

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

(via video conference)

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**Chair:** Cllr P Watson  
**Councillors:** Cllr S Watson Cllr P Jones  
Cllr P Warburton Cllr S Williamson

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

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

There were apologies from Cllrs Knowles, Williams and King.

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

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

**PARISH/2021/26**

**RESOLVED:** To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 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. Recently both Councillors and members of the public had raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in several areas of Great Sankey, particularly at the start of the Easter school holidays. An update on the current situation and measures being taken to counteract any ASB will be requested, and Councillors informed as soon as possible.

**5. Matters Arising:**

**5.1. to receive updates on projects**

**5.1.1. Sankey Station: land adjacent to car park.**

A map of the registered land for Sankey Station and adjoining car park had been obtained from HM Land Registry, with detail on areas registered to Arriva Rail North Ltd. There are also 4 small plots of registered land situated off the car park opposite the station building with a proportion of the remaining land unregistered. It was agreed to obtain the property registers for the small plots which may have an impact on the project to lease the building for community use. This information may be useful in future negotiations regarding access rights to the station building.

**PARISH/2021/27**

**RESOLVED:** To obtain Land Registry records for the privately-owned plots of land adjacent Sankey Station (LGA 1972 s111).



# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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---

## **5.1.2. Parish Playing Field drainage: funding enquiries.**

Initial contact had been made with the Football Foundation who advised that, given the size of the project, it would be necessary to apply for funding through the local Football Association. Liverpool FA were subsequently contacted, and a reply is awaited.

## **5.1.3. Renewable Energy: building surveys.**

Following agreement at the last meeting, Aberla were engaged to carry out building surveys at Bewsey Barn and Whittle Hall Community Centres for solar PV and air source heat pumps. The surveys will be completed in the next week and it is hoped a report will be received by the next Finance Committee meeting.

## **5.2. to receive an update on the Warrington Western Link**

Cllr P Watson had attended a meeting with Warrington Borough Council and contractors for the Western Link project who thanked the parish council for the response to the consultation at the beginning of the year. Several changes have been made, mainly relating to Active Travel with increased pathways and cycleways. It was also confirmed that traffic levels will be monitored, and the impact of the link road assessed regularly. Potential issues are difficult to predict, but the monitoring will highlight any areas of concern and amelioration works will be considered if necessary. There had also been an update regarding comments on the underpass on Cromwell Avenue which is used by pupils of St Gregory's High School. WBC confirmed that the lighting units had been replaced in 2019 and had been recently checked and are working correctly. The flooding issue raised is still being investigated and the Parish Council will be advised of the outcome.

## **6. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 6.3.21**

### **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.**

The items approved for payment were accepted. It was suggested that the council could look at quotes from Together Energy for gas and electricity for the future which was agreed; it was also proposed that, if it would be financially prudent to change supplier, it may be worth cancelling current contracts depending on any penalty clauses that would be imposed.

### **PARISH/2021/28**

**RESOLVED:** *To obtain quotes from Together Energy for the community centres and determine any penalty clauses on existing contracts (LGA 1972 s133).*

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

Recommendations from the meeting were approved with no comments.

### **PARISH/2021/29**

**RESOLVED:** *To seek advice from SLCC on VAT for proposed projects Councillors (LGA 1972 s111).*

### **PARISH/2021/30**

**RESOLVED:** *To arrange Councillor training on roles and responsibilities through ChALC to be strongly recommended to new Councillors and offered to returning Councillors (LGA 1972 s111).*

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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---

**PARISH/2021/31**

**RESOLVED:** To increase sickness entitlement of caretaking staff to equal that of key personnel (LGA 1972 s112).

**PARISH/2021/32**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Community Centres Operations Policy which includes a finish time of 9pm for customer bookings (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

**PARISH/2021/33**

**RESOLVED:** To recruit a temporary member of staff for the caretaking post at Bewsey Barn Community Centre to cover long-term sickness (LGA 1972 s112).

**PARISH/2021/34**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quote from Samrose Windows for the refurbishment of the kitchen at Whittle Hall Community Centre (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

**PARISH/2021/35**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the quote from Brookmeade Building Ltd for the refurbishment of Bewsey Barn Community Centre (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

**PARISH/2021/36**

**RESOLVED:** To allow use of the Parish Playing Field by request on a temporary basis at no charge. Covid-19 guidelines to be followed and risk assessments provided to the Parish Office. Situation to be reviewed by September 2021.

