

DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th March 2015
Held at Davenham Methodist Church Hall.
Public Open Forum 7.15pm – 7.40pm, Council Meeting 7.40pm**

Present Cllr. Carter Cllr. Robinson
Cllr. Wood Cllr. Mattinson (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. Salt Cllr. Peel
Cllr. Ravenscroft

Parish Clerk Vicky Stock

Gina Bebbington (Northwich Guardian)
Helen Weltman (CWAC Councillor)
Elton Watson (CWAC Councillor)

Apologies: Cllr. Duff (Chairman), Cllr. Wilson.

1) Public Session

The Public Session of the meeting was attended by 9 members of the public.

Cllr. Mattinson opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Wendy Sinfield spoke on behalf of 1st Davenham Scouts. Wendy gave a brief background to scouts explaining that Davenham scouts had been in the village for 80 years. The last 5 years Davenham Scouts have been homeless as a result of the damage to the Church Hall. The Scouts are now split up over 3 locations; Moulton, Davenham Primary School and a farm in Bostock which is causing them problems with morale and in terms of working efficiently for the benefit of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Wendy said Scouts wanted to provide a community facility that would benefit all ages of Davenham society and pay its' way but require a piece of land to do this. The two pieces of land in the village are Laburnum Road and Butchers Stile, which she said that these are mainly used for football. Wendy provided plans for a facility to be built on Butcher's Stile which would include car parking for 50 cars, one adult football pitch and two smaller pitches. To prevent traffic problems she suggested the alley way be opened up and a potential one-way in/out system be implemented. Scouts would use the facility in the evenings and it would be available to the wider community in the daytime and some weekends. Cllr. Mattinson said that quite a lot of community groups would require the facility in the evenings. Wendy agreed but asked the council to remember that Scouts work term time only so that would leave some evenings free for the community during school holidays. The Scouts feel that there are lots of places available in the area for people of all ages to play football but not for a community facility to benefit more groups in our local society. The Scouts feel backed into a corner trying to find a piece of land and therefore felt it necessary to contact builders asking them to support the Scouting Association by giving them some land.

Cllr. Mattinson thanked Scouts for coming along and asked for a copy of the plans as during the 18months she has served on the Council she has never seen the plans. Cllr. Mattinson also pointed out that the community land at present is used as a sports facility as that is what is deemed to be wanted by the community not the Parish Council. Davenham Parish Council represents the view of the wider community and not just our own opinions and views. One of the top priorities for Davenham Parish Council is community space for all the community.

Cllr. Mattinson asked what communication the Scouts had had with regards to the Church Hall. Mike Cleaver said they had spoken to the new Reverend before Christmas 2014 but as he was new

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to the Parish didn't feel able to discuss at that time. They are due to meet again with the Reverend at the end of April.

A Fountain Lane resident spoke to the Scout Group to explain how they had been fighting the developers and want to retain the green space in the village. With 2 young children she understood the plight of Scouts and the need for a community space however she and other residents have felt very badly let down by Scouts for approaching a developer without notifying anyone. More development she felt would ruin the village feel. At present her children can walk to school relatively safely however with the introducing of an extra 150 cars as a result of Fountain Lane development and more with a village hall then the route to school would be an accident waiting to happen. With 70 extra houses alone the development would choke that area of the village with people parking everywhere.

Mike Cleaver from Scouts answered that he also does not want houses to be built but explained Scouts felt backed into a corner with declining numbers due to lack of a facility and so needed a 'plan B'. He also said at the end of the day the land owners could have donated the land to the village instead of selling for development. Mike said that if the houses do go ahead then we need to make sure we get something back for it.

Cllr. Mattinson said that if there was ever an opportunity for a village facility that Davenham Parish Council would make sure it was a place to minimise disruption to any residents with regards to parking/traffic.

Another gentleman asked everyone to consider the ageing population that lived near the schools and near to Fountain Lane and Butchers Stile. Any development would cause disruption to them and many have chosen to live where they live for a quiet peaceful existence. He said it almost felt as though one area of the community was being victimised to accommodate another area of the community.

Cllr. Mattinson and Cllr. Wood explained that the emerging Neighbourhood plan does state that we want a community space but it would not be something that would happen overnight. They are mindful that if a piece of land was available for such a facility that it would be in a position to minimise adverse impact on the village.

Cllr. Mattinson explained that Davenham Parish Council work on behalf of the whole community not just one group within the community.

ACTION: Davenham Parish Council will set up a separate meeting to discuss a community facility. The month of April is taken up with Neighbourhood Plan so the meeting will hopefully be in May/June time.

Another Fountain Lane resident explained that her house is up for sale and potential buyers have been put off due to development plans. However one couple who were keen to buy her house pulled out due to there not being a school place. Cllr. Mattinson explained that planning permission has been submitted to extend Davenham Primary School to accommodate the current village children.

