WAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, 12th February 2024 in the Village Hall at 7 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jeff Smith (Chair), Dave Clarke, John Meredith, Philip Morrey, TK Al Jorani, Geoff Hughes, Richard Simm, Richard Moulds, Ralph Howard, and Jill Windsor (Clerk).

156/23 Apologies: Councillor Stuart Parker.

157/23 Declarations of Interest – none made.

158/23 Minutes of January meeting – agreed as correct record. Richard Moulds advised that there were issues regarding fuel contracts, but these would be clarified under Village Hall.

159/23 Matters arising:

1. It was confirmed that the driver of the Leo's Minibus no longer lived in Waverton.
2. There appears to have been no progress regarding the overgrown hedge on Mountway. Further approach to be made to Cheshire West & Chester Council.

160/23 Public participation: Two members of the public attended the meeting regarding Planning Application 23/04004/FUL – 1 Ringway. As neighbours they had made appropriate comments on the first proposal, but a second proposal had been submitted which included a conservatory built into the front garden of the property which would be very visible from front of the house and would extend beyond the current building line of properties in the immediate vicinity. The concerned residents will make their own observations in response to the second application and the Parish Council agreed to make their own observations concerning the possible setting of a precedent by building beyond the current building line on this property.

161/23 Village Hall:

- Dave reported that the Hall Manager had returned to duties and was now fully recovered. Jenny had assisted in the absence of Christine.
- The weather had been generally warmer this month but there were still some issues with the heating system although all radiators are now working.
- Hire costs had been increased, energy contracts were under review and staff costs were also to be reviewed.
- Financial situation is better than expected; gas and electricity costs have been less than expected, GP surcharge has been maintained and income from Smarties is a positive element. A couple of organisations had left the Village Hall following price increases. Staff remuneration review was discussed, and all Councillors were in favour of recommendations made. A Parish Council contribution of £5,000 may be needed towards the end of the next financial year towards Village Hall costs.
- Energy review – Richard Moulds reported on the current negotiations regarding gas and electricity contracts. The next Village Hall sub-group meeting will be held in March.
- A meeting regarding GP Surgery Lease is scheduled for 14th February and it was envisaged that changes would be proposed regarding energy costs in a renewal of the lease with the GP Practice. A rent review would take effect from 1st April 2024. It was confirmed by Richard Moulds that the GP Surgery surcharge is variable.

162/23 Road Safety: Dave confirmed that he had reported the pothole at the junction of Eggbridge Lane and Common Lane which needs attention. Richard Simm advised that the pothole near One-Stop had been repaired. Richard Moulds will draft enquiry to Highways regarding the priorisation of pothole repairs. Richard Moulds has also been in contact with a local Civil Engineer who will look at the crossroads from a safety point of view. It was agreed that an article in a "Wavertonian" on how to report potholes, and other issues, to Cheshire West and Chester Council would be useful. This has been published previously. We have been

informed that increased numbers of direct reporting from residents can directly affect the prioritisation of works.

163/23 Amenity Cleaning: Nothing to report.

165/23 Grounds maintenance of Village areas by Parish Council. Nothing to report.

166/23 Footpaths: E-mail received from Public Rights of Way Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council with update regarding Footpath 10. The landowner and tenant have agreed to install two new kissing gates which should now have been delivered to them. The landowner and tenant have been reminded of their obligation to ensure the route is kept clear and hopefully there will be no further issues. Our Footpath Warden was congratulated on his persistence in following up on this matter.

167/23 Resident Survey: Issue dealt with under correspondence agenda item.

168/23 Planning applications:

a. 24/00015/FUL – two storey and part single storey rear extension to replace existing rear extension, replacement roof and dormers with increased ridge height, replacement glazing throughout and re-render elevations. 2 Common Lane.
   24/00045/FUL – single storey side extension (resubmission of planning application 23/01832/FUL). 30 Guy Lane.
   23/04004/FUL – demolition of existing garage, erection of single storey side extension with garage, erection of conservatory, extended dropped kerb. 1 Ringway.
b. The Council agreed to make representation on application 23/04004/FUL as discussed in Public Participation section of the meeting.
c. Open discussion on Cheshire West & Chester Council calls for evidence of revised local plan, plus potential implications of the designation of the Christleton & Littleton neighbourhood area – it was agreed to keep an eye on the situation. Jeff will liaise with Annabel Farbon at Grosvenor Estate regarding their views.
d. Rowton Parish Council to be asked if they have any views on their joining with Waverton concerning any local plan.

