

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT ASTBURY VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2014**

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

PARISHIONER QUESTIONS

- 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
- 2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
- 3 CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTATION**
- 4 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**
- 5 ELECTION OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**
- 6 ELECTION OF PARISH ACTION PLAN LEAD MEMEBERS**
- 7 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
- 8 MEETING CALENDAR 2014-2015**
- 9 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 11 JANUARY 2012**
- 10 PROGRESS REPORT ON PREVIOUS MINUTE MATTERS**
- 11 PARISH ACTION PLAN REPORTS**
- 11A NACM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
- 12 CORRESPONDENCE**
- 13 FINANCIAL MATTERS**
- 14 PLANNING MATTERS**
- 15 MEMBERS ITEMS – as advised**

PRESENT

Chairman plus Cllrs Cliff, J & P Critchlow, Kennerley, Sharman, Sutton and Stanway.
CE Cllr Rhoda Bailey in attendance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs A Banks, SA Banks, Cllrs L & R Lomas.

QUESTIONS

There were no parishioner questions.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Carter re-elected.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Sutton re-elected.

ITEM 3 – CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTATION

3.1 Standing Orders

No amendments proposed.

ITEM 4 – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

4.1 Complaints Procedure

Amended version approved. Already circulated to members.

ITEM 5 – ELECTION OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman, Vice Chairman & Cllr Cliff elected.

ITEM 6 – ELECTION OF PARISH ACTION PLAN LEAD MEMBERS

The following councillors elected:

Environment & Housing – Cllr Carter
Traffic/Road Use – Cllr Sharman
Social & Leisure – Cllrs L Lomas & R Lomas
Website – Cllr Sharman
Business – VACANCY – position in abeyance
Newsletter – Cllrs J & P Critchlow

Neighbourhood Plan members:

Cllr Carter
Cllr Sharman
Cllr J Critchlow
Cllr P Critchlow

ITEM 7 – APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The following councillors elected:

ChALC Area Meeting – Cllrs Carter, Sutton & Clerk

Bent Farm Quarry Liaison Committee – Cllr Carter

Astbury Village Hall Committee – Cllr L Lomas

May Day Committee – Cllr L Lomas

ITEM 8 – MEETING CALENDAR 2014-2015

AGREED. Meetings to be held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Village Hall excepting there will be no meeting in December.

ITEM 9 – MINUTES OF MEETING 9 APRIL 2014

Minutes were **AGREED** and signed a true record

ITEM 10 – PROGRESS REPORT ON PREVIOUS MINUTE MATTERS

10.1 CHESHIRE EAST HIGHWAYS (CEH)

At the Annual Parishes Meeting which preceded the Parish Council meeting, Simon Davies, CEH gave a brief description of activities and undertakings and also answered various questions from parishioners.

Mr Davies gave information on certain of the outstanding CEH matters. This information has been incorporated into the notes to agenda items 10.1.1, 10.1.2 and 10.1.3.

10.1.1 ROAD SAFETY: Peel Lane railway bridge – fitting of traffic signals (7 years)

Traffic signals agreed necessary between Cheshire County Council and Network Rail in 2007. Quote “the potential for vehicle incursion onto the railway below is deemed to be high”. LJC report in Jan 08 agreed that traffic signals would be fitted. Bridge continues to be damaged by road traffic at irregular but frequent intervals. This damage could be the cause of a major rail accident if masonry is dislodged onto the track.

**CE HIGHWAYS HAS ADVISED THAT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL SOLUTION WILL BE PUT IN PLACE IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2014-15
JUNE 2014 WORK UNDER WAY. PEEL LANE CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC.**

10.1.2 TRAFFIC MATTERS (ON WARD MEMBERS LIST)

a) A34 – speed limit extension toward Scholar Green (5 years)

The Parish Council request “hardening” of the present ghost islands on the A34 from Watery Lane to Childs Lane where there have been fatalities. Also extension of 40mph limit to Childs Lane.

CEH ANSWER 5/8/10 – SPEED LIMIT REVIEW DOES NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE. THIS ITEM NUMBER ONE ON WARD MEMBER'S LIST.

