

## DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Monday 28 January 2008 at Davenham Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm

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

#### 1 Public Open Forum

One member of the public attended the meeting to discuss the proposed bus stop changes.

#### 2 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

J Hurst did not attend the meeting and did not send apologies.

#### 3 The Minutes of the previous meetings

3.1 It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 November 2007 have the following change made to Minute 3.2 "*It was agreed that the Council will take part in the Parish Planting Scheme organised by VRBC and that Cllr Ravenscroft will be asked to identify different areas of the Parish to plant up to 10 trees*". In other respects the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed.

3.2 Councillors requested that they be provided with an action log following the monthly meeting. The Clerk agreed.

#### 4 Finance and Administration

4.1 It was resolved that payments for January totalling £2,756.22 as per the attached schedule be approved.

4.2 Councillors agreed to accept the recommendations of the finance committee and agreed an unchanged precept of £32,750. The recommendations from the finance committee with regard to grants was also accepted and expenditure of £744.64 for the month of December was approved.

4.3 Cllr Wood explained that under the former code of conduct a councillor with a prejudicial interest in a matter being considered at a meeting of the council was required to declare the interest and then withdraw from the meeting room as soon as the interest became apparent. This effectively penalised councillors from making representations in respect of business in which they had an interest purely due to their status as councillors. Paragraph 12 (2) of the revised Model Code of Conduct 2007 permits councillors to make representations, answer questions or give evidence at a council meeting even though they have a prejudicial interest, before then leaving the meeting. However councillors with a prejudicial interest can only have this right if members of the public have the same rights to make representations, answer questions or give evidence at a council meeting. Should the Parish Council wish to adopt this the public open forum would need to become part of the main body of the meeting rather than a separate 15 minute session prior to the meeting as it is at present. Cllr Wood suggested that if the Council decided to put the public open forum within the main body of the meeting then the meeting could begin earlier at 7.15pm. After discussion it was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting once Councillors have had chance to consider the matter.

#### 5 Planning Matters

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

#### 6 Borough & County Matters

##### 6.1 Highways matters

Cllr Curran reported that there are many outstanding issues including the poor road markings on the Woodpecker junction, the road surface at Peckmill hollow and the state of the speed bumps through the village. Graffiti has been cleaned off the roundabout and the Duke's Way chevrons. Cllr Colclough noted that there is graffiti on the Monarch Drive substation. The Clerk will notify relevant agencies. Cllr Curran noted that new Armco barriers have been installed on the bend of the A556 between Davenham and Hartford.

Following discussion it was agreed to contact highways regarding the 30mph sign 150m from the Peckmill roundabout to request that the sign be moved nearer to the roundabout. Clerk to contact Highways.

It was agreed to discuss the welcome to Davenham sign in the Kingsmead ward at the next Council meeting.

#### 6.2 London Road/Jack Lane bus stop consultations

Cllr Robinson expressed concerns regarding the loss of parking in Davenham village, repeated changes to the position of the bus stops and the legality of parking in these areas. It was agreed that the changes are aimed to encourage all to use public transport and make access more available to disabled people. Following further discussion Cllr Ravenscroft proposed that the council accept the proposals from Cheshire County Council with the exception of VR141 Fountain Lane, where the original location nearer to Fountain Lane was preferred. This was seconded by Cllr Curran and agreed by Council. Clerk to contact CCC.

#### 6.3 Warding consultations

The report following consultation with David Owen from VRBC was previously circulated and Cllr Wood confirmed that consultation with VRBC and Councillors would continue.

### 7 Ward Issues

#### 7.1 Speeding on Monarch Drive

Cllr Batten reported that residents had put together a report to Cheshire County Council Highways in October and have not received a response. This issue has also been raised at a recent CAM. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would again submit the report to Richard Flood and request an urgent response. Clerk to action

#### 7.2 Parking complaint – Church Street

Cllr Wood reported that Highways were unable to help and that PCSO Forster would be asked to look at the problem.

#### 7.3 Key for playing field

Davenham Football Club have requested permission to have a key for the gate at the entrance to Laburnum Road playing field. Following discussion it was agreed that they could have a key provided they parked only one car on the car park, do not park in Laburnum Road and that this is included in the licence agreement. Clerk to action

#### 7.4 Litter

Cllr Colclough reported that the new litter bins on Duke's Way and Monarch Drive have been vandalised and that Streetscene have been informed. Litter has also been dumped at the rear of the substation. The Kingfisher has been asked by VRBC to clear the litter from the fence. Following discussion it was agreed to contact Streetscene at VRBC to see if they could remind shop owners that they are responsible for clearing litter from the front of their premises. Clerk to action. Cllr Curran to ask PCSO to also remind shop owners of their obligations.

#### 7.5 Kingsmead Residents Association

Cllr Batten reported that letters have been sent to residents on Kingsmead from CPM to inform them that new directors of the management company were to be appointed and requested support for residents from the Parish Council. Cllr Wood reported that he had consulted with VRBC for suggestions on how to handle the situation. Officers from VRBC would not be attending as they have no jurisdiction over a private company or any right to attend. The Parish Council could not attend for the same reason. However concern was again expressed by the council over the landscape issue and individual ward members would be attending.

### 8 Village Garden, Playing Fields & Footpaths

#### 8.1 Laburnum Road Development

Cllr Wood reported that tenders have been received and the Special Projects Group have recommended a contractor for consideration by full Council. This was further discussed in Section B; Confidential Matters.

#### 8.2 Report from meeting with Laburnum Road residents

Cllr Wood reported that the meeting was very productive. Minutes of the meeting were previously circulated.

#### 8.3 Trees

Cllr Ravenscroft reported that 25 trees, donated by Cheshire Landscape Trust, have been planted on Butcher's Stile field and Laburnum Road playing field. Cllr Colclough asked if it would be possible for trees to be replaced in Kingsmead. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would find out from County Highways whether

trees in Kingsmead can be replaced by the Parish Council. Cllr Ravenscroft requested that the removal of the hedgerow on the cricket field be an agenda item for the next meeting.

## **9 Reports**

### **9.1 PCSO Report**

PCSO report was previously circulated. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should seek clarification as to the area actually patrolled by PCSO Forster as it had been reported that the Kingsmead Ward was no longer being covered by him and find out the procedure for cover in the event of holidays or sickness. Councillors expressed the view that they would appreciate the PCSO attending the Parish Council meetings wherever possible. Cllr Curran to action.

## **10 Any other Business**

## **11 Section B item – see separate minute**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 25th February at 7.30pm at Kingsmead Primary School.

**The meeting closed at 11.00pm.**

### **Minutes Approved:**

Jo O'Donoghue

Parish Clerk

Chairman

Date: