

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL
Executive Committee
(Parish)

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 11th November 2020
(via video conference)

Chair: Cllr P Watson
Councillors: Cllr T Williams Cllr R Knowles
 Cllr S Watson Cllr D Price
 Cllr J Hart

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Williamson, Parish, King and Warburton.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2020.

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

EXEC/PARISH/2020/47

RESOLVED: *To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2020 as a true and accurate record*

3. Matters arising

3.1 Report on St Helens Planning Committee meeting regarding application for Omega South West (P/2020/0061/HYBR)

It was noted that Cllr P Watson had spoken on behalf of the Parish Council against the application at the planning meeting mainly in relation to concerns over increased traffic, but that the application was approved by St Helens Council.

3.2 Report on initial meeting with Livewire & WBC regarding Westbrook library

The future of Westbrook Library is uncertain, and Livewire presented the financial case which shows the library is facing increasing costs but reducing footfall. It is also the only library in Warrington where the building is not owned by Warrington Council but is leased through the Homes and Community Agency. Livewire is looking to explore options to ensure the continuation of a library service in some format, possibly in conjunction with Great Sankey Parish Council and Burtonwood and Westbrook Parish Council. Livewire will be sending additional information to the Parish Council's for discussion at the next meeting.

3.3 Change of Beat Team Sergeant for Warrington West

It was noted that there has been a change to the Beat Sergeant for Warrington West; it is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to meet formally in the future.

3.4 Update on renewable energy feasibility study

The feasibility study will look at a variety of options for the Parish Council, including solar PV systems. The initial report has been delayed due to a high workload but will be available by the December meeting.



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3.5 Change of date for Great Sankey Christmas Market

As a result of the second lockdown which runs until 2 December, the Christmas Market is now scheduled for Saturday 19 December. Government guidance and local restrictions will be monitored to ensure the event can go ahead safely on that date.

4. To receive a report from the Parish PCSO

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that engagement within schools had been much reduced due to Covid although contact is being maintained with the safeguarding teams and staff.

5. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 3.11.20

5.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Noted.

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 £8294.88 for net wages and £1875.24 for HMRC

Noted.

5.4 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them

Exec/Finance/2020/52 and Exec/Finance/2020/56 related to landscaping costs for Vicarage Community Park. An original budget of £30,000 had been allocated, but it is anticipated that there may be a small overspend, mainly because the number of flower beds along the path has been increased within the scheme. The finance committee recommended that a further £5,000 be allocated to the budget; green spaces have become increasingly important during the pandemic and it was felt the investment will be of considerable benefit to residents. It was proposed the amount should be vired from the budget for upgrading community centres as this will be underspent this year. The explanation was accepted and agreed. It was also noted that the drainage works undertaken by WBC on behalf of the Parish Council appear to be working. There has been significant rainfall in previous weeks and the field is still accessible and ground conditions firm. Prior to the works, this level of rainfall would have resulted in a pond in the SE corner of the field and extremely boggy ground elsewhere.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/48

RESOLVED: To increase the planting budget for Vicarage Park to £35,000 (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/49

RESOLVED: To vire £5000 from the Community Centre:long-term maintenance fund to the Vicarage Park project

The grounds contracts were due for renewal in April 2021. Resolution Exec/Parish/2020/36 proposed that a 1-year extension to the existing maintenance contracts is approved subject to confirmation of costs. EDR Landscapes had provided confirmation that costs for the year commencing 1 April 2021 will remain the same as current costs. The 1-year extension to this contract was therefore approved. The second grounds contractor will also be contacted for costs prior to approval being given.



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EXEC/PARISH/2020/50

RESOLVED: To approve a 1-year extension to the contract for EDR Landscapes from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

6. To receive initial site assessment of Parish Playing Field following remedial action to address drainage issues

The renovation works (verti-draining, infilling and reseeded) carried out in September have improved the ground conditions, but unfortunately only to a small degree. The holes and dips in the pitches have been filled and the grass is growing well, but there is still a drainage issue. It is noticeable where people have climbed over the blocked gateway and walked across the field; there are areas where the new grass is being ripped up. The council had hoped to re-open the site at the end of October, but it was decided to keep the area closed for the present until ground and/or weather conditions improve. Further drainage options were also discussed, and it was agreed to ask Mallinson's for a second site visit and advice on next steps. Funding opportunities will also be investigated.

EXEC/PARISH/2020/51

RESOLVED: To keep the Parish Playing Field closed until ground and weather conditions improve to protect the investment in the field (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

EXEC/PARISH/2020/52

RESOLVED: To investigate drainage schemes and funding options for the Parish Playing Field (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss10)

7. To be updated on the volunteer group, WA5 Good Neighbours

The group is now operating at a lower level than earlier in the year and have moved to Hood Lane Community Centre. People in need are still coming forwards and now include families who are struggling financially as well as those who are still vulnerable. Members were informed that there is £1500 remaining of the £6000 committed to the group at the start of the pandemic. This will be used to purchase cleaning supplies, PPE for volunteers and bags for delivery.

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

There were no planning applications for discussion.

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

There were three items of correspondence. The first two were noted and the third discussed. This was regarding the Western Link; the Council was invited to participate in a telephone consultation to be held between 11th and 23rd November. Councillors have significant reservations about the scheme, but it was mentioned that the project has changed considerably since the Parish Council was last informed and members would need to be appraised of the changes before discussion at the December meeting and further engagement. It was agreed to reply to that effect.

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EXEC/PARISH/2020/53

RESOLVED: *To request up to date information on the Western Link scheme for discussion at the December meeting prior to responding to the consultation.*

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

Cllr Price updated members with information relating to Sankey Station. It appears that the building is split into two parts with one section being leased to the franchise holder (currently Northern Rail) and other having been sold as part of a large portfolio of commercial assets and is now owned by the Arch Company. Councillor Price is hoping to speak to the property manager over the coming weeks to see if they are willing to consider the idea of the building being put to community use.

Cllr Pennington confirmed that he had placed the Parish Council Remembrance wreath at St Mary's cemetery along with the Beaver Scouts. A photo was taken at the time and will be shared via Facebook.

Cllr Williams told members that plants for Vicarage Community Park had been delivered and planting was due to start the following week. It was confirmed that the majority had been delivered either to Whittle hall Community Centre or officers' homes for security rather than direct to site.