Dec11 - Passed to traffic section. September 2012 – LOW PRIORITY on ward list.

April 13 - “hardening very unlikely to happen (report CE CLLR Bailey)

b) Peel Drive – parking/turning problems (5 years)

At weekends and evenings more than 25 vehicles are parked in and around Peel Drive. It would be impossible on occasion for the emergency services to access. CCC advised that there was no chance of any action other than possibly by the Police. There are problems regarding ownership of land with Dane Housing, Cheshire East and residents involved. It has proved impossible to determine land ownership which has led to increase of "off-street" parking. Garages owned by Dane Housing are in a shocking state of repair.

ANSWER 5/8/10 – AS THERE ARE NO PARKING RESTRICTIONS, CEH UNABLE TO HELP. DANE HOUSING TO GET BACK TO CEH RE LAND OWNERSHIP.
Oct 13 – under review by Cheshire East.

c) Peel Lane/Dodds Lane – extension of 30mph limit (7 years)

Assessment after rail bridge signals fitted, see 2.1.1 above.

ANSWER 13/4/10 – TIED TO RAILWAY BRIDGE WORK. Dec11 - Passed to traffic section September 2012 – LOW PRIORITY.

Apr 14 – to be discussed with CE Cllr R Bailey at May Meeting.

May 14 - COPY OF 2007 PC LETTER TO CHESHIRE COUNTY TO BE PASSED TO CE VIA CLLR BAILEY

d) Wallhill Lane/A534 JUNCTION – missing direction sign (2.5 years)

ANSWER 5/8/10 – MODERN SIGN IN DESIGN.

Dec 11 – no progress

Mar 13 – REQUESTED SIGN TO READ “BROWNLOW” PLUS MILEAGE

e) Parish Boundary Signs – request for signs on A34.

CE advise that these signs will have to be paid for by PC. Clerk to obtain requirement detail from CEH and obtain costs.

10.1.3 MAINTENANCE MATTERS

C. Watery Lane – repair surface by and under aqueduct (6 years)

New bid for funds 2010-11. CEH TO monitor & repair as necessary. This must be one of the worst maintained stretches of highway in the whole of East Cheshire in regular use. If it was in an urban area it would not be tolerated. Repeated requests have been met with “it's on next year's funding listing”. PC has been informed that this work is to be included in the bid for completion for the past 4 years. When will it happen?

Chris Judge comments – 13/9/11 - AREA BY AQUEDUCT RECENTLY PATCHED AND SEALED. NO FURTHER ACTION AT PRESENT.

Dec 11 – no comment

D. Wharf Lane – renew fencing & road edging by stream (11 years AT LEAST)

Resurfacing work completed April 2013. Stream edging/fencing still outstanding for repair.

E. A34/Bent Lane – crossing reinstated on several occasions (5 years)

Now heavily corrugated. Road surface resembles the incoming tide! The surface is causing very high levels of noise and vibration to adjoining properties. The repair to an

A road which carries the heaviest weight loads is inferior to those carried out on minor lanes!

Chris Judge comments 13/9/11 - NO PROPOSALS AT PRESENT FOR ANY WORK TO THIS ITEM.

Dec11 – no proposals at present for any remedial work.

Jul 13 – CONTACT WITH PRICE EVANS. NO FOLLOWING ACTION.

May 14 – PROMISE OF ACTION BY SIMON DAVIES AT PARISH MEETING.

F. Rose bed by A34

Assuming that the originally supplied drawing has been mislaid, a further one is attached. The exact size of the bed is not yet determined but would be within the hatched area on the drawing in front of “Doric”. It is presently grassed.

Chris Judge comments 13/9/11 - NO OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL. OBTAIN OK FROM DORIC OCCUPANT. INFORM CEH WITH DETAILED LOCATION OF BED.

Dec11 – no comment. Chairman to provide another drawing.

10.2 PLANNING INVESTIGATIONS

Gorse Lane – “Lavender House” - report of non-agricultural activity. CHESHIRE EAST VISITED THE SITE, SPOKE TO THE OWNER, AND INSPECTED THE BUILDING . QUOTE - “THERE IS NO OTHER BUSINESS BEING OPERATED FROM THE SITE. NO BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED. NO FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN.” (Clerk to recontact CE enforcement to clarify the situation.

