

DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Prior to the Meeting:

Prior to the meeting one candidate, B Colbourne, was interviewed for co-option for the Kingsmead Ward vacancy. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed that the candidate be co-opted onto Council. Clerk to contact candidate.

Public Attendance:

One member of the public attended the meeting.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 29 October 2007 at Davenham Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm

Present: A Wood; Chairman, J Curran; Vice Chairman, B Robinson, C Colclough, D Ravenscroft, S Batten, G Roberts and Jo O'Donoghue; Clerk

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from A Bridge and S Grozonkowski due to prior work commitments. J Hurst did not attend the meeting and did not send apologies.

2 The Minutes of the previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held 24 September 2007 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed.

2.2 Matters Arising

Clerk has sent a letter to the Bowling Club confirming arrangements for car parking.

Cllr Curran suggested older people living in the village with large gardens could offer this land for cultivation as a form of allotment garden (minute reference 24-09-07/6.2). It was agreed that an article would be placed in the next newsletter. Cllr Curran to action.

3 Finance and Administration

3.1 It was agreed at the previous meeting that the Clerk could transfer £5,000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account however this was not necessary as the precept was paid following the meeting. It was resolved that payments for October totalling £764.19 as per the attached schedule be approved. The next finance meeting will be held on 3rd December 2007 at 7pm at Davenham Methodist Church Hall.

3.2 Correspondence received as per the attached schedule was noted and the following resolved: It was agreed that the Clerk would write to VRBC regarding the lack of consultation in the re-positioning of the bus stop at the top of Davenham Hill. Clerk to contact concerned resident and inform him of decision.

3.3 Grounds maintenance update

John Price has been given the schedule agreed for village maintenance and has agreed to contact the Clerk with his comments.

3.4 Venue for future meetings

Cllr Colclough confirmed that she has spoken to Kingsmead Primary School and it has been agreed that the Council could use the staffroom for future meetings. Cllrs agreed that there were insufficient tables available in the staffroom and considered the option of buying a further table. Clerk to check with Education Department as to whether the Parish Council should make payment for use of the school. Clerk to confirm bookings for alternate months with Kingsmead School.

4 Planning Matters

4.1 The schedules of Applications Received and Decisions made by VRBC were noted. Cllr Wood asked members whether they wished to comment on planning application 07-2638-LBC, The Peach House, Davenham Nurseries for retention of dwelling on south wall and works to wall. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would deal with the application.

4.2 The procedure for responding to planning applications was circulated.

5 Borough & County Matters

5.1 Highways matters

Cllr Curran reported that he had informed VRBC in relation to the graffiti on the underpass and was assured that the graffiti would be removed within the next few weeks. PCSO Forster has also been informed regarding the groups of youths in the graveyard. The Clerk has contacted VRBC regarding the Davenham sign on the Kingsmead spineroad and has not yet had a reply. Cllr Wood suggested that the design of the sign at the Davenham end of the Parish was more rigid in design and it was agreed that the Clerk would again contact VRBC to investigate the cost of installing a more rigid sign. It was further reported that the hedge on London Road opposite Fountain Lane is in need of cutting as it is obstructing the footpath and the Clerk agreed to contact VRBC.

5.2 Local Government Review

Cllr Wood confirmed that the new council election is likely to take place in 2009 and the Parish elections in 2011.

5.3 VRBC Executive Group Report

Cllr Wood confirmed that should the Borough Council decide to review Parish boundaries, consultation would take place throughout the whole of the Parish. Currently the Secretary of State is responsible for Parish boundaries although this is likely to change in 2008 when the Borough will become responsible for boundaries.

5.4 Lostock Incinerator

The proposals for the incinerator at Lostock will be discussed at the next Northwich Area Meeting to be held on 6th November at The Lostock Club, Works Lane, Lostock Gralam starting at 7pm.

6 Ward Issues

Following discussion it was agreed that J Price would be asked to buy two Christmas trees, one for outside Oddfellows Arms and the other outside The Kingfisher. Cllr Curran to action for Village Ward, Cllr Roberts to action for Kingsmead Ward. Clerk to find out where the Christmas lights are stored and advise as to the date of the switching-on ceremony.