169/23 Playing Field:

- Philip reported on his recent meeting with Contractor G. Mayer in connection with the drainage of the ditch. The plan would be to remove the hedge, clear the ditch and lay drainage. The hedge would need to be removed prior to 1st March (or after 1st July) due to bird nesting regulations. Following a full discussion, it was proposed by Philip Morrey and seconded by John Meredith, that Mr Mayer's quotation of £5,800 in connection with the ditch be accepted along with the quotation for £1,800 for land drain to play area and tennis court. All Councillors were in favour. As this Contractor had carried out most of the drainage work on the Queen's Field, it was felt unnecessary to obtain alternative quotations. Mr Morrey will liaise with Mr Mayer.
- Quotation for Playing Field grass cutting has been received in the sum of £4,969.47 plus VAT which represents a 10% increase on last year's figure. As the Council is very satisfied with the work currently carried out, John Meredith proposed that this quotation be accepted, seconded by Geoff Hughes. All Councillors in favour.

170/23 Play area: Nothing to report.

171/23 Village Green:

1. There were reports of several vehicles being parked overnight on the Village Green car park. Dave will monitor the situation over the next few weeks.
2. Quotation for grass cutting received from Groundwork in the sum of £880 plus VAT. John Meredith proposed that this quotation be accepted, seconded by Dave Clarke.

All Councillors in favour. Again, the Council were happy with the work currently carried out by the contractor.

172/23 <u>Correspondence</u>:

a. Several e-mails (and responses) from Mr Brookshaw concerning Village Clock maintenance, Village Hall and Budget were presented to the Councillors.
b. Further e-mail received from Mr Brookshaw concerning Transparency and Community Engagement. He had prepared a paper comparing the Waverton Precept and Budget spend with other Parishes in the area and requested that this paper be put on the Village Notice board. Following discussion by Councillors they were in full agreement that this document should not be placed on the notice board. Each parish being different in structure and composition a direct comparison was not felt to provide a particularly helpful comparison.
c. Freedom of Information request has been received from Mr Brookshaw (dated 10th February 2024) requesting Copy of the current draft of the proposed Resident Survey and Copy of the current draft of the proposed Community Engagement Policy. This will be dealt with as appropriate.
d. E-mail received from Mike Foster of the Labour Party following a canvassing visit to Waverton. He reported that residents had requested a bus stop on Brownheath Road for older residents who walk from Greenfield Road/Crescent. As the location of this bus stop is in Christleton this request will be passed to Christleton Parish Council. He also reported that speeding through the Village had been mentioned and he has reported this to our PCSO. Pavements in Greenfield Road has been an issue and he had passed these concerns on to Cheshire West and Chester Council. He finally mentioned that "overall residents confirmed that Waverton is a great place to live".

173/23 <u>Accounts:</u>

<u>Accounts paid 11th January to 12th February 2024</u>

Mr P Castle (January account)	£562.60
Gaskells (Village Hall bin)	£63.32
Adam Bebbington (additional heating work)	£2,868.00
Waverton Village Hall (boiler account)	£3,044.40
Gavin Ritson (Website – Cloud Next)	£119.98

<u>To be approved.</u>

Eyelid Productions (website)	£100.00
Gaskells (Village Hall bin)	£63.32
Richard Moulds (Bailey Street Furniture Group	£109.14

174/23 <u>Items for discussion/consideration:</u>

- Request to be sent to Cheshire West & Chester Council for consideration of bus shelter(s) on Eggbridge Lane, near Evangelical Church and just past Fox Lane.

175/23 <u>Date of next meeting</u>: Monday, 11th March 2024 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.