

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 12th October 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: P Watson
Councillors: N Catlow S Parish P Jones
 S Pennington B Sutcliffe H Patel
 D Clark M Hussain

Also present: K. Carter Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cotter, Price, Warburton, Morley, Knowles and King.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022.

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved as an accurate record.

PARISH/2022/62: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations.

4. PCSO reports.

Report noted.

5. To receive a presentation from Miller Developments on proposed art installations and remaining plans for the area.

The development of the Omega site is now in its final stages and should be completed in 2024-25. The residential areas are nearing completion; of the three final plots, two are due to be started next year but the third may be delayed as the market is currently slowing. The mixed-use space with Lidl, Costa and McDonalds is anticipated to open next spring; the opening will be staggered rather than all units opening at once. Negotiations are ongoing with the proposed doctors' surgery. The site has been identified but construction costs have increased significantly, and talks are continuing to ensure these can be met. There is potential interest from other businesses (pharmacy/vets/nursery) but whether these go ahead may depend on the rental costs which reflect increasing build costs.

Miller Developments have been working with the Burtonwood Association and an award-winning military artist to design an art installation to recognize the heritage of the area. The structure will feature a P38 American fighter plane supported on contrails and will be installed on the roundabout near the Dominoes warehouse. The 'Bolt of Lightning' will be 23m high commemorating the importance of RAF Burtonwood which was the largest USAAF base in Europe. Plans are in place to create a viewing area for visitors with information boards near the structure and on Airlift Hill. A Heritage Trail is also planned to link the new statue with existing heritage pieces such as the Pickett-Hamilton Fort.

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6. Finance Committee business

6.1 to receive the approved minutes of the meeting held on 2.8.22

Received and noted. There was one query regarding the line marking for community centre car parks. It was confirmed that the marking was thermoplastic rather than painted and should therefore last several years.

Meeting of 6.9.22

6.2 to receive the approved minutes of the meeting held on 6.9.22

Noted with no comments.

6.3 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment under delegated authority

Noted with no comments or queries; all expenditure approved.

PARISH/2022/63: *To opt-in to the central procurement process for external auditors appointed by the SAAA.*

PARISH/2022/64: *to offer an extension of the current grounds' maintenance contracts until the 31 December 2022 to EDR Landscapes Management Ltd and AJ Landscapes.*

PARISH/2022/65: *to engage NSGB to install an additional security barrier at the Parish Playing Field at a cost of £2545.01.*

Clerk's Note: the recommendation relating to the Christmas tree at Chapelford required a decision by 16th September. Since the September meeting of the Parish Council was cancelled because of the period of public mourning for the late Queen, the decision was agreed via email by a majority of Councillors as follows:

PARISH/2022/66: *to engage WBC to supply and install a Christmas tree and lights at Chapelford for 2022. Alternative options for future years will be investigated by the Community Projects Group.*

PARISH/2022/67: *to share costs for the Whittle Hall Pond Day event with WBC and The Land Trust. To provide use of Whittle Hall Community Centre on the day.*

PARISH/2022/68: *To implement the salary recommendations from the Living Wage Foundation from November 2022 for caretakers; to recommend a one-off cost of living bonus of £500 to all staff; to consider an interim pay award at the November Finance Committee meeting for key personnel if the national pay settlement has not been agreed by that time.*

Meeting of 4.10.22

6.5 to receive a verbal report on the meeting held on 4.10.22

The draft minutes were tabled at the meeting and member were given a brief overview by Cllr Watson. There were no questions.



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6.6 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment under delegated authority

The list of delegated expenditure was tabled at the meeting and no queries were raised. Expenditure was:

PARISH/2022/69: *to accept the Design Project quote for artwork for the 2023 GSPC annual newsletter, £600.*

PARISH/2022/70: *to offer community hire rate to run weekly Popcats SEN classes.*

PARISH/2022/71: *to offer a financial contribution of £100 to assist with meeting costs for Old Air Base Residents Association meetings.*

6.7 to consider recommendations and decide whether to accept them.

There were two recommendations:

- a) For the purchase of 12 large poppies to be placed at Parish Council sites - accepted. Suggestions had been made by Cllr Catlow about placement; suggestions from other Councillors would be welcomed.

PARISH/2022/72: *To purchase 12 large poppies to be placed at Council sites for Remembrance Sunday.*

- b) Quote from Wicksteed to remove and replace the safety surfacing at Tim Parry play area. It was confirmed that this was to complete the work carried out in the summer to replace and refurbish the play equipment. New safety surfacing had been installed with the new pieces of equipment but repairs to existing equipment that had only been renovated and not replaced had not been part of the works. The explanation and quote was accepted.

PARISH/2022/73: *To accept the quote from Wicksteed to remove and replace the damaged areas of safety surfacing around older play equipment at Tim Parry Recreation Ground (£20,089.80+VAT).*

7. Community Projects Group: to be informed of the meeting held on 22.9.22

7.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

Received and noted. There was a short discussion about the residents' survey. The main concerns raised within the parish were litter, dog fouling and speeding/traffic. The Community Projects Group now intends to look at small-scale projects aimed at improving the parish based on these criteria and welcomed suggestions from all Councillors. The group will also be looking at the feasibility of putting together a program of small community events to run throughout the year.

