



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT SHAVINGTON SPORTS CENTRE**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor R Squirrell – Chairman  
Councillor Robert Dodd - Vice Chair  
Councillor Andy Pennance  
Councillor Stefan Pyra  
Councillor Chris Flaherty  
Councillor Maurice Simon  
Sue Togay– Clerk

**In Attendance:**

CEC Cllr Brian Silvester, CEC Councillor Margret Simon, PCSO Peter Corbett

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Robert Dodd in relation to any Planning Applications related to his land ownership. Cllr Maurice Simon and Robert Dodd in relation to the councillor vacancy.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman except for the following amendment:

With regard to the TPO's on trees in the parish. When Rope PC had provided a list of trees for TPO consideration, CEC had stated they had a lack of staffing to process those requested.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:**

**Grit Box** – The Clerk had requested information from Streetscape and had then sent a request to Mark Swindells in Highways and was awaiting response.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**Tree Stump On Bankfield Ave** – A small tree had broken in the wind and had been removed but there was now a large tree stump left in the verge. Clerk to ask for trunk to be removed..

Cllr SP asked if it was illegal or illegal to pick up fallen branches for wood burner. It was felt that if it was on a verge then ok as it was also removing a hazard.

**Hedge Rope Bank/Laidon Ave Junction** – this had been cut back but it was felt that it still encroached on footpath. Clerk to report and ask for this to be recut.

**Rope Bank Nursery** – There were still problems with flooding on the road, broken fence, damaged verges etc and as the Nursery Owner had requested Rope PC to bring up these issues directly with him, The Clerk would contact him and discuss the problems. The Clerk would also report the gullies to CEC Highways in order for them to be cleared again.

**Field at back of Fuller Drive, New Life Church Area** - the verges were damaged ad it would seem to be the bin wagons that were causing this. The Clerk to report to Streetscape.

**Oak Tree Walk** – there was some tree debris in the area and tractor marks. Clerk to inspect and ascertain if it was CEC or tipping.

**Trees In The Parish** - Further discussions took place with regard to the protection of trees in Rope. The Clerk to ascertain if our original list of trees that were to be considered for protection were still in the queue.

**House Security Lights** – Cllr SP asked if there was any legislation with regard to very strong lights shining into neighbouring properties. The Clerk to ascertain information from Environmental Health Officers.



**Councillor Vacancy** – this matter would be dealt with at the end of the meeting so that candidates present could withdraw. Two applications had been received from Brian Silvester and Margaret Simon. After discussion the following resolution was made: **RESOLVED:** That Margaret Simon be co-opted as a Councillor on Rope Parish Council. Appropriate forms would be provided to Cllr Simon for completion and return to the Clerk.

**6. POLICE MATTERS:**

PCSO Peter Corbett reported on any crime and anti social behaviour (asb) issues in the parish. There were 6 incidents of asb and 13 crime incidents including Xmas lights being pulled down, a cat shot with an air rifle, 6 thefts of pedal cycles, thefts from vehicles and 2 burglaries.

Councillors pointed out that there had been several sightings of damaged estate agent signs. This was being looked into as it seemed to be a trend. Also Councillors asked about the parking at the school. PCSO's had not attended recently due to staff vacancies but the situation would improve once this was addressed.

The Neighbourhood Action Meeting was now rescheduled for March.

The Police & Crime Commissioner had attended the Shavington PC Meeting and spoke of a rolling contract instead of a 3 year fixed term one.

The Gresty Lane Speeding Car initiative had been cut back due to staffing problems but some enforcement action had been taken.

**7. PLANNING MATTERS:**

**Gresty Oaks Planning Application** – This application had gone straight to Appeal. This gives Rope PC an opportunity to make further comment. The Chair read out a draft comment and asked if there were any other comments that Councillors wished to make. The Chair to supply the Clerk with an electronic version and this could then be submitted.

Discussion took place on whether CEC now had a 5 year housing supply. Cllr Silvester commented that the new planning advice would make it easier for developers to build.

**8. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

**Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner, Middlewich.** – The Chair had attended and found the Q & A session very interesting. It was commented that some parishes wished a PCSO within the parish but could not afford. Rope were indeed lucky to have such a workable arrangement.

Cllr Silvester also added that there was some mention of special houses being allocated in each village for special constables and asked if this had been mentioned at the meeting. The Chair added that there was a recruitment drive for specials.

**Berkeley School Governors** – work was being carried out with regard to shortlisting for the Headship of the school. Cllr Pennance was taking part in the process..

**9 CLERK'S REPORT:**

**General Correspondence Received:** None. All contact this period has been electronically. This is forwarded to the Chair who will then pass on any relevant information to all Councillors.

**10. FINANCE:**

**A. Requests for Financial Assistance:**

None

**B Payments**

**Section 137 Payments:**

None



**General Payments:**

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

£253.07

S Togay – Clerk's Salary

£63.20

HMRC for tax on Clerk's Salary