

SHAVINGTON-CUM-GRESTY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON
WEDNESDAY, 3rd AUGUST 2011

Present: Councillors K Gibbs, Mrs B Kelly, Mrs S Cheshire, Mrs A Yoxall, D Miller, Mrs G McIntyre, Mrs V Adams, Mrs R Hancock, S Hogben, R Clarke, B Melling and P Yoxall.

Apologies for absence: No apologies were received.

Also in attendance: PCSO M Minton, Internal Auditor Mr A Green, Ward Councillor D Brickhill and eight members of the public.

071. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs G McIntyre declared a prejudicial interest in minute 075 since the property was an immediate neighbour, and left the room during the discussion and voting on this matter.

Councillor Mrs R Hancock declared a personal interest in minute 081 since she was a representative on St Mark's Church Hall management committee.

072. CO-OPTION TO VACANT SEAT

The Clerk explained that following the resignation of Councillor D Brickhill due to workload the casual vacancy had been advertised in line with appropriate regulations and that Cheshire East Council had subsequently advised that no demands for an election had been received from the required ten electors of the Parish. As a result the Parish Council was now able to fill the vacancy by co-option and three letters of interest had been received; from Mrs J Clarke, Mr W Cooper and Mr P Yoxall.

Each candidate was asked to give a short verbal address to the meeting in support of their interest; and following these statements the Parish Councillors voted.

RESOLVED: That by virtue of him receiving 8 of the eleven votes, Mr P Yoxall was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacant seat.

073. PCSO'S AND POLICING ISSUES REPORTS

PCSO M Minton presented her verbal report on incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Village over the previous month and Councillors mentioned items for information including the use of airguns in the vicinity of The Orchards.

074. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked the Parish Council if any of its members were aware of site investigations being undertaken by surveyors on fields in Rope Lane opposite the Burlea Drive entrance. A surveyor wearing a Bovis high visibility jacket had been seen working at that location. Councillors responded by saying that they were unaware of this but thanked the individual for bringing the matter to their attention.

075. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council considered one planning application.

RESOLVED: That the following observations be submitted to Cheshire East Council:
Application No. 11/2512N – Kitchen extension at 16 The Orchards - no objections.

076. STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (SHLAA) AND OTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENT MATTERS INCLUDING THE MEETING WITH CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL AND THE LDF CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Clerk reported that there had been significant local activity since the last meeting, largely concerning the planning application by Belway Homes, and circulated two press cuttings from the Crewe Chronicle on 20th July for information. The newly formed Residents Association had been quite vocal in its objections to this application.

Members noted that since the last meeting the Clerk had met with Richard Ellison of RJE Associates to discuss the Parish Council's requirements in defending the Parish against wholesale housing developments through the Cheshire East Local Development Framework. The outcome of that meeting was a proposal by Mr Ellison suggesting an initial commission at a cost of £500 to include researching the LDF process and attending two meetings with the Parish Council to inform it how the SHLAA will be used in future decisions on the location of new housing sites in Shavington; and confirming the opportunities which the Parish Council will have to comment on the various stages of the LDF and when particular documents will become available for comment.

Further to discussions at the last meeting and contact with Cheshire East Council the Parish Council also considered a request from it to suggest suitable dates for the public open meeting in Shavington (not a meeting with just the Parish Council) to discuss the Shavington concerns only. This was the meeting suggested by Councillor Brown at the consultation event held at Crewe Alexandra Football Club on 11th July when it became apparent that the discussions were concentrating largely on Shavington.

RESOLVED: a) That Mr R Ellison of RJE Associates be commissioned to advise the Parish Council on the terms outlined above at an initial cost of £500, and that the fees and charges document for any future work ordered by the Parish Council be noted.

b) That the Clerk write to Cheshire East Council to suggest that the public open meeting promised by Councillor Brown be held at the Village Hall on either the 15th, 16th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd or 25th August; and advise it that the public open meeting was proposed by Councillor Brown in front of a packed room at Crewe Alexandra Football Club on 11th July.

c) That a meeting of all Councillors be arranged with Mr R Ellison for 24th August 2011.

d) That the SHLAA map and associated information be circulated to all houses in the Parish prior to the public open meeting - the content to be agreed following the discussions with Mr R Ellison.

077. NISA STORE – ALCOHOL LICENCE

Ward Councillor D Brickhill reported that the Cheshire East Licensing Committee was to meet on 15th August 2011 to consider the licence application and advised that the Parish Council was able to put forward its views and to speak at the meeting.

