

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 13th December 2023
Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: P Watson
Councillors: N Cotter N Catlow S Pennington
P Jones A Morley M Hussain
R Knowles

Also present: D Potts, PCSO
K Carter, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Price, Parish & Sutcliffe.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023.

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

***PARISH/2023/86:** To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 as a true and accurate record.*

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

None.

4. PCSO reports and update on meeting regarding unauthorised fireworks display.

The reports indicate that crime is very low as well as ASB; PCSO Potts confirmed this and said it has been this way for some time. The council asked for a comparison of ASB with parishes who do not fund an additional PCSO to inform the current review of the service. The objectives for the parish funded PCSO are also under review (agenda item 9), and this will be discussed with the police at the appropriate time.

An update was requested on the burglaries in Sankey South (*Clerk's note: after meeting, it was confirmed that investigations are ongoing, and residents are being kept informed*).

5. Update on Councillor vacancy for North Ward and committee membership.

It was confirmed that no by-election has been called. Whilst there are only a few months until the next elections, the council is still required to try and fill the vacancy by co-option. A resident who has previously served on the council (T. Williams) was proposed for the position. This was agreed by majority, with 7 in favour and 1 against (Cllr Catlow).

***PARISH/2023/87:** To co-opt T. Williams for the vacancy in North ward.*

The positions on the other committees and advisory groups affected by the vacancy were discussed and filled.

***PARISH/2023/88:** To elect councillors to the following positions: Finance Committee (Cllr Catlow), Police & Youth Advisory Group (Cllr Morley), Parish Playing Field Advisory Group (Cllr Jones).*

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6. Finance Committee

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting on 5.12.23, including payments and decisions made under delegated authority.

Noted.

6.2 to consider recommendations and decide whether to accept them.

The recommendations relating to the budget and precept will be discussed at the January 2024 meeting and those relating to the Employment Committee business discussed under item 16. All other recommendations were accepted without query.

PARISH/2023/89: To implement a small increase in hire rates for the community centres from April 2024; the preschools to be exempt from this.

PARISH/2023/90: To authorise payment to Flair Signs (£1,380) and The Tom Taylor Company (£1,977) subject to satisfactory completion of the outstanding works (LGA 1972 s142).

PARISH/2023/91: To engage Tim Burgess to create a feature carving of the tree stump on Lingley Green at a cost of £1500 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10).

PARISH/2023/92: To approve the following donations under LGA 1972 s137:

- Warrington Girls Rugby Club, training equipment - £200
- Warrington Open Door at Christmas - £200
- St Mary's Church, repairs to church clock - £312 (to be jointly funded with Penketh Parish Council)
- Jack & Jill Preschool, children's Christmas party - £100
- Friends of Great Sankey Primary School, toy hampers - £100

7. To review draft articles for the 2024 newsletter.

It was agreed that the draft articles have been well-written; members were encouraged to forward any additional articles or quotes for existing ones by 18th December. It was also noted that the council would like to include as many photos as possible.

PARISH/2023/93: To accept the draft newsletter; additional quotes or articles to be forwarded to the office by 18th December.

8. Sankey Station Project update.

The contract with Rise Associates will finish at the end of the year, although they will still work with the CIC to deliver the project. The lease with Arch Co. is being finalised and the CIC will then be able to move forward with funding applications. The aim is to apply to the Community Ownership Fund by the end of January 2024.

9. To receive an update from the Police and Youth Advisory Group.

The group is still waiting for information from the Youth Zone; PCSO Potts offered to contact them on behalf of the Parish Council. The group will next consider the objectives for the PCSO as well as how to measure the effectiveness of the role.

Part of the group's remit is to consider a Community Safety Strategy for Great Sankey. However, given the recent information on low crime rates and ASB and the results of the

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residents' survey which suggest most people feel safe in the parish, it was agreed that this was unnecessary at this time. Crime rates and ASB will continue to be monitored and community safety initiatives considered as and when needed.

10. To receive an update from the Parish Playing Field Advisory Group.

The group is waiting for a reply from the Football Foundation regarding the next steps required for potential funding and will report further next month.

11. Verbal report on Warrington Climate Emergency Forum event held. 4.12.23.

Cllr Watson gave a presentation at the event on the parish council's electric vans and grounds equipment which was well received. It was suggested additional options should be looked at to help reduce the council's carbon footprint, including ensuring any larger contractors also have relevant policies in place.

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

There were two planning applications that the council noted with interest but no objections (one for the 'Bolt of Lightning' sculpture for Airlift Hill and the other for an extension to Hood Manor Health Centre).

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

The council had been notified of a statutory requirement to approve a Biodiversity Policy and action plan. A draft will be brought to the January meeting for discussion.

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

Cllr Hussain told members that the flooding which happens on Tankersley Grove has been inspected and work approved to be carried out to fix the issue. He noted that the works to Alconbury Park are nearing completion, and the park will be opening in the New Year. Cllr Hussain also mentioned that WBC are looking into the parking issues at Crosfields Recreation ground with a view to increasing the number of spaces.

Cllr Cotter has been following up from the meeting with residents to discuss Marina Avenue Park. A leaflet has been designed to raise awareness of the work to improve the park and to invite residents to join a Friends of group to look after the park. This will be distributed in the New Year.

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Part 2

- 15. Employment Committee business: to be informed of the meeting held on 8.11.23.
15.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.**

Noted.

- 15.2 to consider recommendations and decide whether to accept them.**

Recommendations from the meeting were explained, discussed, and approved unanimously. It was also proposed and agreed that staff be given a Christmas bonus of £100.

PARISH/2023/94: To approve the post of Head Gardener as a permanent position with Great Sankey Parish Council.

PARISH/2023/95: To re-grade key personnel as follows: Clerk to SCP 37, Deputy Clerk to SCP 25, Maintenance Officer to SCP 23. Further incremental increases to be discussed at the next Employment Committee meeting.

PARISH/2023/96: To increase caretakers wages to £12 per hour plus holiday entitlement from April 2024. To accept the nationally agreed pay award for NJC pay scales for key personnel.

PARISH/2023/97: To retain current levels of pension contributions.

PARISH/2023/98: To accept GSPC's H&S documentation and the current processes in place.