



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2016 AT SHAVINGTON SPORTS CENTRE

PRESENT:

Councillor R Squirrell – Chairman
Councillor Stefan Pyra -Vice Chairman
Councillor Andy Pennance
Councillor Margaret Simon
Councillor Chris Flaherty

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk, CEC Councillor Sarah Pochin, PCSO Peter Corbett, PCSO Andrea Smith.

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Maurice Simon, Councillor Brian Silvester, PC Ollie Cross

67. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Bob Squirrell in relation to a donation request from St Mary's Church, Cllr Stefan Pyra in relation to his role as Chair of Trustees, Shavington Academy.

68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th September 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. MATTERS ARISING:

Phone Mast - a box had been installed but as yet no mast erected.

The Clean up of the Evergreen Way Walkway had been very successful and a Press Release issued had been present in local publications. Councillor Maurice Simon had asked that we carry out this sort of activity on a regular basis and he would be happy to co-ordinate. It was agreed that this would be a great idea and a benefit to the Parish. Proposal we look into setting up a 'Clean Team'.

70. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None

71. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Councillor Pochin provided a report as follows:

- **Road Crossing, Rope Lane** - this had now been installed after many years of negotiations. A successful press release from Cheshire East had been published which included The Chair of Rope PC as a representative of the Parish Council which had supported the Project.
- **SID Repositioning on Fuller Drive** - This was now in hand and would capture those drivers gaining speed as they came up the slope on Fuller Drive.
- **Berkeley Academy Car Park** – This was progressing but taking some time due to the vast amount of administration concerned. Building was paused at present due to the weather.
- **SID which had been sited on Rope Lane** – this can now be relocated in the Parish. The Chair and Vice Chair to meet with Cllr Pochin to decide on suitable new location.

72. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Councillor Flaherty had received a complaint regarding a slippery area near Crofters Close. Councillor Margaret Simon had originally had hard core laid in her capacity as the previous Rope Ward Councillor. Councillor Margaret Simon and Councillor Sarah Pochin to site visit the area to consider a solution.

73. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Rope Bank Avenue Resurfacing – this is programmed in when the school construction is finished but the present delay due to weather may cause considerable surface break up. Councillor Pochin to bring up with Highways as there may be safety issues.

74. POLICING MATTERS:

PCSO Peter Corbett gave a brief summary of ASB and Crime in the area which was very positive. There had been no ASB in the Parish even though it had been Halloween. Reported Crime incidents were also very low with a wing mirror smashed only. The Chair asked how much time had been spent at Berkeley Academy. Police presence had been 'low vis' (plain car) post a high intensity presence at the beginning of the academic year. The traffic seemed to be flowing, there had been no formal complaints and PC Cross would step up proactive presence if the situation changed again.



Councillor Pochin had received an email which stated that the lowest recorded crime figures were in Rope and Shavington which was extremely good news for the Parish and the joint working with Cheshire Constabulary.

An email had been received from Superintendent Peter Crowcroft to arrange a meeting with Rope PC. It was decided that The Chair, Councillor Bob Squirrel and Vice Chair, Councillor Stefan Pyra would meet with him on behalf of the Parish. The Clerk to co-ordinate.

75. PLANNING MATTERS:

The Local Plan Hearing had finished and the Inspector's Report was now awaited. Several appeals in the area had now been lost so it is even more imperative that the 5 year housing supply is in place.

Site Visit Rope Lane Nursery - Councillors had held a site visit and this seemed a feasible scheme and the Parish had supported the application.

Chalc – funding for Planning Consultant. Rope PC had agreed to a contribution to Andrew Thomson Planning Consultant to act on behalf of Parish Councils at the Cheshire East Local Plan Examination. A cheque was issued to Chalc in March 2016 for £231.25 as requested. Recently a letter was received from Chalc stating the amount was considerably reduced to £82.49 and that our cheque was returned and enclosed. This was however missing. The Clerk had checked with Ann Wright of Chalc who could find no evidence of the original cheque and the cheque had never been presented for payment. A new cheque would be issued for the lower amount (see General Payments) with a note confirming these facts and requesting a refund if ever the cheque is cashed..

76. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Remembrance Services - The Chair had attended the Crewe and Wistaston Remembrance Services. He had spoken to John Moore, Chair of Wistaston PC who had brought up the matter of the War Memorial. There were several proposals but no definite plan at present. Rope PC would have to take a view at some stage when more information was received. In addition the cost of Churchyard maintenance was discussed and it was mentioned that with costs rising we should consider an increase in our donation. This could be again considered in the future with further background information.

Shavington Academy Prize Giving – This had been very successful. The Clerk pointed out that no request had been received for our donation to the Rope Prize. In addition Councillor Pyra would look into the cost of the room hire as we did not use all the facilities.

Councillor Pyra also enquired of CEC Councillor Pochin any information appertaining to the establishment of an extra primary school in the area as Shavington Academy would like to see one on site as there was land and a proposal for it at the school. Councillor Pochin will discuss with Education and feed back.

Parish Council Conference – It was felt that the venue for this conference should have been more central for all parishes as Cheshire East is a large area. The Clerk to email Cheshire East with comment.

77. CLERK'S REPORT:

General Correspondence All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors electronically. Thank you letters had been received from Wistaston Memorial Hall and St Mary's thanking the Parish for the donations we had made. In addition a letter announcing Phase 2b of HS2 had been received and was now passed to the Chair.

Media Protocol – Rope PC had made a resolution in March 2016 which stated that all media contact was via the Chair and/or Clerk. The Clerk would like to give all Councillors a polite reminder of this resolution as a Councillor had issued a non approved Press Release in relation to the Ward Walk.

78. FINANCE:

A. Requests for Financial Assistance:

A request had been received from St Mary's Church asking for a donation towards the upkeep of the graveyard

B. Payments

Section 137 Payments:

Resolved: That a grant of £250 be made to St Mary's Church.



Wistaston Sports and Leisure Club had asked how it could make a request for a grant. It would be advised to send request to the Clerk for consideration by the Council.. It was however resolved that Rope PC would pay an affiliation fee of £10.00 that would be paid under general payments. The Clerk to await invoice for this.

General Payments:

RESOLVED: That the following payments be made:

£328.57	S Togay – Clerk's Salary
£ 10.00	Wistaston Sports and Leisure Club Affiliation Fee
£ 82.49	Thomson Planning Partnership (payment towards joint parish statement via Chalc)

C. Precept 2017/2018

A letter had been received from Cheshire East in relation to the Parish Precept and Tax base Arrangements. The Chair had provided information and distributed figures based on this information. It is noted that the Council Tax Support Grant had ceased. Councillors discussed the figures and options in order to make an informed resolution as to the amount of Precept and keep the Band D payment with no increase..

Resolution: Rope Parish Council agreed to request a precept amount of £12,375.00