

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Tim Parry Community Centre

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**Chair:** P Watson  
**Councillors:** N Catlow                      D Clark                      S Pennington  
                    A Morley                      N Cotter                      M Hussain  
                    S Parish

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk  
2 members of public

## Public Questions

- A. Requested update on the surfacing of Clarence Avenue.  
WBC has been working to adopt the path so that they have the authority to be able to repair it. This is unfortunately a long process; WBC Legal is working on the issue and once this has been done, WBC will be able to arrange the improvement work. GSPC will be notified of this date and will pass this on to residents.
- B. Given update on issues raised by residents relating to Marina Avenue Park. Residents have lobbied WBC who own the park to make improvements such as pathways and benches. Cllr Hussain has recently been made aware of this and has taken it up with WBC. The first step is for a site visit and assessment of the issues. Residents were advised to try and set up a Friends Group for the park as this can open up funding opportunities. Cllrs Hussain and Cotter volunteered to be direct contacts for residents and meet them on site to discuss concerns and help with the Friends Group. GSPC has finite resources itself but may be able to offer assistance to WBC once assessments have been carried out.
- 1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.**  
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jones, Price, King, Sutcliffe.
- 2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**  
The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved as an accurate record.
- PARISH/2023/40: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 as a true and accurate record.*
- 3. To receive any declarations of interest.**  
None.
- 4. PCSO reports.**  
Not received.
- 5. To review and accept the Councillors Code of Conduct.**  
Accepted with no amendments.

*PARISH/2023/41: To approve GSPC's Code of Conduct for Councillors.*

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**6. To review and accept Standing Orders.**

Accepted with no amendments.

*PARISH/2023/42: To approve GSPC's Standing Orders.*

**7. To review and accept Terms of Reference for**

**7.1** Finance Committee

**7.2** Employment Committee

**7.3** Community Projects Committee

**7.4** PPF Advisory Group

All accepted with no amendments.

*PARISH/2023/43: To approve Terms of Reference for the Finance, Employment and Community Projects Committee, and the PPF Advisory Group.*

**8. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 6.6.23**

**8.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting, including payments and decisions made under delegated authority.**

Received and noted.

**8.2 To consider and approve, if appropriate, Council accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 as recommended by the Finance Committee:**

**8.2.1 Annual Governance Statement**

*PARISH/2023/44: To accept and sign the Annual Governance Statement for the year-ending 31.3.23 as recommended by the Finance Committee (Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, reg 12).*

**8.2.2 Accounting Statement**

*PARISH/2023/45: To accept and sign the Accounting Statements for the year-ending 31.3.23 as recommended by the Finance Committee (Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, reg 12).*

**8.3 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them.**

Cllr Watson explained the Finance Committee's decision to purchase the ride-on mower rather than enter an agreement for an operating lease; purchase ensures the council has a tangible asset with 2year warranty (10-year for the batteries). With this the recommendations were accepted.

*PARISH/2023/46: To lease a second electric van (Maxus eDeliver 9) from Vans NorthWest Ltd over a 5year term with livery and tow bar (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10; LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).*

*PARISH/2023/47: To purchase a battery-operated ride-on mower from Cheshire Turf Machinery (Cramer CR82ZT132) (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10; LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19)*

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**PARISH/2023/48:** *To note that GSPC has a minimum of £50k in earmarked as match funding for the drainage project on the Parish Playing Field; this may be increased subject to the tendering process and negotiations with the Football Foundation.*

Members were informed that Cllr Jones had stepped down from all three committees (Finance, Employment and Community Projects). It was agreed that Cllr Pennington would replace him. The remaining committees have sufficient membership.

**PARISH/2023/49:** *To approve Terms of Reference for the Finance, Employment and Community Projects Committee, and the PPF Advisory Group.*

9. **To set up and agree terms of reference for a working group to**
- **review the objectives for the Parish-funded PCSO,**
  - **consider appointing a Councillor as GSPC's Police Liaison**
  - **review youth activities available and make recommendations for the future.**
  - **Consider implementing a Community Safety Strategy**

Draft terms of reference for the working group had been circulated. Since several members of the council were not in attendance it was proposed and agreed that the terms of reference be forwarded after the meeting with a request for self-nominations for anyone interested in the working group. It was noted that, as a working group and not a formal committee, the meetings can take place online and do not require agendas or minutes. The working group would carry out the research and make recommendations to the parish council for a decision.

**PARISH/2023/50:** *To decide on membership of the Police and Youth Advisory Committee via email.*

10. **Parish Playing Field: update from oversight committee on meeting with Football Foundation. To discuss implications for the council, including match funding and comments regarding access and to be informed of next steps.**

Cllr Clark informed members about the site visit to the Parish Playing Field with the Football Foundation in advanc. It was a positive meeting, with the Foundation being impressed with the size of the field and the possibilities for various sized pitches. There was a query about the open access to the field; a minor concern was noted about dogs being on the field at the same time as football. However, there have not been any problems with this in the past and there is very little mess left on the field. Most people using the field are very respectful of it and there is no reason to think that this would change. After discussion, the council agreed that closing the field off for general use would be detrimental to the community and it would not in favour of this. The larger issue could be with the rugby posts and whether the pitch is on the register for the rugby league within the Playing Pitch Strategy for Warrington. It was pointed out that it is rarely hired by rugby teams – only 2-3 times per year on an ad hoc basis in the summer. GSPC would be in favour of the site being used for football only as rugby can damage the playing surface, but the Parish Council has no voice regarding the Playing Pitch Strategy. This will be investigated further by the Football Foundation. The next steps for the Parish Council are to start the tendering process and look into planning permission for the drainage work.