7.2 to receive feedback report on Sankey Fun Day and agree date for 2023

The evaluation report on Sankey Fun Day had been circulated to all members; no comments were made. Members were informed that the date for next year's event is 11th June 2023.



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7.3 to receive revised Terms of Reference for the Community Projects Group, including proposal for delegated authority for expenditure from the Community Fund.

Following on from item 7.1, the Community Projects Group proposed revised Terms of Reference to reflect the focus of the group. Within these, it was also proposed that the group should have delegated authority for the Community Projects budget to be able to deliver small community events and projects for up to £5k on any one project. All decisions on expenditure would be subject to the council's financial regulations and would be reported at the next available Parish Council meeting. After discussion, the draft Terms of Reference were accepted.

***PARISH/2022/74:** To accept the revised Terms of Reference for the Community Projects Group, including delegated authorisation for expenditure as detailed.*

8. Parish Playing Field Improvement project: to receive a report on site investigations and consider recommendations for improvements.

The site investigation report drawn up by the Grounds Management Association proposed 2 options for addressing the drainage on the field by means of a piped drainage system and alleviation tank to control the outflow to Whittle Brook. Indicative costs for these are £265K and £300K; there are pros and cons to both options, although whichever is chosen will require regular annual maintenance to fairly strict specifications. The Football Foundation will accept funding applications of this size and the Parish Council has £50K set aside as match funding for the project. It may also be possible to apply for separate funding for the ongoing maintenance. The GMA has advised that applications may have greater success if there is support from a home club. The council proposes to discuss the possibility with Whittle Hall Junior Football Club as they have used the field over some years, despite the issues with the field, although it is not envisaged that they would have exclusive use and the council will look to meet with other local clubs as well. The GMA was authorised at a previous meeting to continue with the project and produce detailed drawings and specifications for use as tender documentation (Work Package 2). A quote will be provided to the council for project managing the installation and handover of the drainage installation if funding is secured (work package 3). This is to be decided at a future meeting. Finally, it was noted that it may be useful for a separate committee to be set up to oversee the project. Detailed discussions will be needed for the funding application, for deciding on the best pitch strategy and addressing the future maintenance and management of the field. The committee to be decided at a future meeting.

9. Sankey Station project update.

The monthly update was received from Rise Associates and circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Various questions and concerns were raised including:

- the architects proposed plans for the interior which have been agreed by the Steering Committee but not viewed by the full Council
- the proposed use/tenants for the building (concerns were raised that this seems to be becoming more commercial in nature rather than community based)
- progress of lease negotiations with both Northern Rail and Arch Co

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It was agreed to ask Rise Associates to attend the next Council meeting to address these concerns and discuss the progress of the project in full with all members.

PARISH/2022/75: *To invite Rise Associates to the November/December Parish Council meeting to present progress of the project for Sankey Station and answer any queries from council members.*

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

Cllr Hussain reported that the 'Bread and Butter Thing' had been well received at Sankey Bridges; unfortunately, they were oversubscribed, but were able to help 80 attendees. The initiative offers an affordable food service with wraparound help for financial, health and employment matters.

Cllr Parish mentioned that the new rail timetable will start in December although there will be no major changes to provision for Great Sankey residents.

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

Cllr Catlow proposed that the Parish Council object to the planning application (St Helens Council) to install illuminated signs on the Home Bargains warehouse currently under construction at Omega West. This is already a very large building which is clearly visible from all directions, and it was felt that illuminated advertising is not necessary and will be detrimental to residents of Great Sankey. It was agreed to object on the grounds of light pollution.

PARISH/2022/76: *To object to planning application P/2022/0689/ADC on the grounds of light pollution.*

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

Item 1: Final report from Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission – noted.

Item 2: Email from Cllr Lenihan, Penketh Parish Council re Remembrance Sunday event
The email gave details of the parade organisation and the costs for the event. Great Sankey Parish Council was being asked to share costs with Penketh Parish Council as per 2021. It was noted that the Clerk had offered help with the organisation of the event earlier in the year but had not received a response. It was agreed that GSPC would share the costs, but a detailed invoice should be requested for audit records as well as a request to be involved with planning at an early stage for next year's event.

PARISH/2022/77: *To share costs with Penketh Parish Council for the Remembrance Sunday event; GSPC contribution to be £600.*

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Item 3: From resident requesting the council considers a gate for Vicarage Community Park. The entrance has never had a gate and the resident raised concerns about the safety of this for children and dogs. During the design process for the park, the safety aspect was fully considered. The entrance was set back from Liverpool Road and staggered barriers set into the path. These give a safe space away from the road and serve to slow egress from the park without restricting access for those with mobility issues or prams. It was suggested that signage is considered to draw attention to the busy road and encourage supervision of dogs and children.

13. To receive verbal reports from Councillors.

Cllr Clark informed members that bird flu is again on the rise, with cases being found in the wildfowl populations in Victoria Park in Widnes