RESOLVED: a) That the Clerk advise Cheshire East Council that the Parish Council wished to speak at the meeting.

b) That Councillor S Hogben be asked to put forward the following views at the meeting:

- Potential for disturbance to local residents through anti-social behaviour/drinking by youths
- Disturbance from vehicle movements till late
- Possibility of obstructions caused by customer vehicles parking outside the premises

078. MINUTES

- RESOLVED:** a) That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
b) That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
c) That the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 19th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

079. Shavington Leisure Centre Youth Initiatives (047)

RESOLVED: That further to the discussion at the last meeting a sum of £500 be granted to the Leisure Centre towards its initiative for youth evenings throughout the winter months.

080. Best Kept Gardens Competition 2011 (069)

Members noted the arrangements being made by the Environment Committee for this year's competition prizegiving presentation evening to be held at the Village Hall on 9th September 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Committee consider whether to introduce a new prize for the best kept elderly persons' property and possibly also for the best kept allotment plot.

081. ST MARK'S CHURCH HALL – GATE TO VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The Clerk explained that no representative from St Mark's had been available to attend the meeting but he had been advised that the Church's position was unchanged. Parish Councillors expressed a range of views on the likelihood of an incident occurring and how to mitigate the effects but concerns remained that by allowing access onto its land via the car park gate this would effectively increase its liability should anyone become injured especially as the main car park gate was kept locked when the Village Hall was not in use.

Following lengthy discussion the matter was put to the vote which resulted in a hung decision. The Chairman's casting vote was therefore used and it was;

- RESOLVED:** a) That keys to the gate be not supplied until such time as the question of liability had been resolved.
b) That the Clerk be asked to obtain written advice from the Parish Council's insurers on the extent of its liability, and also obtain separate Health and Safety advice on the issue.

082. PARISH PLAN COMMITTEE

Councillors Mrs G McIntyre and Mrs R Hancock reported that the Parish Plan Committee was still on course to deliver the questionnaires to every property in the Village during September.

083. VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

Members were very pleased to note the excellent reports received in relation to the new cleaning contract.

084. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council received and noted the following items of correspondence:

- i. Correspondence from Cheshire East Council concerning its Place Shaping consultation process which will be carried out between July and the end of September 2011. A series of consultation exhibitions were proposed around the Borough including one at **St John's Methodist Church Hall on 21st September.**
- ii. Correspondence from Richard Ellison of RJE Associates detailing his proposal for working with the Council together with a copy of Mr Ellison's CV for information.
- iii. A copy of the latest PACE Newsletter from Cheshire East Council for information.
- iv. A copy of the latest SAGRA (Shavington and Gresty Residents' Association) newsletter.

085. PARISH INFORMATION ITEMS

Members reported and noted the following items:

- Mrs S Cheshire reported on the spread of Ragwort in parts of the Parish and asked for advice to pass onto the landowners and neighbours.
- Councillor P Yoxall reported that trees at Santune House were becoming overgrown to the extent that they were encroaching on the footpath; and also that No.1 street light in Vine Tree Avenue was also obscured by a tree.

086. FINANCIAL MATTERS – PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED: That the following payments be approved:

i.	C Moulton – Clerk's salary July 2011 (£820.56 less tax/NI)	£618.57
ii.	M Webster & Son – grounds maintenance work July 2011	£744.68
iii.	Cheshire Police Authority – half year PCSO contribution	£11,800.00
iv.	C Moulton – fuel reimbursement at cost 3 rd March to 1 st August 2011	£64.37
v.	Petty cash – BKG presentation evening preparations	£120.00
vi.	D Espley – Vine Tree play area improvements	£109.00
vii.	Cheshire East Council Shavington Leisure Centre contribution to youth initiative	£500.00

087. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11

Mr A Green, the Parish Council's Internal Auditor presented his report on the outcome of the 2010/11 audit of accounts.

RESOLVED: a) That Mr A Green be thanked for his thorough work in carrying out the audit, and that the report be accepted.
 b) That the accounts and annual governance statement for the year 2010/11 be approved and signed by the Chairman; and that the annual return be submitted to the Audit Commission.
 c) That the Council's appreciation for the work of Mr Green be placed on record and Members expressed their best wishes on his retirement. In doing so the Chairman presented a small gift as a token of the Council's esteem for his work over the previous four years.

088. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 7th September 2011 commencing at 7.15pm.

Chairman
 7th September 2011