**PARISH/2023/51:** *To retain open public access to the Parish Playing Field.*

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**11. Sankey Station project update.**

An update had been circulated from Rise Associates prior to the meeting. The set up of the Community Interest Company (CIC) has gone through after some initial setbacks. The process to open a bank account is underway; once in place, the CIC can start looking more actively at funding. It was noted and discussed that there it is not possible to fit a lift to the second floor which will limit accessibility for some. However, it is intended that core activities will be carried out on the ground floor and Warrington Disability Partnership will be consulted to ensure this is as accessible as possible. It was also noted that the lease with Arch Co for the house is Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 will incorporate the attached main station building which is larger and should have scope for greater access.

**12. To consider implementing a policy on social media for the Parish Council.**

Deferred.

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

No comments.

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

i) Local Plan Submission. Noted.

ii) Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Agreed to purchase the Council's usual wreath (to include an additional donation, total of £100).

***PARISH/2023/51:** To purchase a wreath for Remembrance Sunday through the Royal British Legion Penketh & Sankey Branch at a cost of £100. (Purchase cost approx. £27, remainder donation from GSPC).*

iii) request from resident for help to improve a small green space on Shanklin Close. The site is next to a substation in the middle of the estate and is not attractive, but it is played on children. The correspondent would like somewhere for older people to enjoy as well. Cllr Morley offered to look into this further to see if it may be possible to paint the substation or use planting. It was also noted that a wider consultation of residents should be carried out to gain more views on the area.

**15. To receive reports from Borough Councillors on items of note within the Parish and verbal reports from Parish Councillors.**

Cllr Watson

Thanked everyone, councillors, staff and volunteers who helped with the Summer Fun Day, both the organisation of the event and the running of it on the day. It was a hugely successful day for all involved and attending. Cllr Pennington mentioned that several people had said they would like to be involved as volunteers in the future, both planning and on the day. The Community Projects Committee is to consider feedback from the day at their next meeting; any comments can be forwarded through the Parish Office.

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Councillors were also told that Sgt Boyle had thanked the Parish Council for the generous 3-year sponsorship for Warrington Armed Forces Day. An invitation was extended to all members of the parish council to attend on the day (24<sup>th</sup> June) with the council's gazebo. An email will be forwarded after the meeting to ascertain availability.

## Cllr Parish

Informed that he is now on the Transport for North Scrutiny Committee.

The bus improvement plan for Warrington may provide extra services, particularly for school services. Councillors should contact him if they are aware of any specific route issues for schoolchildren.

## Cllr Clark

Provided an update on the solar panels at Whittle Hall Community Centre which have now been operational for around 6 weeks. Since 5<sup>th</sup> May, electricity consumption at the centre has been 1225.5 kWh, electricity generated 1300.9kWh and 313 kWh imported as the batteries have a limit to capacity. As a percentage, 74.4% of all electricity usage was generated by the solar panels, including charging the council's electric van. As well as the cost saving, there has also been a reduction in CO2 released to the atmosphere (303kg CO<sub>2</sub>).

## Cllr Catlow

Informed of a potential issue with some of the new build housing on Omega. Construction has halted and insulation is exposed. WBC is aware and dealing with the issue.

## Cllr Hussain

The pedestrian crossing on Sycamore Lane is being assessed by WBC. It has been identified that it should be a controlled crossing; the next step is to take traffic counts with an automated counter.

The milestone marker at the junction of Penketh Road/Liverpool Road which was damaged some months ago is in safe keeping with WBC. The age of the stone means that it needs a specialist stonemason for the repair which may take some time to organise.

## Cllr Pennington

Reported on the unauthorised entry of travellers on the Parish Playing Field on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June. Several caravans gained entry to the field, whilst two more were prevented from entering by Police. Whittle Hall JFC were playing a tournament over the weekend using the 3G pitch on Sankey Hub and the Parish Playing Field for additional space as a meeting point, refreshments etc. The Police were able to use specific powers to move the vehicles due to the impact on the local community. The damaged barrier and gate will be repaired, and the council will look at additional options to prevent further unwanted access. It was also suggested that the council make a second approach to Livewire to again discuss options for the Hub car park.

## Cllr Morley

Noted that complaints have been raised about the parking during the last Saturday Street Market event. The manager of the Woodlands Pub is also concerned, but the issue is not confined to market days; there is a larger problem with obstructive/dangerous parking on a

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daily basis with the school run. The school does have provision for parents to park in the school, but not all make use of this. WBC is looking into extending double yellow lines to dissuade parking along Highfield Avenue which is the biggest problem.

Councillors were also informed that she has requested information on the numbers attending Dakota Park for the Summer Fun Day as well as the postcode of attendees to inform the de-brief session and planning for the next event.

## Cllr Cotter

Reported fires on Mary Ann Meadows and conversations with Police about CCTV for the site. Options are being investigated through WBC who own the field.