



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
21ST MARCH 2016 AT SHAVINGTON SPORTS CENTRE**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor R Squirrell – Chairman  
Councillor Stefan Pyra -Vice Chairman  
Councillor Andy Pennance  
Councillor Chris Flaherty  
Councillor Margaret Simon  
Councillor Brian Silvester

**In Attendance:**

Sue Togay – Clerk, PCSO Peter Corbett, Mr John Fox – member of the public

**14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor Maurice Simon, CEC Ward Councillor Sarah Pochin

**15 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

None

**16. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment noted: Item 3. Should state November.

**17. MATTERS ARISING:**

**Shavington Safe Walking Routes** - Councillor Simon explained this was very much a live issue with the involvement of Shavington CEC Councillor Steve Edgar. New housing in the Cheshire Cheese area meant that pupils would be tempted to use Gresty Lane which was extremely dangerous. Suggestions were the use of Vine Tree avenue. Discussions continued with CEC and the Head Teacher.

**Chalc Letter** – The Chair referred to the request in relation to the procurement of a Planning Consultant and a contribution from Rope. The Chair felt it gives a strong message that Councils fully support the action in a very proactive manner. This view was supported by Councillors and a resolution was made that £231.25 be issued as the amount requested and sent to Chalc.

**18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

Mr John Fox brought up several issues for consideration as follows:

**Bus Services in the Parish** – He explained that there were many bus service operators in the parish with empty buses however the service to Leighton Hospital had ceased. Unfortunately the bus service was not under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council but PCSO Peter Corbett supplied the contact details of CEC Transport Co-ordinator and D & G Manager in order to see if they could supply any advice.

**SID ON Rope Lane** – Mr Fox felt this was in the wrong place and Councillors agreed that this would be moved in the light of the impending crossing in the area.

**Road Surface at Entrance to Berkeley Academy** – Mr Fox enquired why the school entrance was being resurfaced without the adjacent area of Laidon Avenue Junction being completed which was in great need of repair.. Councillor Margaret Simon explained that it would also be resurfaced once the work at the school was completed.

**Parish Noticeboard** – Mr Fox enquired why the noticeboard was taken down on Rope Lane. The Chair advised that the present sites were considered the most appropriate at the time of erection and there were no plans for additional boards.



**Fence at Junction Rope Bank Ave/Bankfield Avenue** – Mr Fox considered this a disgrace which blocked traffic vision at the junction. This issue had been brought up in the past and was inspected and deemed appropriate. The parish had no enforcement powers.

**Hedge 25 Laidon Avenue** – Mr Fox pointed out the overgrown hedge. The Chair explained that this had been reported several times and a superficial cut back had taken place. It was felt that a hard cut may kill the hedge and it was the responsibility of the landlord. Councillor Simon would report again to CEC.

**5 Bankfield Avenue** – Overgrown hedge was reducing the footpath.

**Traffic Island outside Shavington Academy**– the bollards are damaged. The Clerk to report to Highways.

**19. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Councillor Pochin was on leave but had provided a report as follows:

She had a meeting with Berkeley School on 11<sup>th</sup> April with Councillor David Brown to have a final discussion in relation to the Car Park. .

Leaflets and stickers had been distributed to Rope Lane on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Wistaston to Wells Green to be completed.

**20. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:**

**Banners, Rope Lane Bridge** – Community Warden Keith Davies had visited the area and had spoken to the Chairman. He was going to tidy up and take down inappropriate posters but any enforcement action was the responsibility of CEC.

**Walkways** – CEC Staff were badly churning up the grass when using vehicles to access the dog bins. Councillor Pochin had been chasing up the concept of path reinstatement as suggested at a previous meeting. ANSA to be advised of the damage vehicles were causing.

**21. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

None

**22. POLICING MATTERS:**

PCSO Peter Corbett apologized for the lack of Police presence at the last meeting. He had not been on duty but would obtain an explanation from his colleagues and report back.

