

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Cllrs Present** P Watson (Chair)  
S Watson P Warburton R Knowles  
T Gartland P Jones D Price  
S Pennington T Williams S Parish

**Also Present** K. Carter, Clerk  
L. Brereton, Deputy Clerk  
1 member of public

## Public Participation

One query was raised regarding road signage and whether the Parish Council could put pressure on Warrington Borough Council to improve the signage, particularly for HGV's accessing Omega and placing weight restrictions on some local roads.

It was recognised that the Parish Council has previously written to WBC on this subject and members have met with both WBC and Omega Warrington Ltd (OWL) to discuss the situation. The member of public was also informed that the Parish Council is currently seeking meetings with WBC regarding the ongoing development in the area and concerns about associated infrastructure and amenities. Updates will be given at future Parish Council meetings.

### 1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Williamson, King, Patel and Hart.

### 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**PC/2020/1** **RESOLVED:** *To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 as a true and accurate record.*

### 3. To receive any declarations of interest.

No declarations.

### 4. PCSO reports

The PCSO report was noted. The Clerk also informed members that there was an increasing problem with dog mess at Tim Parry Recreation Ground and surrounding roads. It was noted that this is always an issue in winter when it is darker, and people do not want to traipse across wet ground but allow their dogs off the lead. Officers will attempt to address the problem through signage and spray painting to highlight the mess being left and possibly through social media. One member reported that the dog bins along Whittle Park had not been emptied over the Christmas period and were overflowing. This will be reported to WBC.

PC/2020/1  
Chairman's signature and date



12.2.20

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**5. To discuss housing development plans at the site of the old primary school at Sycamore Lane.**

Prior to the Parish Council meeting a presentation had been given regarding the proposed housing development on the old school site on Sycamore Lane and members who were unable to attend were updated on the plans. The development is through Incrementum, which is owned by WBC but is a separate legal entity. The development will be for 90 units with 37 apartments for the rental market aimed at addressing the needs of residents which are not currently met. They will be built to a high standard, be energy efficient and therefore benefit from low energy bills, be affordable 1, 2, and 3-bedroom properties with priority given to key workers and with a range of tenancy terms on offer. The tree belt between the site and Sankey Way will be retained and improved and there will be areas of open green space linked by pathways for access, social engagement and dog walking. It was recognised that discussion on social media has raised the concern that vehicle access will be opened onto Sankey Way; this is not in the plans and WBC will try to address this fear at the public consultation and through information on the WBC website.

**6. To consider recommendation from the Finance Committee on budget for 2020-21 and decide whether to accept it.**

The Chair of the Finance Committee, Cllr Williams, explained the proposed budget and the proposal for earmarked reserves. The Council can hold earmarked reserves where money is allocated for specific long-term projects where the budget for these may not be spent in that financial year. It was reported that there will be an underspend from the current financial year as several large projects have been delayed and there is likely to be additional income from community centres as a result of increased use following the refurbishment of the centres. The delayed projects include the improvements to the field at Parsonage Way, investigations into solar power and drainage of the Parish Playing Fields. The Finance Committee recommended that the funds for these projects are placed into earmarked reserves and a separate bank account opened to manage them. There was discussion on the benefits of considering solar power and renewable energy options for the community centres and it was agreed that this is the right direction for the Parish Council's focus in the future. The recommendations on budget were approved unanimously.

**PC/2020/2 RESOLVED:** To approve the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.

**7. To consider recommendation from the Finance Committee on the level of precept required for 2020-21 and decide whether to accept it.**

It was noted that with the increase in tax base through additional housing in Great Sankey, the increase in income from the community centres following refurbishment and prudent financial management, the requirements from the budget can be met without an increase in the precept level for residents. The Finance Committee therefore recommended that the precept level remain at £45.80 per Band D household, giving a total precept to the Parish Council of £463,771 for 2020-21. This was agreed unanimously.

**PC/2020/3 RESOLVED:** To retain the level of precept at £45.80 per Band D household for 2020-21 providing an income of £463,771 for the Parish Council (LG Finance Act 1992 s41).

**8. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 2.1.20**

**8.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting**

Noted.

**8.2 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment**

PC/2020/2

Chairman's signature and date



12.2.20

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Noted with no questions.

- 8.3 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them**  
Recommendations accepted with no queries.

**PC/2020/4 RESOLVED:** Little Superstars engaged to run playschemes at 3 venues in summer 2020, at a cost of £650 per week, 6 weeks in total (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19).

**PC/2020/5 RESOLVED:** Brookmeade Building engaged to refurbish the toilets at Whittle Hall Community Centre subject to quote given earlier in 2019 still being valid (LGA 1072 s133)

- 9. To consider planning applications received by the Council and decide if any objections are to be raised.**

Planning application 2019/36226 for a temporary sales area on Omega South was discussed. The number of housing units on the Omega site are of concern, and it was reported that plans for the commercial centre have been reduced, although there has not been official confirmation of this. Items of correspondence also relate to this topic and further discussion was deferred to agenda item 10.

- 10. To consider correspondence received by the Council and decide if any action is required.**

**Item 1:** invite from Livewire to the official opening of Great Sankey Hub – noted.

**Item 2:** copies of letters from GSPC to WBC & St Helens – letters had been sent raising the Parish Council's concerns about the further development of both Omega South and South West and the impact these will have on the traffic levels and the additional burden on infrastructure and amenities. The issue was discussed in detail; GSPC is hoping to have an urgent meeting with WBC and further updates will be given at the next meeting.

**Item 3:** information on litter picking group 'Plastic Free Warrington' – noted

**Item 4:** meeting invitation to parish councils from Police & Crime Commissioner - noted

- 11. To receive verbal reports from Councillors and consider if any action is required.**

Cllr Williams reported that following the successful application to replace the railings at the field at Parsonage Way, works on the site are due to start on 3 February. The drainage will be addressed first; letters have been posted to nearby residents to inform them of the works with the information also posted on WBC and GSPC's websites.

Cllr S Watson reported that the Sankey Seniors Christmas party with the 'boy band' was a great success. The group will be back to start the New Year on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr Parish queried the disparity between the Parish boundaries and Borough Council boundaries in the Old Hall area. There are also boundaries to the south of the parish which do not match, and these can cause confusion for residents, particularly during elections. The boundaries were determined by the Boundary Commission and Warrington Borough Council in 2016; the Parish Council made representations at the time requesting that the boundaries be redrawn to follow major roads rather than cutting estates in half, and that the ward boundaries for both the borough and parish should be the same. The Parish Council was not successful. Cllr Parish stated that he may investigate this further and it may be worth querying it again.

PC/2020/3

Chairman's signature and date



12.2.20

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Cllr Price suggested, given the earlier discussion on renewable energy and the climate emergency, consideration should be given to switching to an electric vehicle for Council use instead of the current diesel version. Information will be sought on these for future discussion.

Cllr Warburton reported that the community event organised to recognise the opening of Warrington West station had been a huge success with large numbers of people turning up to take a short trip on the first train to stop at the station followed by a pub breakfast. Consideration is being given to making this an annual event.

He also mentioned that Friends of Old Hall Park were looking to request support from the parish council for a noticeboard to be installed. He was advised that a projects form may need completing.