14/3/13 – report of possible vehicle storage.

Dec 13 – report of vehicles moved to Gorse Cottage.

Feb 14 – property advertised for sale on Congleton Estate Agent website.

Mar 14 – notice in Congleton Chronicle of £150,000 offer received by estate agents.

10.3 PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS

None outstanding

10.4 OTHER MATTERS PENDING

Common land, Brownlow Heath – encroachment. Following lengthy discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk make initial contact with Mr Mearman and CE. Possibility of Land Registry involvement if necessary. Possibility of CE action. Clerk to report.

Moreton Cottages – footpath claim – Lost Ways – chase contacts.

Astbury War Memorial – Chairman liaising with Church authorities.

British Legion – poppy campaign – Chairman liaising with Church authorities.

Public sector Mapping Agreement – PC registered – correspondence passed to Cllr Sharman

Congleton Town Council – Cllr Edwards re parishes meeting – waiting recontact

ITEM 11 – PARISH ACTION PLAN REPORTS

11.1 Environment & Housing (JKC)

Nil report.

11.2 Traffic/Road Use (NS)

All covered under agenda item 2 - Cheshire East Highways.

11.3 Website (NS)

Cllr Sharman reported good progress re website update.

11.4 Social & Leisure (LL&RL)

- (i) Tree planting – trees have been obtained by the Chairman .
- (ii) Flower Bed by A34 – Chairman to provide plan.

11.5 Newsletter (J&PC)

Issue for distribution early June.

11.6 Noticeboards – repairs/upgrades

Temporary repairs carried out. Final fix to follow.

ITEM 11A – NACMPC NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Chairman reported that the present status of the Plan was detailed in the recently published Newsletter. A copy is attached to these minutes.

ITEM 12 – CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL (CE)

12.1.1 Ward Member's Report – Cllr Rhoda Bailey

- b) A34 – 30mph limit – still under discussion
- c) Peel Drive – parking problems – still under discussion.
- d) Moss Road – 30mph limit – extension under review. Item 10.1.2 relates to this item.
- e) HGV activity on lanes to Mow Cop – causing damage to lane edgings and fencing. Also road safety problems due to high speeds through parishes. Usage has decreased.
- f) Pavement Lighting – Neil Ditchfield identified as contact at CE.

12.1.2 Congleton Neighbourhood Plan

Clerk yet to meet with Fiona Bruce

12.2 ChALC/SLCC/CTP/CHESHIRE COMMUNITY ACTION (CCA)

12.2.1 ChALC – Calendar of events 2014

On ChALC website, emailed to members.

12.2.2 ChALC – Digital Mapping Workshop

Tuesday 10 June @ Cotebrook; Cllr Sharman to attend.

12.2.3 ChALC – Congleton Area Meeting

Sandbach 3rd June @ 7.30.

12.3 MISCELLANEOUS

12.3.1 NPPF – Bill to amend

Letter of support to be sent.

12.3.2 Parishioner's Letter re damage to Village Green

Further letter received – see agenda item 4.3.9 in April minutes.

ITEM 13 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

13.1 Accounts for payment, including VAT as appropriate

Clerk –May payment	£310.00
Came & Co – insurances – LTA cost	£424.76

13.2 Insurances/Risk Assessment

Following insurances/risk assessment discussion, it was AGREED to accept 3 year long term plan (LTA) plan to reduce cost of insurances.

13.3 Internal Audit

Clerk reported - at present still waiting for responses.

13.4 Accounts FY 2013-2014

Members AGREED the draft accounts as presented to the Annual Parishes Meeting.

13.5 Annual Return

To be completed at the June meeting.

13.6 Future Banking

Letter received ex RBS re possible future resurrection of Williams & Glyn Bank. No detail at present.

ITEM 14 – PLANNING MATTERS

14.1 Planning Applications

None received.

ITEM 15 – MEMBERS ITEMS

None advised.

**J R SUTTON
VICE CHAIRMAN**

JUNE 2014