Speedwatch Session in the Parish had fallen at the moment but this often happened due to bad weather in winter months. PCSO Corbett had been trained to use the new 'Truecam' equipment which would also enable him to issue fines. The sites will have to be risk assessed but would give a more accurate picture of the problem.

Crime figures were low with only 2 incidents of rifled cars with no theft and an incident of asb with two drunken males. PCSO Corbett had kept a low profile at the school and there was no evidence of parking abuse. He had also kept an eye on the dog fouling issue reported in the area by Mrs Wells and this seemed to have disappeared also.

Councillor Pyra asked for advice with regard to the Police 101 Contact Number. PCSO Corbett advised that this should be used for issues that did not need immediate attention.



**PCSO Partner Service Level Agreement** - At the request of Councillor Silvester, a copy of the SLA was provided to Councillors. Discussions took place in relation to this document in order to review the budget implication to the parish. The final conclusion was that the agreement was still satisfactory and the agreement worked well. Subject to review at intervals.

### **23. PLANNING MATTERS:**

**Strategic Issues** – The Judicial Review of 150 houses at Wistaston Green Lane and 146 at Moorfields, Wistaston had gone to the Court of Appeal. Further appeals were still undecided. If there is still no 5 year housing supply then the Green Gap policy is obsolete.

**Local Plan** – this is now open for consultation but at the very least we need to support the strategic gap policy and add reference to the 5 year supply. The Chair to draft comment.

**Local Planning Issues** – Rope Lane Nursery – this had now withdrawn its planning application. Councillor Pochin had spoken to Planning and they are on the alert that this cannot drag on indefinitely and that some enforcement action needs to take place. Councillor Pochin is monitoring the situation. It was felt that Rope PC should write again to Planning once the situation was clarified.

There were the general minor applications for extension in the area..

### **11. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

**Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting** – Attended by Chair and Vice Chair. Wistaston Civic Service – The Chair had attended and the local memorial was mentioned. Further information to follow.

**Planning Training** – Councillor Pyra had attended. It was interesting but rather depressing in the light of the current situation regarding the local plan and lack of 5 year housing supply.

### **12. CLERK'S REPORT:**

**General Correspondence** All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors electronically... All other items were included in the main body of the agenda.

**Issue of Minutes** – Discussions took place as to the best timing for issue. In light of the new national transparency code for smaller authorities it was suggested we keep to a midpoint between the meetings.

**Press :Policy** – In order to reinforce the risk assessment appropriately to support the annual audit it was suggested that a Press Policy be adopted. After discussion it was resolved that all press contact be in all cases be via the Chair and Clerk so that the full view of the Council be upheld.

### **24 FINANCE:**

#### **A. Requests for Financial Assistance:**

None

#### **B Payments**

#### **Section 137 Payments:**

None



**General Payments:**

**RESOLVED:** That the following payments be made:

£262.86	S Togay – Clerk’s Salary
£ 65.71	HMRC for tax on Clerk’s Salary
£194.00	Clerk’s Annual Expenses
£65.00	SLCC Annual Fee
£50.00	Chalc (Planning Training)
£231.25	Chalc (Planning Consultant contribution)

Purchase of Bin Stickers Ref Item 4 18<sup>th</sup> January – it is confirmed that an amount of £122.00 was spent on these items.

Transparency Grant – The application for a parish laptop and scanner/printer had been successful and an amount of £401.00 had been awarded and was deposited directly in the Parish Bank Account. The Chair requested that he purchase the relevant items on his card due to the inability to purchase via cheque and be reimbursed for this amount at the next meeting. A resolution was made that the Chair spend up to an amount of £470.00 for these items. The sum to be confirmed at the next meeting.

**C. Audit Procedure**

The internal auditor had now requested documentation for the annual audit 2015/2016. The Clerk would now prepare the appropriate paperwork.

**D. Review Of Clerk's Salary**

As the NALC Payscales had been frozen for this financial year, in line with this the Clerk's Salary to remain the same at £1971.42.<sup>1</sup>

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