



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.

PRESENT:

Councillor Andy Pennance -Vice Chair (AP)
Councillor Chris Flaherty (CF)
Councillor Ben Wye (BW)

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Stefan Pyra, Sally Barton.

50. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

51. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Acting-Chair, Councillor Andy Pennance.

52. MATTERS ARISING:

None

53. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

54. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk read out her report with updates on the following:

Budget - Work had been conducted since the last meeting in order to provide a projection for the budget year end figure.

Remembrance Service- the Clerk had obtained two wreaths for the Parish which were laid at the Wistaston Church Service by the Chair and Crewe Service by the Vice-Chair.

ANSA – emails had been sent to ANSA with regard to an update on development of the Green Open Spaces and also the replacement of the brook crossing near Evergreen Way. No response had been received regarding either request for information. It was suggested that local farmer may have installed the brook crossing many years ago and it was therefore not under the responsibility of the Borough. However, if no action is taken then the Parish to consider installation via a local tradesman. In addition, an email to be sent to Councillor Allen Gage in order to engage further these issues.

Newsletter – It was felt that a flyer should be produced rather than a general parish newsletter in order to recruit additional councillors and provide information on the format of the Council, its meetings etc. as there would be an increase in the number of Councillors required post the elections in May 2023 due to the Governance Review.

Parish Website – there had been no feedback in relation to who was providing a website service. The Clerk to research local website providers.

55. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor not in attendance and no report received. The Clerk was to send an email to Councillor Gage in order to engage further with issues within the Parish.

56. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

There was considerable litter down Gresty Lane.



57. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

a). **Active Travel Survey** - Councillor Flaherty had completed the Active Travel Survey and encouraged others to do the same. Crewe has been shortlisted as one of nineteen local authorities eligible for feasibility funding as part of the Department for Transport Mini-Holland Programme. Cheshire East

had identified an area to the south-west of Crewe Town Centre which may benefit from the introduction of such a scheme aimed at reworking streets and neighbourhoods to make them safer more attractive and pleasant for residents and convenient for those walking, cycling, or using public transport.

This also linked in with the work taking place by Crewe Town Board – a team of representatives from Crewe’s civic and business community which had developed a Town Investment Plan in order to bid for funding from the government’s Towns Fund. Full information can be found on the websites of Cheshire East Borough Council, Crewe Town Council and weareallcrewe.co.uk.

b). **20’s Plenty for Cheshire East** – Cheshire East BC had agreed a policy on speed management. An email had been received from the 20’mph limits national campaign group ‘20’s Plenty for Cheshire East’ which requested that local parish and town councils write to Cheshire East to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Cheshire East where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

RESOLVED: That Rope Parish Council write to Cheshire east Borough Council to support ‘20’s Plenty for Cheshire East’

58. POLICING MATTERS:

None.

59 PLANNING MATTERS:

None

60. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Crewe Town Board Transport Green & Blue Infrastructure Forum – As Chair, Councillor Ben Wye explained the work of the group and its links to items in Minute 41.

61. FINANCE:

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

None

B. PAYMENTS:

Section 137 Payments:

None.

General Payments:

S Togay -reimbursement for wreaths	£ 50.00
S Togay Clerk’s Salary Nov	£291.62
HMRC Nov	£72.90
Room Hire NLCC	£ 36.00
Zero Signs	£887.02

C. TO CONSIDER THE PRECEPT FOR 23/24:

A document had been distributed showing spend to end of October 2022 and potential projected balance to the end March 2023 in order to decide on the precept figure to be requested. General discussion took place in relation to future projects as the internal audit had pointed out that reserves held were too high. A draft document was discussed which the Clerk had created to inform the original ‘Financial Projection 2022/2023’ provided to Councillors. This could be used in the future to show the various budget lines of the Parish’s expenditure and income.

It was felt that a more pro-active approach to provide parish services should be adopted as those provided by the Borough Council had been reduced and reserves held could also be reduced as advised. This was an action taken by other local councils in the area. This was supported by the concept of a Rope Parish Flyer to inform residents of the work of the Parish and encourage more



engagement to ascertain resident opinion. Other suggested projects were installation of a replacement bridge crossing over the Evergreen Way brook, planters on Fuller Drive, further consideration of weeding maintenance in the Parish and maintenance of the boundary signs where necessary.

Information from Cheshire East on the Taxbase 23/24 indicated that if a current Band D Council Tax (of £7.56) remained the same, this would reduce the precept from £6,619 to £6,108 due to boundary changes brought about by the recent governance review.

RESOLVED: That a Precept of £6,108 be requested by Rope Parish Council to Cheshire East Borough Council.

62. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

63. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The following meeting dates are suggested for 2023:

- Monday 23rd January 2023
- Monday 20th March 2023
- Monday 15th May 2023
- Monday 17th July 2023
- Monday 18th September 2023
- Monday 20th November 2023

Above subject to approval.