A Green Lane resident asked if we had heard any further information about the plans for Green Lane. The Clerk had asked Paul Friston the case officer again when we would hear anymore and he said hopefully in the next few weeks. In the meantime extra supporting documentation has been received by CWAC which can be viewed online.

The public meeting ended at 7.40pm.

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2) Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr. Wilson and Cllr. Duff.

No declarations of interest.

3) Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

The amendments to the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2015 were as follows:

Page 9 – Confidential section of the meeting the name of a councillor in paragraph 2 should have read 'Cllr. Wood' instead of 'Councillor Robinson'.

Proposed by Cllr. Wood and Seconded by Cllr. Carter, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record. All Councillors who attended the last meeting approved the minutes.

3b) All actions from previous meeting had been dealt with/or ongoing.

4. Finance and Administration

4a) The Financial Report dated 30th March 2015 was approved. Payments were proposed by Cllr Salt, seconded by Cllr. Peel. Cllrs approved of the payments as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PAYEE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>CHQ No</u>	<u>NET £</u>	<u>VAT £</u>	<u>GROSS £</u>
30/03/15	Vicky Stock	Clerk Salary for March 2015	100062	474.43	0	474.43
30/03/15	HMRC	Clerk Tax for March 2015	100063	118.40	0	118.40
30/03/15	LJ Price	Village Gardening Services Aug 14 – Feb 15	100064	875	0	875
30/03/15	Vicky Stock	Clerk expenses for March 2015	100065	57.78	4.50	62.28
30/03/15	1 st Davenham Scout Group	Grant payment	100067	600.00	0	600.00
30/03/15	Davenham Athletic FC	Grant payment	100068	150.00	0	150.00
30/03/15	Davenham and Sandiway Players	Grant payment	100069	150.00	0	150.00
30/03/15	Vale Royal Art Group	Grant payment	100070	50.00	0	50.00

As at 28th February 2015, the reconciled Bank Balance was £49,081.53 in credit.

Payments received in February – none.

No charges received in February.

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5. Planning and Highways Matters

a) Applications Received for Consultation:

No new applications received.

b) CWAC Planning Decisions:

Item No.	Application No	Proposal	Location	Decision
1.	14/05181	Conservatory to rear	41 The Oaks, Davenham	Approval

5c) Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have had a number of meetings with the Consultant and with Cheshire West and Chester in the last week all with a view to getting the Neighbourhood Plan to a stage ready for pre-submission consultation. There is still a fair bit of work to do but the Group have had good guidance from Cheshire West and Chester and from Cheshire Community Action Group. This is the final hurdle of gathering as much information as we can. The target for getting the pre-submission is end of April. This means that every household in the village will receive a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan with a brief questionnaire. The developers will also get a copy of this too. The plan is taking up a large amount of Davenham Parish Council's time at present and there is still a huge process to go through.

The public drop in session on 12th March 2015 was well attended with over 60 people through the door. The feedback questionnaires given to attendees were overwhelmingly supportive of the draft policies within the plan.

Cllr. Peel said that one of the developers also attended the public drop in session and wrote to us following the event making noises in light of representation from one of the youth groups.

5d) Community Development Foundation

We applied for a grant with Cheshire Community Action Group for help with costs in developing the Neighbourhood Plan. The grant awarded was for £3,566. When we submitted our costs a number of things such as printing were cut out due to timescales being tight due to delays with the CWAC Local Plan process so we now need to return the sum of £1464.10.

We will be able to apply again for funding in the new financial year hopefully in time for printing the Neighbourhood Plan.

6) Parish Council Managed Assets and Maintenance

6a)

Laburnum Road

Following the last meeting with problems with the path on Laburnum Road playing field, Cllr. Robinson explained that the path still hadn't been rolled but he has had a look and feels that the path had 'settled down'. Cllr. Salt agreed with this. Cllr. Robinson feels that it may be helped if the path was raked over and then rolled. Cllr. Wood had recently noted some weed growth through the path.

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ACTION: Cllr. Robinson will speak to the company again to speak further on whether it still needs rolling and to get the path sprayed to kill the weeds.

Cllr. Carter informed the parish council of a recent picture sent to us of dog fouling on the Laburnum Road play area inside the fenced play area but also all over the field. He said more signs need to go up to get people to pick up after their dog or dogs would have to be banned altogether from the field.

Cllr. Mattinson said the sign near the ginnel has helped and seems to have worked. Cllr Mattinson has spoken to the school to design posters.

A recent sign advertising dog food appeared on the post at the play area. The sign was way above the height of the current sign and has now been removed.

Drainage on field near older children's play area is swamped due to heavy rain.

6b) Butchers Stile

Cllr. Carter said there is a considerable hole developing in the goal mouth. Cllr. Ravenscroft said this happens every year due to continued use and drainage but said that Davenham Athletic were going to try and sort the problem out.

