



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH JULY 2017 AT SHAVINGTON ACADEMY

PRESENT:

Councillor R Squirrell – Chairman
Councillor Stefan Pyra -Vice Chairman
Councillor Chris Flaherty
Councillor Brian Silvester
Councillor Maurice Simon

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk, PCSO Vicky Moulton

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Margaret Simon, Councillor Andy Pennance, CEC Councillor Sarah Pochin.

41. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

42. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43. MATTERS ARISING:

The signage on Rope Lane Bridge and overgrown foliage over the brook on Gresty Lane had still not been completed even though both had been reported.

44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None

45. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Sarah Pochin send her apologies to the meeting but assured the Council that she was working hard on any issues raised. She gave feedback on the following:

Berkeley Academy:

- Berkeley Academy Drop Off Car Park should happen over Summer. Delay was due to suspensions of CEC Officers.
- The Berkeley Academy Staff Car Park had not yet been approved and was awaiting a tree report by Gemma Horton CEC.
- A perimeter fence to be installed around the site.
- Councillor Pochin is pushing for the car park works to happen at the same time and that road repairs outside the school be delayed until post the site work.

46. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Evergreen Way was again overgrown. This to be reported to ANSA.

47. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None

48 POLICING MATTERS

PCSO Vicky Moulton provided a Beat Manager's Report. She had attended both Rope Green Farm Day Nursery and Berkeley Academy in relation to safety cycling rules. There had been some vehicles causing obstruction on verges and the drivers had moved on when approached. There were no crime incidents or patterns of note in the area.

Councillor Flaherty asked a question in relation to a letter received from Berkeley Academy regarding the construction of a new, more robust perimeter fence. It was hoped that any unauthorised gates to the school site would be stopped and assist in reducing unauthorised presence on the school field. The Chair had also received a phone call on this matter. No action to be taken at present in order for the school to respond.

In relation to the Beat Report Councillor Silvester requested statistics on how many Speed Watch Sessions had been held and also more detailed supporting evidence and validation as mentioned on the report. PCSO Moulton was also asked if there had been any changes in the patrolling in Rope recently. She stated that they did try to prioritise any issues and if both PCSO's were on duty together



they travel by public transport to Rope and then on to Shavington. This was not always possible due to shift patterns. Sergeant Kerrie Snowdon was now responsible for Rope. PCSO Moulton would provide figures requested and ask Sergeant Snowdon to contact the Parish Council.

(PCSO Moulton withdrew from the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

Councillors went on to discuss the future of PCSO provision once the present arrangement ceases in April 2018 when part-funding is no longer an option and a new scheme is being offered which would be considerably more expensive.

An informal meeting had been held with Shavington PC on May 17th and it was resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman liaise directly with Rope PC Chair to produce an explanatory note and draft questionnaire which could be issued in the next Newsletters of both parishes. The feedback on this consultation and further information requested from Superintendent Peter Crowcroft would inform the decision-making process. Decision needed to be made by November 2017 in order to request the appropriate amount of precept.

In the past it was felt that part funding a PCSO as an optional extra it had been well worth the money as ASB had reduced vastly in the area. However, it had been proved more recently that Rope was not receiving the service it should. Request for information on present service and future service from Senior Police Officers was not forthcoming and therefore the Council felt no confidence in investing further huge amounts in the service offered in the future. It would opt for the basic allocation offered. Following on from detailed discussions the following resolution was made:

RESOLVED: Rope Parish Council resolved not to renew the PCSO contract post April 2018 and with this in mind, not to issue a Newsletter.

The Chair to provide a draft communication to be sent to Shavington PC and the Police and Crime Commissioner be informed of our wish to terminate the present agreement.

49. PLANNING MATTERS:

The Cheshire East Local Plan was finally to be adopted next week. Willaston and Wistaston had both produced Neighbourhood Plans for final consultation.

50. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

None.

51. CLERK'S REPORT:

General Correspondence - All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors electronically.

Pension Regulator – in line with new legislation the Parish had to offer its employees the opportunity to take part in a pension scheme. The Council's staging date of 1st July was now passed and appropriate actions had been taken to be compliant. The Clerk to now complete the process by making a Declaration of Compliance.

52. FINANCE

A. Requests for Financial Assistance:

No requests had been received.

B. Payments

Section 137 Payments:

No payments made.

General Payments:

RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:

£268.17	S Togay – Clerk's Salary
£3,973.00	Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (PCSO)
£67.04	HMRC
£164.40	JDH Internal Auditor
£14.66	Thomson Planning

C. Audit 2016/2017

The Internal Audit process by JDH was now complete and with one small amendment relating to unrepresented cheques, was clean. This amendment did not however affect the figures on the Annual Return Statement which had been sent off to BDO with relevant documents for the final stage of the audit.

Rope Parish Council Meeting – 17th July 2017.