to help the residents of Church Lawton Parish Council shape the future of the Parish up until 2030. However, residents of Church Lawton have been feeling, this is their opportunity to have a say.
- Church Lawton Parish Council is washed over by Green Belt. The purpose of the Green Belt is to provide a buffer between the South Cheshire towns and the Potteries conurbation. (In our case to stop Kidsgrove spreading into Alsager).
- Being Green Belt, Church Lawton can only be built on in special circumstances and planning laws are stricter than in the open countryside.
- Developers are continually trying to find ways around the Green Belt protection to enable them to build in our Green Belt.
- Putting down our own Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan can help us fight the developers.
- The lack of an approved Local Plan in Cheshire East has not helped the situation.
- The Neighbourhood Plan encompasses other issues as well as housing such as foot paths and protecting our heritage.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Group has been set up by the Parish council and consists of mainly residents.
- The area has now been formally designated, and the group is underway but there is a lot of hard work ahead.

## **6. Questions**

There was an opportunity for members of the community present to ask questions. These included:

- A member of the public commented that they felt that the APM had been inadequately advertised. The Parish Council agreed to address this the following year.
- A member of the public asked if the Parish Council could investigate the 'slow down' SID on Congleton Road as it appears to flash every car regardless of speed. The Clerk was asked to pursue this.
- A member of the public asked if the parish Council knew anything further about the 34 houses for which a application had been submitted to Cheshire East asking if an environmental impact assessment was required. The Chair explained that an outline

planning application has not been submitted and so there is not anything the Parish Council can do at present.

The meeting was closed at 20:10

**Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**