**7. To consider information on virtual Council meetings after 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Parish Clerks are currently awaiting definitive guidance from Government regarding the validity of virtual meetings. At the beginning of the pandemic, local authorities were granted permission to allow members, the public and press to attend meetings remotely from 4 April 2020 for all smaller authorities, but this legislation runs out on 6<sup>th</sup> May and will revert to the provisions in the extant legislation (Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972). Whilst this legislation doesn't specifically permit virtual meetings, it also doesn't prohibit them since the legislation predates the technology. The latest briefing from NALC is that there will be a court hearing on 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Administrative Court to seek a ruling on this issue. In the meantime, it is for individual councils to decide whether virtual meetings are lawful within the legislation mentioned above and in consideration of the ongoing restrictions for in-person meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that the May Parish Council meeting would be held virtually with this decision to be reviewed at that time for future meetings.

**PARISH/2021/37**

**RESOLVED:** To continue with virtual meetings for May 2021 considering ongoing restrictions and practicalities for in-person meetings. This resolution to be reviewed at the May Parish Council meeting following further guidance from NALC (LGA 1972 s111).



# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

(via video conference)

---

**8. 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; no comments or objections were raised.

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

Item 1: concerns raised by member of public about Councillor comments on social media.

It was confirmed that this was a general comment and not specific to any media post or councillor. As requested by the member of public, Councillors had already been sent a reminder to be mindful of their language and tone when commenting publicly and of the need to comply with the Code of Conduct and Nolan Principles whilst in office. Councillors acknowledged the complaint and receipt of the reminder.

Item 2: comments from member of public relating to Sankey Station.

The first comment was about litter on the railway in the area of Bunny Hollow and the second about youths gathering in the shelters on the station after 6pm. There was no suggestion of anti-social behaviour, but the resident suggested that if the lights were turned off, it may deter the youths from meeting there. It was agreed to contact the rail company regarding the litter as it is on the railway side of the fencing and would be dangerous for anyone else to address. It was also agreed to contact the PCSO's to patrol at the station and a request will be made that the lights are switched off if this is necessary as a crime prevention measure.

**PARISH/2021/38**

**RESOLVED:** *To contact the rail company to address the litter on the embankments between Sankey Station and Warrington West Station. To request the PCSO's patrol Sankey Station in the evenings and report back if further action is needed in relation to youths gathering.*

Item 3: Proposal re Lingley Green

The Parish Council has been approached by the Social Value Lead at Network Plus who are carrying out gas mains replacement this year in the vicinity of Lingley Green. As part of the work, the company is looking to give something back to the community and have offered help for the Green. This offer could be financial in nature or a volunteer work party. Councillors suggested requesting a contribution for the commemorative bench which has been ordered for the site.

**PARISH/2021/39**

**RESOLVED:** *To request a contribution to the commemorative bench on Lingley Green as offered by Network Plus.*

Item 4: from resident regarding anti-social behaviour in Whittle Hall

The information had already been forwarded on to the Police as mentioned under agenda item 4.



# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

Cllr S Watson mentioned that whilst she will not be standing for re-election, she will be continuing to volunteer with Sankey Seniors who will hopefully be returning to Hood Manor Community Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Warburton highlighted that the newly named Airlift Hill is now open to the public. There are a few wooden benches placed around the area, but bespoke benches are also being purchased which will commemorate the history of the site. He also drew attention to a lecture being given by Burtonwood Association on the story of the Berlin Airlift and the links to the airfield.

Cllr Jones pointed out that there are no bins on Airlift Hill, and this has been commented on through social media. The park is now managed by the Land Trust and the purchase and installation of litter bins would need to their responsibility. However, it was suggested that the problem is likely to be with the cost of emptying the bins for an organisation with limited funds such as the Land Trust. It may be possible to encourage the start up of a 'Friends of Airlift Hill' in the future and organise regular litter picks in the park.

Cllr Williamson raised concerns about possible marking of properties with dogs for the purpose of dog theft. This is an item that has been highlighted nationally; the PCSO's will be contacted to see if this is a concern in the parish.

Cllr P Watson stated that he would be sending a note of thanks to all Councillors who are not re-standing at the forthcoming election for their service and commitment to the Parish Council over the last five years. He also gave thanks, along with other members, to Council staff for their support and help during their term of office.