Cllr. Ravenscroft wanted to make his opinion known with regards to a Community Facility on the field and that he personal feels that it would be inappropriate due to enough problems with football and residents without further traffic adding to the problem, not to mention the view from the windows that the bungalows would then have. He feels the Church Hall would still be the best option.

6c) Fountain Lane

Cllr. Wood said the Fountain has algae and moss on it and needs to be cleaned before any damage is caused. It was last cleaned 6 plus years ago.

ACTION: Cllr. Wood to get some quotations.

6d) Grit Bins

We asked Cheshire West and Chester to look at providing Grit Bins in two areas; the area around the war memorial and the area down the far end of Hartford Road towards the Blue Bridge. Neither location met the provision for free salt bins. They can be bought for £313 plus vat plus £50 each time they need refilling.

ACTION: The Clerk will see what we would need to meet provision and then discuss further at next meeting.

7. Correspondence

7a. Correspondence received

- A reply was sent to DPC from Steve Robinson (Chief Executive of Chester West and Chester) in response to a letter of complaint DPC sent regarding Oakland's park and the lack of enforcing the original planning application. CWAC feel that they are enforcing the planning application and are going through the correct process. We have since submitted our objections to the latest retrospective planning application.

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- A flyer was sent from GE UK regarding solar panels for the village and wind farms. Davenham Parish Council felt this of no interest at this time.
- An email was received from Cheshire West and Chester regarding the Local Plan part 2. It referred to a questionnaire received in October 2104 which the parish council were not aware of but DPC would like to look at the questionnaire and comment.

ACTION: The Clerk will email back and ask for a copy of the questionnaire.

- A letter was received from 1st Davenham Scout Group with regards to the need for a village Hall.
- An email was received from Tipi Unique asking for permission to use Laburnum Road field to practice setting up the Tipi's. The parish council spoke and were concerned about the safety aspect, use of a large area of public space for commercial use. The use for practise was declined.
- An email was received from the Parish Clerk of Moulton requesting a joint Parish Council meeting and suggested dates.

ACTION: The clerk to email back with suggested date of 16th June.

- An email from Field In Trust re: Lost playing fields. We aren't aware of any lost playing fields and both of our fields are going through the process of being put in trust.
 - Information was received re: allotment training course if anyone is interested.
 - An email was sent from a Green Avenue resident regarding the resurfacing issues.
 - CHALC – Good Councillors Guides available
- ACTION: The Clerk to look into ordering copies.**
- A further letter was received from 1st Davenham Scout Group replying to our response to the first letter
 - An email was received re: Hilltop Farm inquiry confirming our wish to speak at the Inquiry.
 - An email was received from Phil Davies re: Playground Inspections.

ACTION: The Clerk to clarify our agreement re: Playground Inspections

8) Airport/Parish Council community Meeting

Cllr. Wood recently attended a meeting at Manchester Airport. Cllr. Wood explained about some new systems soon to be implemented at the airport. One re: aircraft noise levels and the other re: security check in changes.

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9) The Election Process

The Clerk reminded everyone that nomination papers must be submitted by hand by 4pm Thursday 9th April 2014.

The Clerk asked if someone could put the Notice of Persons Nominated on the notice board on Friday 10th April.

ACTION: Cllr. Carter will do this. The Clerk will ask for the notice to be emailed directly the Cllr. Carter and pass the key on.

Cllr. Robinson took this opportunity to say he would not be standing for election this time after over 30 years' service. Cllr. Robinson joined the parish council in 1979 and was one of the campaigners for the Davenham By-pass which took over 20years to implement. Cllr. Mattinson thanked Cllr. Robinson for all his hard work over the years on behalf of Davenham Parish Council.

Cllr. Ravenscroft wanted to express thanks to Cllr. Elton Watson (who is standing down as ward councillor this time) for all his help over the years.

10) Urgent Matters

Cllr. Ravenscroft wished to report a fly-tipping problem occurring at the garages between 11 and 13 Mount Pleasant.

ACTION: Cllr. Helen Weltman will take a picture and report this. The Clerk will follow up with note to Streetscene.

Cllr. Ravenscroft was concerned about the pavement between the Blue Bridge and Vale Royal Lock being closed for 10 weeks by British Waterways and Davenham Parish Council not being informed. Cllr. Mattinson said she had seen this in the Northwich Guardian.

The Clerk had received a phone call from an Allen Drive resident who was not informed about the plans for Davenham Primary School extension, parking problems outside school and a few other issues. The Clerk has spoken to Mr Hilditch at the school regarding parking problems and will speak to planning at Cheshire West and Chester about residents not being informed.

11) Confirmation of the Date of Next Meeting – Monday 27th April 2015. This will be the last meeting until after the Elections.

**Clerk holiday dates: Friday 10th April – Tuesday 21st April.
General hours of work at other times – Tues, Weds and Thurs 9am-2.45pm approx.**

Part A of the meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Signed/ Dated

Chairman