



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
16TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT SHAVINGTON SPORTS CENTRE**

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance:

CEC Ward Councillor Sarah Pochin, , PC John Roberts, Ken Mitchell – Head Of Governors, Berkeley Academy, Carolyn Brown, Head Teacher, Berkeley Academy, Kate Watkinson, Sue Togay – Clerk and 5 members of the public

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Chris Flaherty

55. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor Bob Squirrell ref the request from St Mary's Church with regard to upkeep of the graveyard.

56. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. MATTERS ARISING:

Proposed Puffin Crossing, Rope Lane – Cheshire East Councillors and The Chair had attended a recent Resident's' meeting. The Parish Council had been invited to make comment. Comments had been exchanged between Councillors and the Chair to provide comment to the Clerk by 20th November.

58. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Berkeley School

The Chairman welcomed Ken Mitchell (Chair of Governors) and Carolyn Brown (Head Teacher) from the school and thanked them for coming along. It was felt that this was the foundation for a good working relationship to be forged between the two organizations. There were 4 basic areas for discussion and it was very much acknowledged that these were work in progress:

1. Parking Problems

This common concern had been occurring for many years but had deteriorated in 2015. The School, Parish Council and Cheshire East Council were doing their best to address the situation in order to support the community's best interests. There were some discussions with Cheshire East BC regarding a proposed drop off zone. Recently the number of complaints had decreased as hopefully the message from the school and the presence of the Police and CEC Wardens had had some affect. The school did mention the problem in newsletters and assemblies and the PCSO's had also been present to give a talk about road safety. One long term solution included the concept for a shared use car park which could be used as a sports area too. These long term plans also included an indoor theatre space facility. However, these were for consideration in the future of the school. The Police were keen to work alongside the school and PC Roberts would make contact with Ken Mitchell direct.



2. Planning Applications

The Chair wished to clarify the situation with regard to a previous application where the Parish made objection. Its objections were not about whether the studio should be built but about its position. There may have been some misunderstanding and the Parish Council looked forward to much closer links with the school.

2. Tree Maintenance

The item had now been addressed at a Governor's' meeting and those residents that had had problems would now be contacted further. In addition there were safeguarding issues in relation to the high density of the trees. The school would like to see it thinned out and some benches installed. A quote was also being obtained for a palisade fence. As an Academy there were grant pots to be accessed and hopefully funding could be obtained. Hopefully a situation would be gained.

4. Changes in the Way the School Is Governed

The School was now an Academy and a Trust had been formed which may extend to additional schools. Governors were now termed Directors and their responsibilities were however different. Ken Mitchell gave thanks to Councillor Andy Pennance for his input as a governor in previous years. Applications to become a Director would be welcomed especially from anyone with experience in accounts, IT, education or the law. Mr Mitchell offered an invitation to councillors to visit the school or hold meetings on the school premises.

59. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Items that the Ward Councillor Sarah Pochin had been involved in were discussed in the main body of the agenda.

60. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Overhanging Fruit Trees 30 Acorn Bank Close. – Fruit trees were overhanging from this address. The Clerk to report to CEC.

61. HIGHWAY MATTERS:

Discussed within the main body of the agenda.

62. POLICING MATTERS:

PC John Roberts was in attendance and introduced himself to Councillors. One of the main issues in the area was speeding. He referred to SID results which had been provided by Cllr Pochin and informed the Council that Speedwatch sessions had been taking place. Sgt Darren Wilcox had requested an audit of Rope problem areas as figures were out of date. Wistaston had also had a SID in place so information would be used to target patrols. Work had proceeded working with the Traffic Group in Shavington and Shavington Academy. It was also suggested that a joint venture could be put in place between CEC and Rope PC to put up post signage.

The Chair asked about any information in relation to the presence of PCSO's in the area. The response from The Police Commissioner had been disappointing as there was no process for provision at the moment. PC Roberts would look into this and was happy to provide any data he was able.

In relation to the Berkeley School problem, PC Roberts felt that a long term strategy is required rather than just issuing tickets as a short term action.



It was suggested that we could revisit the use of 30 mph stickers on domestic refuse bins as had been used before and Councillors agreed that it would be happy to provide some funding towards this project.

There were very few crime issues in the area. PC Roberts would review data on how many tickets and advisory letters had been issued in the Parish. Some abuse of the Blue Badge Scheme had also been noted and unfortunately tickets issued.

63. PLANNING MATTERS:

Local Plan – The process had paused awaiting comment from The Planning Inspector. The appeal for 148 Wistaston Green Road had gone to Judicial Review, the application for 300 houses on Witters Lane and two applications, each for 170 houses in Willaston had gone to appeal. All of the outcomes could have an effect on Rope.

Rope Garden Nursery – Despite an email to CEO of Cheshire East this is still not an item on Strategic Planning.

Phone Mast – The Chair and Councillor Pochin had meet with the telephone company along with Shavington PC and Councillor Steve Hogben. Alternative locations had been looked at. A location behind the church had been rejected for technical reasons and a site near the Rope notice board on the opposite side of the road had been finally considered the most acceptable option. The Planning Application should be presented in the near future.

Planning App15/4967N Reserved Matter application seeking consent for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following the approval of 14/3267N – construction of up to 53 dwellings including details of access. No comment to be provided.

64 FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Remembrance Services

The Chair had attended both the Crewe and Wistaston Remembrance Services and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish. At the Wistaston Service John Moore had reminded The Chair of the proposed refurbishment of the memorial.

Wybunbury Charity

One award of £75 had been awarded.

65 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.

66. FINANCE:

A. Requests for Financial Assistance:

1. A request was received from St Mary's Church Wistaston for a contribution for the upkeep of the Churchyard.
2. A request was received from Shavington Academy for a pupil prize in relation to Rope Parish School Prize,

B Payments

Section 137 Payments:

Resolutions:

1. That an amount of £250 be awarded to St Mary's
2. That an amount of £30 be awarded to Shavington High School for a prize in relation to Rope Award



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
£120.00 BDO External Auditors

C. Audit Procedure

The Clerk had received a clean report from BDO, The external Auditors. The Audit Procedure was now completed for the year 2014/15.