Standing Orders suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

Mr Yarwood, Landlord at the Bull's Head confirmed that although there are signs advertising that clamping is in operation on the car park no car has been clamped. Mr Yarwood confirmed he was in agreement with the car park at the rear of the pub being used during the week by people not visiting the Bull's Head (Monday to Thursday) but that he objected to the car park being full and patrons being unable to park during busy times over the weekend. It was stated that at times the few spaces at the front of the Bull's Head are being used by workers at the shops on London Road and that this is unacceptable as there are spaces in the rear car park. Mr Yarwood also confirmed that there is no clause in his deeds stating that members of the Bowls Club have full use of the car park belonging to the Bull's Head.

Following discussion Standing orders were reinstated

Cllr Robinson proposed a motion, seconded by Cllr Ravenscroft, to investigate why the bus stop was now located in the layby outside the shops on London Road thereby removing valuable parking within the Village and whether it is possible for the bus stop to be moved further along London Road. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would find out more information prior to the next meeting.

7 Village Garden, Playing Fields & Footpaths

7.1 Playing Fields

Following reports from a resident regarding the amount of broken bottles found on Laburnum Road playing field it was agreed that the Village Keeper and PCSO Forster would be asked to check the area more frequently. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact VRBC playground inspectors to find out how often and when they monitor both Laburnum Road and Butchers Stile play fields. Cllr Ravenscroft noted that the slide on Butchers Stile field has been vandalised.

7.2 Laburnum Road Development

Cllr Curran reported that there has been some progress with drainage of the field. P Mason Associates have now provided a specification for the work and Groundwork have submitted the specification for tender. It was confirmed that tenders should be submitted prior to the November meeting. It was agreed that it was unfortunate that an Autumn start may not now be possible. Councillors agreed that another meeting with Laburnum Road residents was now appropriate and that a separate meeting was required with other groups in the Village. Following further discussion it was resolved that a toddlers play area was a priority. It was proposed by Cllr Robinson and seconded by Cllr Ravenscroft to thank WREN for their offer and decline the offer of a grant to partly fund a MUGA. All Councillors voted in favour – Clerk to action.

8 Reports

8.1 PCSO Report

No report was provided and PCSO Forster did not attend the meeting.

8.2 Report by Cllr Curran following the ChALC meeting Thursday 18th October:

1. Chairman's (Roger Parkin) opening remarks. A greater involvement of PCs in local government activities will occur if unitary authority is formed. Number of Quality Parish Councils is increasing. Plea for greater PC support for local area meetings.

2. Chief Officer (Jackie Weaver) Services available to PCs include training in Chairmanship, being a good councillor, mentoring for clerks. Training can be tailor made for individual Parishes.

National Association legal team support for member councils available.

3. Accounts(Brian Kerr). Explained balance sheet. Hold approx 52K in funds, much of ChALC income derived from county grants.

Set Subs for next year. Proposal to increase subs by 2p per elector plus 4.5 % rpi inflation i.e. to 24.5 pence per elector up to a maximum of £1059 per council. Carried.

4. Officers for following year were elected.

5. Constitutional amendments were carried.

6. Area meeting reps were nominated and appointed.

7. Motion for debate from Lostock Parish Council.

Propose that Cheshire will maximise recycling and composting thus removing the need for any thermal treatment facility in Cheshire while promoting waste minimisation. Carried 47 for,12 against ,18 abst.

8. Proposal from ChALC. Calls upon Dept for communities and local government that whichever the option for the reorganisation of Cheshire, it clearly sets out the terms for an active role for town and parish councils in the future governance of Cheshire. With an amendment to the wording by Puddington PC. Carried , 53 for,13 against.12 abst.

There followed an increasingly confused debate and series of amendment proposals which basically reflected the spectrum of attitudes towards reorganisation. However these were all defeated at the show of hands to leave the original proposal intact.

9 Other Business

Members were reminded that the Remembrance Day Service will take place on 11/11/07 and all are members are asked to attend where possible.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

Minutes Approved:

Jo O'Donoghue

Parish Clerk

Chairman

Date: