

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

(via video conference)

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**Chair:** Cllr P Watson  
**Councillors:** Cllr S Watson                      Cllr H Patel                      Cllr A King  
                    Cllr S Pennington                      Cllr D Price                      Cllr T Williams  
                    Cllr P Jones

**Also present:** K Carter, Parish Clerk

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

There were apologies from Cllrs Knowles, Warburton, Hart & Williamson.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

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

**PARISH/2021/17**

**RESOLVED:** *To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as a true and accurate record*

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

There were no declarations.

**4. PCSO reports**

The report from the PCSO had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. Councillors were also informed that Sergeant Upile Mtitimila is moving on from his temporary post as Beat Sergeant for Warrington West and a new sergeant is being recruited for a permanent position.

**5. Matters Arising:**

**5.1 update on benches for the Green Heart, Omega (Cllr Warburton)**

Positive discussions have taken place with The Land Trust, Omega Warrington Ltd and Burtonwood Association regarding the installation of benches to commemorate the history of Burtonwood Airbase. The Pickett-Hamilton Fort has been retained within the Green Heart and the groups mentioned have already been working together to provide information and storyboards to highlight the importance of the site during WWII. It is hoped a final decision on the benches will be made soon and they will be installed near the Fort to help this to become a focal point for the local community to enjoy.

**6. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 2.2.21**

**6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.**

Received and noted.

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

Noted with no questions.



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## **6.3 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them.**

Recommendations from the meeting were approved with no comments. Several recommendations related to items later on the agenda and were discussed at the relevant point.

### **PARISH/2021/18**

**RESOLVED:** To increase the Chairman's Allowance to £1500 for 2020-21 as recompense for additional work required during the Covid-19 pandemic (LGA 1972 s15(5)).

### **PARISH/2021/19**

**RESOLVED:** To give a £150 donation to Clean Up My Community and investigate permanent paint options to redo the dog fouling stencils at parish council sites (LGA 1972 s137 & LGA 1972 s133).

### **PARISH/2021/20**

**RESOLVED:** To give a £150 donation to Burtonwood Association (LGA 1972 s137 & LGA 1972 s133).

## **7. To consider postponement of May Parish Council meeting**

A briefing paper had been circulated prior to the meeting which proposed postponing the May meeting by a week from 12<sup>th</sup> May to 19<sup>th</sup> May. This is because of the timing of the elections; the earliest date the results of the parish elections will be known is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May which is insufficient time to meet the statutory requirements for sending the summons and agenda to successful candidates. The proposal was approved.

### **PARISH/2021/21**

**RESOLVED:** To move the May Parish Council meeting from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (LGA 1972, Sch. 12, s7 (2))

## **8. To review the SLA for the Parish-funded PCSO for 2021-22**

There is currently 1 PCSO post which is funded by the Parish Council and is allowed for within the budget for 2021-22. As part of the SLA, the Parish Council can specify the focus of the PCSO which is currently on youth engagement and diversionary activities. It was proposed and agreed that the SLA be signed without change, but that it should be reviewed after the elections.

### **PARISH/2021/22**

**RESOLVED:** To sign the SLA for the Parish-funded PCSO for 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022. To review the agreement after the May elections (Police Act 1996, s92).

## **9. To be updated on the re-opening of the community centres and changes to operating procedures**

A briefing note had been circulated prior to the meeting to inform all members of the works in progress to gradually re-open the community centres in line with the Governments 'roadmap' for easing out of lockdown. There are currently three groups which can operate in the centres, 2 preschools and 1 school link club. Further groups will be allowed to return from 29<sup>th</sup> March, although all dates may be subject to change. Council officers are contacting existing customers to inform them of the earliest date they will be able to return. Once these are known, it may be

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possible to offer available timeslots to new customers and finally consider reopening for private functions. During the pandemic there has been an opportunity to review the working practices within the centres and reconsider cleaning schedules and staffing levels. A Centre Operations Policy will be produced to standardize these across council premises; this will be reviewed at a future meeting.

## 10. Parish Playing Field drainage: to be updated on progress and consider any recommendations

There had been a discussion with the contractor to clarify aspects of the quotes provided to address the drainage on the field and this was discussed by the Finance Committee. The main decision is whether to install drainage to the full field or to the pitch areas only. The first option will cost in the region of £250,000 +VAT and the second £150,000 +VAT. Both options would require external funding to achieve and the Finance Committee recommended that the council should aim to install drainage to the full field and reconsider if enough funding cannot be sourced. Investigations into possible funding options point to the Football Foundation currently being the only likely source for large amounts and this will be explored further. It was also agreed to contact Whittle Hall Junior Football Club as the main user of the site to discuss support for the funding application.

### **PARISH/2021/23**

**RESOLVED:** To aim for drainage improvements to the full parish playing field and apply for external funding for this, initially through the Football Foundation (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10).

## 11. Renewable Energy project: to be updated on progress and consider any recommendations

The Finance Committee had considered the quotes provided for the preconstruction survey for all centres and recommended that the Council takes a phased approach to the project by concentrating on two centres initially (FC/2021/20). It was agreed to undertake surveys on Whittle Hall Community Centre and Bewsey Barn Community Centre to investigate the feasibility and costs for the installation of solar PV and air source heat pumps at these centres. The final decision on installation will be made once this is complete.

### **PARISH/2021/23**

**RESOLVED:** To engage Aberla to carry out combined ASHP and Solar PV preconstruction surveys on Bewsey Barn Community Centre and Whittle Hall Community Centre (LGA 1972 s133).

## 12. Sankey Station Building, community facility project: to be updated on progress and consider any recommendations

Rise Associates have been engaged to provide a feasibility study and business plan to consider whether the station building can be utilised as a community facility and it is hoped this will be completed by April (PARISH/2021/08). Members were made aware that a section of land alongside the car park is privately-owned. The land was purchased with a view to providing storage for the owner, however planning permission for a container has been refused and the owner is now looking to sell the plot. The Council has previously discussed the issue of access rights and land ownership within the car park of the station which may have an impact on the project, and it had been suggested that it would be necessary to investigate this before a final

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decision can be made about taking on the building. The Finance Committee had suggested that prior to talking to the owner of the land, the council should engage a surveyor to value the land and carry out land registry searches on the remaining land within the car park (FINANCE/2021/28). This was agreed.

**PARISH/2021/24**

**RESOLVED:** *To obtain quotes for Land Registry searches of the land adjoining Sankey Station car park and for a valuation of the privately-owned section of land (LGA 1972 s111).*

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

The list of planning applications and decisions had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion, no comments or objections were raised.

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

The correspondence list had been circulated prior to the meeting which comprised of two consultations being undertaken by WBC relating to the town centre. No comments were noted.

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

Cllr King informed members that the volunteer group, Good Neighbours WA5, which is operating from Hood Lane Community Centre, will gradually be reducing its activities after Easter. She also mentioned that some residents in Sankey South who were affected by the recent flooding are still unable to return home. There is some funding available through Warrington Borough Council and there are obvious concerns for the future should events be repeated.

Cllr Watson stated that a resident had raised concerns about flooding along Whittle Brook and Cllr Watson had contacted the Environment Agency on his behalf.

It was pointed out that there is a plan for improvement works for the confluence of Penketh Brook and Whittle Brook to alleviate flooding in the future in conjunction with other schemes in Warrington.