

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 8th December 2021

Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: Cllr P Watson
Councillors: Cllr B Sutcliffe Cllr N Catlow Cllr N Cotter
Cllr S Parish Cllr D Clark Cllr P Warburton

Also present: M. Jones, PCSO for Sankey North
K. Carter, Parish Clerk
L. Brereton, Deputy Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received by the Clerk prior to the meeting from Cllrs Morley, Hussain, Jones and Patel.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021.

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

PARISH/2021/132

RESOLVED: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

None.

4. PCSO reports

A report had been received from the Parish PCSO, Debbie Potts, and the Sankey North PCSO, Michelle Jones, was in attendance. Operation Treacle, carried out over the Halloween/Bonfire period, has now finished. Police were patrolling known hotspots for ASB, but there were significantly fewer incidents this year. Operation Jingles is now in place for the festive season and is mainly aimed at coordinating with and supporting retail premises to deal with shoplifting etc. It was mentioned that ASB around Whittle Hall Park have reduced which is likely to be a combination of the installation of temporary CCTV and the recent poor weather. The use of the CCTV is reviewed by the Police every few months as there are only a limited number within the area. Whether the camera at Whittle Hall will be retained depends on demand from other areas and as well as need, highlighted through reported incidents. PCSO Jones answered additional queries from Councillors and was then thanked for her time.

5. Community Projects Group: to be informed of the meeting held on 25.11.21

5.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Received and noted with no questions.

5.2 to be informed of recommendations and decide whether to accept them

The recommendations made at the CPG meeting were considered and approved.

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PARISH/2021/133

RESOLVED: To complete a draft Community Engagement Strategy for consideration and recommendation to the next appropriate Parish Council meeting.

PARISH/2021/134

RESOLVED: To engage Wicksteed for installation of play equipment at Tim Parry Recreation Ground and Vicarage Community Park subject to clarification of lead times. To replace the spinner arms on the junior climbing frame with lunar ladders (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10).

PARISH/2021/135

RESOLVED: To approve a press release notification for the new play equipment for Tim Parry Recreation Ground and Vicarage Community Park (LGA 1972, s142).

PARISH/2021/136

RESOLVED: To arrange a meeting with key organisations in the New Year to discuss Sankey Fun Day (LGA 1972 s145).

5.3 to approve delegated authority to the Community Projects Group for expenditure on Sankey Fun Day up to the amount set in the annual budget

As in previous year's, delegated authority was requested and approved for the Community Projects Group to spend up to the amount set in the annual budget (£10,000) for the provision of Sankey Fun Day. All expenditure to be reported to the Finance Committee.

PARISH/2021/137

RESOLVED: To give delegated authority to the Community Projects Group for expenditure on Sankey Fun Day, up to the limit in the annual budget with all expenditure reported to the Finance Committee (LGA 1972 s101).

6. Employment Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 29.11.21

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Received and noted with no questions.

6.2 to be informed of recommendations and decide whether to accept them

The recommendations made were considered and approved.

PARISH/2021/138

RESOLVED: To increase caretakers wages in line with the Real Living Wage from April 2022. To give an interim pay award to key personnel of 1.75% to be backdated to April 2021, and to make further adjustments to this, if necessary, when the final settlement is agreed with NALC (LGA 1972 s112).

PARISH/2021/139

RESOLVED: To retain current levels of pension contributions (LGA 1972 s112).

PARISH/2021/140

RESOLVED: To offer a permanent position to the temporary caretaker at Bewsey Barn Community Centre. Guaranteed hours to be 15 per week with additional hours or alternative

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locations worked on occasion subject to prior agreement between the staff member and the Clerk (LGA 1972 s112).

PARISH/2021/141

RESOLVED: *To retain the member of staff who has been on long-term sick leave and continue the phased return to work with hours gradually increasing to at least 15 per week (LGA 1972 s112).*

PARISH/2021/142

RESOLVED: *To accept GSPC's Health and Safety Policy and the Organisations and Arrangements document. To consider an additional check of the policies by an external agent (LGA 1972 s111).*

PARISH/2021/143

RESOLVED: *To accept GSPC's risk assessment documents (LGA 1972 s111).*

PARISH/2021/144

RESOLVED: *To consider options for recording visual inspections and actions carried out at the Council's community centres and open spaces.*

7. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 30.11.21

7.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Received and noted. One query was raised regarding the tax base for calculating precept payments which, whilst there has been an increase from last year, does not equate fully to the number of new builds within the parish over the last year. An explanation will be forwarded ahead of the January meeting when the budget and precept will be finalised.

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

The items approved for payment were accepted with no questions.

7.3 to consider recommendations and decide whether to accept them

Accepted with no questions or comments.

PARISH/2021/145

RESOLVED: *To give a donation of £150 to Sankey Seniors towards their Christmas party (LGA 1972 s137).*

PARISH/2021/146

RESOLVED: *To extend the concessionary offer of free use of the council's community centre to a further 4 meetings for the Old Air Base Houses Residents Association to facilitate the set-up of the group (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).*

PARISH/2021/147

RESOLVED: *To approve placement of one of the parish council's RBL 'silent silhouettes' within St Mary's Cemetery during October and November for the Remembrance Sunday commemorations (LGA 1972 s111).*

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8. To be updated on the project for Sankey Station.

The land that was available to purchase at the station has now been withdrawn for sale and therefore negotiations have ceased. Negotiations regarding the station building are ongoing.

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

Members were informed of the problems being experienced with delays for people leaving hospital who require ongoing care as the care providers are facing a reduction in staffing levels as employees leave for higher paid positions, often in the increasing logistics firms in Warrington. This creates a knock-on effect for new admissions. It was also noted that Warrington has been mentioned nationally both for the NHS Rapid Response Team and for investment into climate change and renewable energy initiatives.

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

Noted with no comments or objections.

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

Item 1: proposed plans for St Mary's Church – noted.

Item 2: St Helens Local plan – noted.

Item 3: proposed rail timetable changes from December 2022 – GSPC to support WBC's response with additional comments relating to the importance of rail travel for residents of the parish, particularly as the good transport links, including the rail network, were reasons given by developers to support the growth in housing in the area.

12. To receive verbal reports from Councillors.

Cllr Watson reminded members that items for the agenda should be forwarded to the Clerk at least a week before the meeting to ensure the agenda can be updated appropriately.

Cllr Warburton praised the new lights on the Christmas tree in Chapelford this year, although the tree itself is smaller than previously due to the supplier. He also mentioned the installation of the benches on Airlift Hill (Omega) commemorating the role of RAF Burtonwood in the Berlin Airlift. The benches, and the history of the site, have been widely publicised. Thanks have been received from families of the American personnel who served at the base who are grateful that their efforts and dedication have not been forgotten.

Cllr Clark informed members of rising cases of avian flu in wild bird populations. Considerable numbers of those on Spike Island have died and he raised concerns about the birds at the duck pond on Kingsdale Road. The Land Trust will be contacted for information.