



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2020 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Councillor Stefan Pyra – Chair
Councillor Ben Wye – Vice Chair
Councillor Chris Flaherty
Councillor Andy Pennance
Councillor Rob Hassall
Councillor Margaret Simon
Councillor Robert Dodd

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk

43.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

44. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor Stefan Pyra in relation to Shavington Academy, Councillor Rob Hassall in relation to Shavington Academy and Berkeley Academy.

45. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st September 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46. MATTERS ARISING:

Rope Garden Nursery – Councillors were keen to move this matter forward with Cheshire East as it was felt that the site was now being used as a builder's merchant. As a Cheshire East Councillor, it was requested that Councillor Simon advise on how best to go about this. As an individual, Councillor Flaherty had had contact with Mark Weiss of Environmental Health in relation to noise. Councillor Simon would contact CEC Councillor Gage and relevant CEC Officers to ascertain if the correct planning permission were held at the site. The Clerk to provide most recent correspondence to Councillor MS.

Rope Bank Hump – This had now been completed. Recent media comments had not included the involvement of Rope PC and the Chair would contact the source to amend.

Tree Fuller Drive/Dunham Crescent – The Clerk had spoken to the resident who had originally complained and tracked the complaint (01/07/2020) on the Highways website. Status :Hedge/Tree maintenance will be assessed and any necessary action taken. Item to be followed up

Hedge Laidon Avenue – This has also been reported on 13/03/2020. Status: 27/04/2020 was that it would be assessed as part of programmed safety Inspection. Item to be followed up. Clerk to send complaint reference to Cllr MS to follow up at CEC.

Boundary Signs – the clerk had obtained a quote from Zero Signs for 2 new boundary signs to be affixed to lamp columns on Fuller Drive near the Noticeboard and on Towers Close. A site visit had identified that both lamp columns on Towers Close were within high hedges. The Chair will have a look and advise if these are suitable. **RESOLUTION:** That once site details were clarified the quote from Zero signs was acceptable and instruction to go ahead should be given.

47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Rope resident Brian Silvester had supplied a question prior to the meeting as below:

"It is proposed that from November, walk-ins to A&E at Leighton Hospital will be banned.

Around 65% of all A&E patients are walk-ins. Patients would have to make an appointment first.(see attached link)

I would like the Council to write to our local MP,the NHS, Mid Cheshire Hospital Trust, Leighton Hospital, the Health Minister and the Borough Council and our local Borough Councillor, to object in the strongest possible terms and ask why there has been no consultation on this proposal as required in law.'

<https://t.co/vseLfREP18?amp=1>"



Councillors considered the question and felt that the interpretation had been misconstrued. It was felt that the intention was to avoid excessive walk-ins to A & E Departments due to lack of access to GP Surgeries during the present Covid 19 Pandemic. At present GP surgeries had varying protocols in place in order to protect our very valuable NHS Service and avoid it being overwhelmed.

Following on from this it was felt that a letter to Rope Green Medical Centre should be formulated to ask for clarity on what and how services would be run. The Chair and Clerk to formulate responses to Cllr Silvester and the Surgery.

48 FINANCE:

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

1. **Wistaston Green Allotment Holders** -A request had been received via Councillor Simon from Geoffrey Bolt on behalf of Wistaston Green Allotment Holders requesting a contribution of £129.50 towards planning consent fees. The Clerk to request information on how many Rope Residents were tenants of these allotments. Unfortunately, Mr Bolt had been unwell, but it was stated that only 4 allotment holders were outside the area.

RESOLUTION: That at this time the criteria to provide a donation to the Allotment was not met. The Clerk to contact Mr Bolt to confirm.

2. **Shavington Academy** – A request had been received in relation to the Rope Annual Prize which would still be awarded even though a Prize Evening would not be held.
3. **Remembrance Wreaths** – 2 wreaths would be obtained by the Clerk and laid in Crewe by the RBL and at St Mary's Church by Councillor MS who was attending as a CEC Councillor.

B. PAYMENTS.

Section 137 Payments:

1. **Resolved:** That a donation of £50 be made to Shavington Academy for The Rope Prize.
2. **Resolved:** That a donation of £50 be made to RBL for wreaths.

General Payments:

None.

48. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Covered in other items.

49. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

Covered in other items.

50. POLICING MATTERS:

None.

51. PLANNING MATTERS:

There was evidence of a 2-storey extension on 30 Oakhurst Drive with no sign of planning permission on the CEC website. Response had been received by the Clerk and circulated. It would appear that the build was Planning Requirements as a permitted development.

52. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

None

53. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

Capital Reserve – The clerk had provided a document which analysed the Capital Reserve of Rope PC at year end in order to ensure that it was not holding too high an amount based on Auditor advise at the meeting in September. Councillors were asked to suggest ways in which the Council could support its parishioners financially. Mention was made of the proposed goal posts on the fields at the back of Fuller Drive which Councillor Gage had been involved with. The Chair to contact Cllr Allen Gage for any update. The Clerk to provide an up to date set of figures too date.

Meeting Access and Frequency – this was discussed and the Clerk confirmed that during the pandemic, protocols and advice relating to meetings and the year end audit had been adhered to in line with SLCC and NALC advise on legislation. Notices were in noticeboard in order to allow members of the public to attend the virtual meetings by requesting further information from the Clerk. It was requested that in future the Agenda was published on the website with the appropriate meeting code and password. The Clerk to update the website with relevant approved minutes and information. The next meeting would be in a month and frequency of meetings would be assessed, as necessary.

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It was noted that in the present pandemic situation, the website was a very important point of contact for our residents and needed additional input in the form of newsletters, projects and announcements bearing in mind the Council's Press Protocol and Government Guidelines on Accessibility Requirements for Public Sector Bodies. Due to increased load, Councillor Rob Hassall volunteered to take over the role of running the website. The Chair and Clerk to form a letter of thanks to Bob Squirrell for the hard work he had carried out in this area in the past.

54.. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None

55. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Monday 16th November 2020 via Zoom