

DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Public Attendance: 4 members of the public attended and raised the following issues:

- Parking on Green Avenue
- Volume of air traffic in the Davenham area

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 30 April 2007 at Kingsmead Primary School commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Clrs: B Coker, Chairman; B Robinson, J Curran, A R Wood, C Colclough, E Betts, D Ravenscroft, S Batten and Jo Aldridge, Clerk

1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies from A Bridge who has work commitments

1.1 It was agreed to make a donation to the Mayor's Charity of £100 following a proposal by B Coker seconded by A Wood in recognition of the contribution made by Joan Kerruish-Jones to Davenham Parish Council.

2 The Minutes of the previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the full Council on 26 March 2007 & were accepted as a true record and signed. It was noted that the previous Clerk had been not been at home when the election papers were delivered.

2.2 Matters Arising

The February/March Action Log was noted:

06/11/4.1 The Oddfellows Arms comes under new ownership shortly and VRBC planning enforcement officers have confirmed that the new owners will not be operating a take-away. Enforcement Officers will re-visit the site once the new owners have taken over.

26/02/7.4 Following discussion it was agreed that a new noticeboard would be ordered for Davenham Village Ward to replace the existing board. The cost of the noticeboard is £1,110.16 incl VAT and will need to be installed on site.

26/03/3.4 Alliance & Leicester Bank have sent out new forms to amend existing signatories. They apologised for sending out incorrect forms and the new signatories will shortly be added to the account. J Aldridge and B Coker to complete forms.

26/03/6.3 B Coker to arrange distribution of newsletter

3 Finance and Administration

3.1 It was resolved that payments for April totalling £1,866.06 as per the attached schedule be approved Following discussion it was agreed that the invoice from Groundwork Cheshire in the amount of £5256.95 would not be paid until further discussions with the organisation have taken place.

3.2 Correspondence received as per the attached schedule was noted. B Robinson agreed to attend the 75th anniversary of the Brownies to be held at Davenham Methodist Church on Friday 11th May from 6pm.

3.3 Grounds Maintenance

3.3.1 Village Keeper contract and tenders

Discussions took place concerning the role of the Village Keeper and concern was expressed regarding the frequency of the village inspection and the scope of the contract. It was resolved that A Wood, D Ravenscroft, B Coker and S Batten would review the schedule of works enabling a proposal to be put before Council at the next

meeting with a view to obtaining tenders for competitive quotes. It was agreed that the current Village Keeper will be asked to plant up the stone troughs outside the Oddfellows Arms.

3.3.2 Proposal to extend scope of Village Keeper to areas of Kingsmead Ward

S Batten put forward a proposal to extend the role of the Village Keeper to include areas of Kingsmead. It was suggested that the footpath between Dukes Way and Monarch Drive could be included in the area cared for by the Village Keeper as this area has too few bins which are not emptied regularly enough given the amount of people who use the path. It was argued that the Village Keeper currently only has responsibility for land owned by the Parish Council and as such would not be able to carry out work elsewhere. Following further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would establish which areas of Kingsmead are or will be adopted by CCC and who is specifically responsible for the maintenance including the paths and ponds. It was agreed that where there is a clear responsibility for maintenance of a particular area the Parish Council would actively encourage full maintenance of that area.

It was further agreed that this item would be discussed at the next meeting once adopted areas have been confirmed

4 Planning Matters

4.1 The schedules of Applications Received and Decisions made by VRBC were noted.

5 Borough & County Matters

5.1 Highways matters

5.1.1 Safe Route to School – relocation of railings

No response has yet been received by Cheshire Highways. It was agreed that once a period of 30 days had elapsed a copy of the letter would be sent to the Chairman of the Highways Committee and that the MP (S O'Brien) and County Councillors (S Harris and D McGuire), who were copied on the original letter would be informed that no response had yet been received.

5.1.2 To note progress regarding speeding on Monarch Drive

It was reported that progress is being made. Northwich Town Council have trialled the speed check device and are arranging to liaise with B Coker and the PCSO together with a further 3 councillors to monitor Monarch Drive.

6 Ward Issues

6.1 April Newsletter

It was agreed to defer publication of the newsletter until May so that the results of the forthcoming election can be published.

6.2 Parish Website

B Coker has re-worked the website to enable more information to be more accessible online. It was agreed that the website was greatly improved

7 Village Garden, Playing Fields & Footpaths

7.1 Groundwork Cheshire – Laburnum Road

It was reported that there has been little progress. A plan has been developed by Groundwork however progress is not being made as expected or agreed.

7.2 Groundwork Cheshire - relationship

Discussion took place regarding the lack of progress and the deteriorating relationship between Groundwork and the Council. It was agreed that the plan did not follow the original agreement and it was suggested that members of Council should meet at a more senior level with representatives of Groundwork to discuss a way forward. Concern was expressed regarding the escalating cost of the MUGA and the lack of seating, border paths and fencing on the plans for the playarea. It was agreed that drainage works need to be carried out as soon as possible and that B Coker, John Curran, A Wood and B Robinson would arrange a meeting with Groundwork Cheshire

7.3 Trees/Drainage on Butchers Stile Field

D Ravenscroft has obtained 2 quotes for work to be completed on Butchers Stile Field to include cutting down, removing and shredding fallen trees. The cost is estimated to be approximately £1,200 plus VAT. It was agreed that D Ravenscroft and B Coker would consult with the adjacent landowner and then authorise the work.

8 Antisocial Behaviour & Neighbourhood Watch

8.1 PCSO activities

PCSO report was noted. A bike will shortly be provided

8.2 Vandalism and ASB at various locations within the Parish

It was reported that issues have been addressed through the MADSAG meetings and that action has been taken against several youths

8.3 Neighbourhood Watch initiatives

Liz Biddle (Homewatch Officer) is now in the process of identifying key Homewatch co-ordinators within the area.

9 Other Business

There was no other business

10 Date of Next Meeting: May 21st 2007 at 7.00pm at Davenham Methodist Church

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Minutes Approved:

Jo Aldridge

Parish Clerk

Chairman

Date: