

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Tim Parry Community Centre

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**Chair:** P Watson  
**Councillors:** S Parish                      N Cotter                      A Morley  
                         R Knowles                      T Williams                      P Warburton  
                         D Price                              N Catlow                      M Hussain  
                         H Patel                              S Pennington

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk

**1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jones, Sutcliffe and King.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**

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

*PARISH/2024/01: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as a true and accurate record.*

**3. To receive any declarations of interest.**

None.

**4. PCSO reports.**

A report for December had been received and tabled at the meeting. The style was briefly discussed; this is part of the current review process and will be considered in depth by the Police & Youth Advisory Group.

**5. To consider recommendations from the Finance Committee on the draft budget and the level of precept required for the financial year 2024-25.**

The Finance Committee proposed an increase of 4% in the budget for 2024-25. The reasons for this were explained by the Chair, Cllr Price. The council proposes to take on a Horticultural Apprentice to continue the work on green spaces and allow the council to undertake and facilitate more community initiatives. To achieve this without impacting current activities such as the Summer Fun Day, subsidised summer playschemes or the community centres, the increase of 4% was proposed. This will take the annual cost per Band D property from £46.72 to £48.59 per annum (£1.87 increase) giving a total precept of £536,725 for the council.

*PARISH/2024/02: To approve a 4% increase in precept level for Band D properties for 2024-25 (from £46.72 to £48.59) giving a total precept of £536,725 (LGFA 1992, Part 1, s41).*

**6. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 2.1.24**

**6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.**

Received and noted.

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**6.2 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items recommended for payment under delegated authority.**

There was one item which was approved: low-level mesh fencing for installation around the Rose Garden at Tim Parry Recreation Ground. The fencing will protect the garden from stray balls from the play area and dogs running straight onto the flower beds.

*PARISH/2024/03: To purchase safe-top mesh fencing for the rose garden from All Steel Fencing (£539.60 +VAT) (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10)*

**7. To decide details of Horticulture Apprenticeship, including salary, start date and recruitment process.**

It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk and Head Gardener would progress the recruitment process as far as possible. Details on the salary were deferred to a committee for detailed discussion.

*PARISH/2024/04: To delegate authority to the Clerk and Head Gardener to start the recruitment process for the Horticulture Apprenticeship with details on salary to be further considered by committee (agreed by majority with one abstention (Cllr Catlow)) (LGA 1972 s112).*

**8. To consider draft Biodiversity Policy and decide whether to adopt.**

A draft policy had been circulated with papers for the meeting and this was adopted. The Landscape Management Plan (approved in June 2023) details the ongoing actions for the council to implement the policy and this will be reviewed at least annually. In addition to this, the council may also consider the green credentials of any external contractors as part of any tender process to ensure it is doing as much as possible to support the environment.

*PARISH/2024/05: To adopt the draft Biodiversity Policy.*

**9. Sankey Station Project update.**

Arch Co. have appointed their solicitors to agree the lease for the station house with the parish council. It is hoped this will be completed by the end of January 2024. Once the lease is in place, there will be opportunities for funding applications to support the refurbishment of the building.

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

Planning application 2023/01396/FUL, Lingley Mere Café, was discussed. The café is being converted to a flexible conference space. Concerns were raised about potential impacts on traffic levels, but the application states that the space is for use by existing employees of United Utilities and there should be no additional traffic as a result. No objection was therefore raised.

The application for the proposed pump track on Dakota Park was acknowledged (2023/01444/FUL). The parish council is providing £20k of funding towards this project and it is hoped it will be completed this spring.

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

Item 1: Thank you from Warrington Foodbank for the donation from the parish council.

Item 2: Survey from Police & Crime Commissioner.

Both items were noted.

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

Cllr Parish forwarded thanks to the parish council from St Mary's Church for the donation towards the repair of the church bell.

Cllr Patel informed members of the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order recently passed by WBC. The order creates various offences relating to dog fouling and control and allows WBC to enforce the orders through fines.

Cllr Patel also commented on the effect of the bin strikes on residents who have paid for a green bin service. The subscription to the bin service covers a period of time (rather than number of collections) and this has been extended by a month to the end of January. The price for the subscription for 2024-25 has also been fixed at the 23-24 levels.

Cllr Warburton stated that McDonalds have increased litter patrols on Burtonwood Road response to complaints about litter from the recently opened site on Omega.

Cllr Morley noted that the issues previously mentioned relating to Sankey Market have been resolved and it will continue to be held on the Woodlands Pub car park.

Cllr Morley also mentioned the Lunar New Year celebrations that will be held on 18 February in Warrington Town Centre and asked everyone to share any Facebook posts on these.

Cllr Cotter d members that the Good Neighbours WA5 group is low on drivers to deliver food parcels to residents and asked for volunteers to help with this.