

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Executive Committee
(Parish)

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 9th September 2020
(via video conference)

Chair: Cllr P Watson

Councillors: Cllr P Jones Cllr R Knowles
 Cllr S Watson Cllr P Warburton
 Cllr S Pennington

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Williams & Hart. It was agreed to accept any reasons for absence during the Covid-19 pandemic from those councillors unable to join in with virtual meetings whilst the Parish Council is operating under the Executive Committee.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2020.

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

EXEC/PARISH/2020/27

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2020 as a true and accurate record

3. To consider restarting Council meetings at Tim Parry Community Centre

A briefing note had been circulated prior to the meeting. Given the latest restrictions imposed by Government earlier in the day, it was decided to defer the discussion about returning to standard operating procedures for a couple of months. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to operate under the Executive Committee, with the Chair and Vice-Chair along with the Clerk having authority to make decisions on behalf of the council, but with continued input from other councillors if they are able to attend meetings.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/28

RESOLVED: To postpone the decision on whether to restart face-to-face Council meetings and to continue operating under the Executive Committee with additional input from remaining members when possible. To be reviewed in November.

4. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 4.8.19

4.1 to receive the approved minutes of the meeting, including expenditure

Noted

4.2 to be informed of authorised payments of £9608.40 for net wages and £2560.77 for HMRC

Noted.

4.3 to be informed of recommendations

Councillors had been contacted following the Finance meeting to inform them of the recommendation relating to the Parish Playing Field and requesting agreement for the works via email as the decision was time sensitive. The recommendation was accepted, and all



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other recommendations from the meeting noted.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/29

RESOLVED: To accept the report from the Internal Auditor for the year ending 31.3.20 and take appropriate actions to address the two minor comments noted (Accounts & Audit Regs 2015, Part 4, s11)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/30

RESOLVED: To purchase a small storage locker for the WA5 volunteer group for use at Hood Lane Community Centre if needed (Charities Act 2011, Part 1, s3 & s4)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/31

RESOLVED: To approve the quote from J. Mallinson for basic renovation works to the Parish Playing Field (option E) at a cost of £21,115 (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/32

RESOLVED: To agree in principle a budget of £3000 for the provision of two laptops for office staff to enable working from home subject to further information on setup costs (LGA 1972 s111).

5. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 1.9.20
5.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Noted. One comment was raised regarding energy contracts and whether the Council would consider utilising Together Energy. This had been considered previously but the company was not fully running in Warrington at that time. This will be looked at once the contracts are due for renewal in 2022.

5.2 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment
Noted with no questions.

5.3 to be informed of authorised payments of £7458.05 for net wages and £1439.88 for HMRC
Noted.

5.4 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them
Recommendations accepted with no questions or comments.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/33

RESOLVED: To retain, and use if necessary, the remaining £1500 of the earmarked budget for the volunteer group 'Good Neighbours WA5' until November 2020 and review further at that time (Charities Act 2011, Part 1, s3 & s4)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/34

RESOLVED: To contact an energy consultant for advice on the installation of solar panels, subject to any costs being approved by the Finance Committee (LGA 1972 s111)

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EXEC/PARISH/2020/35

RESOLVED: To accept the quote from WBC to install a 25' Christmas tree at the roundabout near Sainsbury's in Chapelford. Possible locations for 2021 to be considered at a future Parish Council meeting (LGA 1972 s144)

6. To be updated on re-opening the community centres

The community centres had re-opened on 1st September and existing customers were gradually returning. Council staff have completed risk assessments, installed cleaning stations and hand sanitiser for customers and increased the cleaning regimes at the centres. All customers are also now required to complete their own risk assessment using sector-specific guidance for their activity. The new working practices will be monitored and amended if necessary, and government guidance will be reviewed regularly, and any changes made accordingly. New customers will not be taken on, or one-off bookings such as private functions, allowed until council officers are confident the new practices are working well and restrictions on social gatherings eased.

7. To consider grounds maintenance contracts

The grounds maintenance contracts are on a three-year cycle and are due for renewal in March 2021. It was agreed that, given the difficult year and the fact that one contractor is actively engaged in an ongoing project for Vicarage Park which will be continuing throughout the winter and spring 2021, a 1-year extension should be considered for the current contractors, subject to confirmation of ongoing costs. Contractors are to be contacted for a quote for 2021-22 and these will be considered by the finance committee.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/36

RESOLVED: To consider a 1-year extension to the grounds maintenance contracts until the end of March 2022, subject to confirmation of costs and approval by the Finance Committee (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

8. To be updated on meetings with WBC regarding Omega and the western extension

A virtual meeting had taken place between the Chair, Vice-Chair and WBC to express the Parish Council's and residents' concerns regarding the ongoing housing and business developments in Great Sankey and the associated issues which include a lack of proper consultation, increasing traffic levels and increasing strain on services such as schools, GP's and dentists. WBC agreed to a follow-up meeting once more information was gathered and proposed a twice-yearly meeting for the future between WBC and GSPC to maintain lines of communication.

9. To discuss suggestions and articles for the newsletter

Officers advised that work on the newsletter will be starting in the next few weeks and asked for input into articles and quotes from Councillors.

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10. To consider community event for 2021

The 2020 Sankey Fun Day had been cancelled due to the pandemic and members discussed possibilities for 2021. It was acknowledged that to organise a similar, large event for 2021 work would have to start soon to book the activities. However, there would be issues with confirming Councillor involvement since the elections will only take place a short time before the event and there is also the question of whether the event would be able to run, either due to Covid regulations or weather constraints. It was therefore agreed to postpone a large-scale event and consider organising one or more smaller community events which could be arranged at relatively short notice.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/37

RESOLVED: *To postpone Sankey Fun Day until at least 2022 and consider smaller community events in 2021 once the situation relating to Covid-19 is clearer (LGA 1972 s145)*

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

It was noted that planning application 2020/37132 for storage units on land adjacent to Sankey Station had been refused.

12. To consider correspondence received by the Council and decide if any action is required.

No correspondence had been received.

11. To receive verbal reports from Councillors and items for consideration on a future agenda.

Cllr Warburton noted that the Parish Council has not heard from the PCSO's for some time because of the Covid pandemic. This will be followed up and an invite issued for the October meeting.

He also requested an update on the flower baskets along Liverpool Road. These have been a good display but following a late summer storm have now come to the end of the season. Members were informed that the autumn planting was underway, and the baskets would be replaced in the next couple of weeks.

Lastly, Cllr Warburton requested an update on Vicarage Community Park and was told that the final items for the infrastructure were the top layer of tarmac for the path, resin under the railings, construction and installation of the arch and installation of the benches and bins. There had been a delay on the street furniture due to supply issues relating to the pandemic; for similar reasons there had been difficulties sourcing a fabricator for the arch, but this was now in hand. The landscaping is also due to start soon with initial preparatory work for the boundary hedging to commence first.