



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.

PRESENT:

Councillor Andy Pennance -Chair
Councillor Chris Flaherty
Councillor Richard Weilding
Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Sue Jones
Councillor George Jones

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk, Mr M Crook.

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

48. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

49. TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE CO-OPTION OF MR M CROOK ONTO THE COUNCIL.

The Council had previously discussed the application from Mr Crook to be co-opted onto the Council which must now be formally resolved. Mr Crook was issued with the appropriate paperwork to take part in the meeting as a Councillor.

RESOLVED: that Mr Malcolm Crook be formally co-opted onto Rope Parish Council.

50. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2023:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair with the following amendment: Amend the spelling of Councillor Sue Jones's name in the attendance list.

51. MATTERS ARISING:

Planters – Councillors wished to further investigate the installation of planters in the parish. The Clerk further speak to local contractors relating to costs to site and appropriate planting and in addition obtain costs to procure. Further sites in the parish also to be identified.

RESOLVED: That an amount of up to £1,000 be allocated to the procurement, siting, and planting of the planters on Fuller Drive.

Website - The Chair had now updated and refreshed the parish website.

Kissing Gates – due to the boundary review, there were now only two footpaths within the Parish. the Clerk to further contact Richard Ankers to see if any funding from the Parish to Cheshire East would help expedite the installation of kissing gates.

Partnership Working – the Clerk had contacted Wistaston Memorial Hall, Wistaston Sports & Leisure Association, and St Mary's Wistaston in relation to Parish representation and/or donations plus the two schools in the Parish with regard to



representation on the governing body. However, there was very little response and a decline from Berkeley Academy. However, a positive response was received from Shavington Academy. The Chair would be attending the forthcoming prize giving evening and would speak to the Head in relation to progressing this.

Oaktree Walk - The tree on Oaktree Walk had now been dealt with.

Goal Post on Green Open Space – this had been a proposal with the Cheshire East Ward Councillor, some time ago but it seems that it had not been in his ward. As it was not our land, there would be associated costs for upkeep etc. and potential liability. It was suggested that the Clerk find out any information in relation to 106 monies that could be used.

Bridge over Brook, Evergreen Way – the Clerk had contacted ANSA who would again remind 'Property East' for a response. ANSA would chase this issue up again. There was also no update on the enhancement tree planting project proposed two years ago. This was a Cheshire East project with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and they stated they would inform us of any progression with no further response.

Boundary Sign, Eastern Road – the Chair had cut back the sign.

51.. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

52. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

All relevant correspondence received since the last meeting had been forwarded electronically to Councillors for their attention.

The Clerk would circulate the meeting dates for 2024.

53. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cheshire East Councillor Allen Gage was not in attendance.

54. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Eastern Road – there was continued flooding on Eastern Road. The Clerk to report to 'Fix My Street'.

55. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

No through Road Sign, Oakhurst Drive – this had been reported some time ago and the response was that it was to be considered within a larger re-signing project for the area. To be reported again to 'Fix My Street.'

56. POLICING MATTERS:

There were no officers in attendance. There was the continual problem of inconsiderate parking in the Berkeley. The new PCSO had been focussing on the area and some fixed penalty notices had been issued. The Clerk also to ask if there was any speed gun training for Councillors and also ascertain if there is a speed gun available for use.



57. PLANNING MATTERS:

None

58. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Councillor Weilding had attended the Crewe Remembrance Service on behalf of the Parish Council.

He had also attended a meeting in relation to social services costs via outside bodies which had been previously subsidized would now have to be paid for fully.

59. FINANCE

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Shavington Academy had requested a donation for the annual school prize as in previous years.

B. PAYMENTS

Section 137 Payments:

RESOLVED: Rope Parish Council resolved to donate £50 to Shavington Academy for the annual Rope School Prize.

General Payments:

S Togay Clerk's Salary - November	£530.14
HMRC - Nov	£132.60
S Togay Clerk's Salary – Dec	£169.50
HMRC – Dec	£ 42.40
Room Hire NLCC	£ 36.00
S Togay- reimburse RBL Wreath	£ 25.00

As the December salary payment and associated tax would only be processed at the appropriate time in in December, the specific amounts for both would be confirmed in the minutes.

C. To consider the Clerk's Salary in order to bring it up to date with the adopted NALC payscales.

The Clerk had provided a detailed report relating to the present salary increase that had been negotiated by NALC for the year 2023/24. Within the report, it was noted that a salary review had not taken place since year the April 2020 to March 2021. Councillors were requested to consider applying all relevant pay rises and backpay relating to 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be awarded the relevant pay rises with associated backpay for the following years:

21/22	£43.68
22/23	£199.68
23/24	£207.48 (to end Oct)

From November 23 to end March 24 Clerk's salary will be £16.30 per hour which is equivalent to £2542.80 per annum. Salary reviews in future will take place in November of each year.



D. To consider the precept for 2024/2025.

A financial projection had been provided shown the actual expenditure from April 2023 to end of October 2023 and the projected spend to the end of the financial year in 2024.

Discussions took place with regard budget and to the reserves held. There were no specific earmarked reserves, but the general fund was too high and therefore potential projects were discussed for the future to remedy this. These included provision of the kissing gates and planters as discussed. It was suggested that Councillor Churchill speak to Berkeley Academy to ascertain if there was any equipment, books needed which could be funded and the Chair was due to speak to the Shavington Academy Head. The Clerk again to contact St Mary's, Wistaston, WSLA and Wistaston Memorial Hall regarding any funding required. It was also suggested that as it was the 80th Anniversary of D Day in June 2024 that if The New Life Church or Schools etc. planned to hold any commemorative events, then the parish may wish to assist with funding.

RESOLVED: that an amount of £6,105 is requested for the precept amount for the year 2024/2025 from Cheshire East.

45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillors discussed the production of a Parish Newsletter in the Spring. Councillors were asked to provide articles for inclusion and potential topics were history of the parish, ward walks, footpath walks, Police issues, how to use 'Fix My Street' and when, request for feedback from the public. It was considered if there should be a flyer produced requesting feedback.

46. DATE OF MEETINGS FOR 2024.

Monday 15th January 2024

Monday 18th March 2024

Monday 20th May 2024

Monday 15th July 2024

Monday 16th September 2024

Monday 18th November 2024.