

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 12th January 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: P Watson
Councillors: A King A Morley N Catlow R Knowles
 S Pennington D Clark D Price M Hussain
 B Sutcliffe P Jones

Also present: K. Carter, Parish Clerk
 L. Brereton, Deputy Clerk
 1 member of public

Public questions:

The member of public present spoke to the Council about the Climate Change and requested support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. This was discussed in full under agenda item 12.

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Parish, Warburton & Cotter.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021.

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

PARISH/2022/1

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th December 2021 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

None.

4. PCSO reports

Not received prior to the meeting. Information was requested from the deployment of the SID along Tankersley Grove prior to Christmas and for the SID to be redeployed in the same location facing the other direction.

PARISH/2022/2

RESOLVED: To contact the Parish PCSO and request data from the SID deployment along Tankersley Grove in December and for its redeployment in the other direction.

5. Matters arising:

5.1 Confirmation of date for Sankey Fun Day as Sunday 12th June 2022, 12noon-4pm, Dakota Park

Date noted as well as a request for support on the day, both for set up in the morning and during the event.

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5.2 Update on avian flu and meeting with The Land Trust

It was confirmed that there have been many cases of avian flu nationally this year, including within this region. However, there are limited options for wild populations such as those at Whittle Hall Duck Pond, but the Land Trust is monitoring the area.

An introductory meeting was held with the newly appointed Estates and Community Officer from The Land Trust to explain roles and responsibilities and share information on the various areas The Land Trust maintains. It is hoped this will lead to increased communication between the Parish Council and The Land Trust as well as opportunities to work together for the benefit of residents.

5.3 Response from Warrington Foodbank re presentation to the council

The Foodbank has confirmed it would be happy to update the Council on the current situation in Warrington, and more particularly, Great Sankey as well as meet newer members. It is hoped they will be able to attend either the February or March Parish Council meeting.

5.4 Confirmation of delivery date for the Parish newsletter

Delivery of the newsletter to each household within the Parish will be in the week commencing 21st February.

6. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 4.1.22

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Noted.

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

The items approved for payment were noted with no questions.

6.3 to consider the recommendation on the budget for 2022-23 and decide whether to accept it.

The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was explained that this had included increased amounts for utilities and overall inflation, both of which are expected to be significant. Hire rates for the community centres have been retained at their current level for a further year to allow customers to recover from the negative impact of the pandemic and to encourage new bookings for vacant timeslots. The budget was approved.

PARISH/2022/3

RESOLVED: To approve the draft budget for 2022-23.

6.4 to consider the recommendation on the level of precept required for 2022-23 and decide whether to accept it

With the budget for 2022-23 approved, it was agreed by majority that a small increase of 2% in the precept level will be necessary to maintain a neutral budget. This will raise the precept of a Band D property by £0.92 from £45.80 per annum to £46.72 per annum. Cllr Catlow requested it be recorded that he voted against the recommendation.

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PARISH/2022/4

RESOLVED: To implement a small increase of 2% in the precept level, giving a rate of £46.72 per Band D property with proportionate increases in other bands.

7. To receive notes from the meeting with Livewire, WBC and Burtonwood & Westbrook Parish Council regarding the future of Westbrook Library.

An update had been provided and the options were discussed in full. Livewire and WBC are trying to find a way in which the library service can be maintained within the unit at the Westbrook Centre. The library is the only one in Warrington to have rental costs and there is a significant deficit, estimated for 2022-23 as £41,833. Previous suggestions such as looking for alternative venues or considering costs for a mobile service have been dismissed. The current plan is to increase use by community groups to bring in a small income, reduce staff costs by recruiting volunteers to help run the service and requesting financial support from the Parish Councils of Great Sankey, and Burtonwood and Westbrook. The consensus view was that this business model has already been tried and is not succeeding and it was felt that continuing with the same proposal is still not likely to generate enough income or reduce costs sufficiently for the library to become financially viable. It was agreed that the possible closure of the library is a hard option to consider, and some residents would suffer if no alternative can be found, but given the amount of deficit, it was agreed that financial support from the Parish Councils will only be appropriate if a different business model can be found which gives longer term sustainability for the library service.

PARISH/2022/5

RESOLVED: To defer a decision on a financial contribution from GSPC towards the library service at Westbrook until an alternative business model is proposed to improve the long-term financial sustainability of the service.

8. To be informed of the pitch inspection report for the Parish Playing Field and to consider next steps.

A pitch inspection had been completed through the Pitch Power app and an assessment report received. Further clarification is needed on the next steps and LCFA will be contacted to continue discussions for this. It was also suggested that Livewire are asked for advice as they have experience with obtaining funding for sports pitches.

9. To receive an update on the project for Sankey Station.

A meeting is due to be arranged with Rise Associates to consider next steps with costings and a revised timetable.

10. Report from Borough Councillors on items of note within the Parish of Great Sankey.

Cllr King

1. Noted new PCSO for Sankey South ward.
2. International Women's Day, 8th March, will take place at the Peace Centre.

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Cllr Hussain

1. Gave an update on the work taking place to mitigate against potential flooding in Sankey Bridges following the incident in 2021. Regularly meetings are being held to update residents; the next one will be in March.

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

There were no comments on current applications. A note from Cllr Parish relating to planning application 2021/39681 had been tabled. The application refers to the proposed plans for 3 retail units on Omega (drive-thru McDonalds and Costa Coffee, and Lidl) and it was noted that there had been some objections to the application from members of the public. It was unclear whether the application had been decided or was due to go to the Development Control Committee, so it was agreed to wait for clarification. It was also noted that the Omega masterplan still includes a GP surgery & pharmacy, an Assisted Living facility, and a potential pub/restaurant within the mixed-use zone. It was proposed that Colin Graham is invited to a council meeting to update members on this wider mixed use within Omega.

PARISH/2022/6

RESOLVED: To invite Colin Graham to update members on the wider mixed-use zone of the Omega site.

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

There was one item of correspondence which was the proposal for the Parish Council to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill which, after discussion, was agreed.

PARISH/2022/6

RESOLVED: To,

- recognise an ecological emergency
- support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- inform the local media of this decision
- write an open letter to the MP for Warrington South
- continue the Parish Council's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint

13. To receive verbal reports from Councillors.

Cllr King requested help from members for the Good Neighbours WA5 volunteer group to deliver food boxes which are being donated by Gousto at the weekend.

Cllr Hussain informed members that the new housing development on the site of the old primary school on Sycamore Lane is well underway and should be ready for the first residents in the next few months. The development is designed to provide high quality, low carbon housing at a fair rent for residents. It was suggested that Incrementum Housing could be invited to give an update to the council at a future meeting.