

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 9th November 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

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

Also present: K. Carter, Clerk

Public Question Time

One question was asked regarding the surfacing of Clarence Avenue. This has been an issue for some years as the road is unadopted and was raised with WBC earlier in the year. WBC had responded that they are aware of the problem and were looking to discuss it with the landowner. An update on the situation will be requested.

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Parish & Warburton.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022.

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

PARISH/2022/78: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 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 an update on the Sankey Station project from Rise Associates.

Matt Baker (Rise Associates), project manager, gave a presentation to the Council to address concerns raised at the October Parish Council meeting. The work of the steering committee since July was covered and the current status of the project confirmed, as well as the next steps to be taken. The steering committee is a good mix of people with expertise in a wide variety of areas including the building environment, management, and community-based organizations; all have a keen interest in the local area and a desire to help make it the best it can be. Topics covered were:

- a) Structural condition of the building. A structural survey had been carried out in June 2022; this indicated that the property is structurally stable and forms a good base for developing with a change of use. Some repairs are required, mainly relating to water ingress to prevent further deterioration.
- b) The proposed plans for the interior have been drawn up and agreed by the steering committee. These were shown to Councillors; the plans are not final but give an indication of the potential of the building. The plans currently show how the interior can be refitted to for a café/bistro facility with both indoor and outdoor seating. The aim is to have an anchor tenant in place to ensure longevity and financial stability for the project to allow additional

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 9th November 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

use for the community. It is envisaged that the anchor tenant will have to have a strong social purpose statement with a community-serving role.

- c) Stakeholders. Northern Rail owns the main station building and are very positive and supportive of the project. The adjacent house is owned by Arch Co. who have been very difficult to approach. This building is a very small part of a much larger portfolio and is therefore not a high priority. However, progress has been made and it is hoped a meeting with the company and viewing of the property will be possible soon. If this building can be added to the project, it could provide additional space for meeting rooms.
- d) Funding. Potential funding streams are being identified to develop the project, as well as looking at the possibility of crowdfunding and sponsorship.
- e) Set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) to apply for funding and manage the site long-term. A press and media campaign will help to recruit volunteers, including a video to tell the story of the site.
- f) Next steps will be to submit funding applications; develop the video to raise public awareness of the project and for use as a marketing tool for grant applications; launch crowdfunder; submit a pre-application to Warrington Borough Council; release funds for a QS to determine project cost and architects plans.

6. Finance Committee business: to be informed of the meeting held on 1.11.22

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting; there were no questions.

6.2 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. All items are listed within the Finance Committee minutes.

6.3 to consider recommendations and decide whether to accept them.

There were two recommendations.

- a) The Grounds Management Association (GMA) has been engaged for the project to address the drainage on the Parish Playing Field. The GMA is currently undertaking the next stage of the project (topographical survey & production of detailed drawings and specifications for tender documents). The Finance Committee have recommended that the GMA is engaged to oversee the final stage of the project, i.e. site supervision works, once funding and contractors are in place. The expertise of the GMA to ensure that the work is done to a good standard was felt to be essential on a project of this size. The recommendation was approved.

PARISH/2022/79: To engage the GMA for Work Package 3: Site Supervision Works for the drainage improvements on the Parish Playing Field once funding and contractors are secured (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

- b) The Finance Committee had recommended an interim increase to key personnel salaries. It was confirmed at the meeting that the final settlement from NJC had now

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 9th November 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

been agreed and was equivalent to the recommendation from Finance. This was approved.

PARISH/2022/80: *To apply an increase of £1925 for all key personnel to be backdated to April 2022 (LGA 1972 s112).*

7. To receive a report on the summer playschemes (August 2022) and consider options for 2023.

Playschemes have been subsidized by the Parish Council at Tim Parry Community Centre and Whittle Hall Community Centre for several years, providing low-cost activities for children. The schemes are provided through Little Superstars, who organise both indoor and outdoor activities at a cost to parents of £3 per 3-hour session. This year it was decided to extend the provision to Sankey South and a 2-week scheme was held at Hood Lane Community Centre. The sessions at Whittle Hall and Tim Parry were again a success and well-attended, but there was a very low attendance at Hood Lane. There were probably several reasons for this; it was a new event, and it can take time to advertise schemes, they were run in the afternoon unlike the others which ran in the morning, and there were activities running at Crosfields Recreation Ground and Dakota Park at the same time. Given the continued success of the other sites, it was decided to try again at Hood Lane Community Centre in 2023 but change the times/dates and increase the advertising. Schemes will also be continued at the other two centres.

PARISH/2022/81: *To engage Little Superstars to run summer playschemes at Whittle Hall, Tim Parry and Hood Lane Community Centres in July/August 2023. Details on dates and times to be agreed between the Parish Office and Little Superstars (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).*

8. To receive feedback from Whittle Hall Environment Day and be informed of future plans.

The day had been organised by the Borough Councillors for Great Sankey North and Whittle Hall in collaboration with the Land Trust, Borough Council officers, and the Parish Council. The activities on the day aimed to highlight issues at the duck pond on Kingsdale Road as well as the surrounding environment. This is mainly a result of well-intentioned, but misguided overfeeding by residents. The geese population is becoming unmanageable and out-competing other species of wildfowl as well as detrimentally affecting the quality of the pond water and its biodiversity. There are also concerns about the possible increase in vermin associated with excess food left on the ground. Activities on the day included pond dipping, a nature trail and making bird feeders. Warrington Borough Council also provided two waste vehicles for children to explore and learn about recycling and the Police attended with bike marking.

The success of the day is to be followed up with the installation of information boards at the main pond and the smaller ponds along Kingsdale Road. WBC has identified a potential deterrent which can be used on the grassed areas to restrict the spread of the geese population. This will be trialed in a small identifiable area first during a dry spell and may be expanded if successful.

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 9th November 2022

Tim Parry Community Centre

The intention is to gradually educate the public about the geese population, the impact on the ponds and other wildlife, and the associated issues with traffic and costs for cleaning the paths. The three organisations will continue to raise awareness to encourage a change in the behaviour of residents so that there is a healthy population of wildfowl and pondlife, and the roads and paths remain clean and safe for pedestrians and vehicles.

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

Cllr King

- Briefly noted several items to members, including
- Update meeting between residents and WBC relating to the flooding in Sankey South
- New Facebook page for Hong Kongers who have moved to the area
- GNWA5 volunteer group reducing distribution to fortnightly, plus one-off emergencies
- Upcoming meeting between police and residents to discuss drug-related issues at Mapplewell Crescent.

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

Noted with no comments.

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

Item 1: proposal from resident for a ring road system around Warrington town centre – noted and passed to WBC for comment.

Item 2: Traffic notices for Annual Services of Remembrance – noted.

Item 3: from resident requesting response from WBC for a) weight restrictions on Park Road, Barrow Hall Lane, Lingley Avenue and Kingsdale Road to prevent HGV use and, b) confirmation that WBC lobby train operators for an hourly service at Sankey-for-Penketh Station. To be passed to WBC for comment.

12. To receive verbal reports from Councillors.

Cllr Cotter – mentioned that Warrington Foodbank has had a big push over the last few weeks at various locations. Cllr Knowles also noted that there had been a very good response to the foodbank donation event at Chapelford.

Cllr Morley – informed members that Warrington Youth Zone has teamed up with Primark to provide winter coats for those in need.