

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2024
Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: P Watson
Councillors: A Morley
N Catlow
P Warburton
N Cotter

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jones, Hussain, Parish, Pennington and Williams.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024.

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

PARISH/2024/06: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

None.

4. PCSO reports.

The report had been received and was noted. There was concern that no PCSO was present, and it had been some months since the Police had attended a Parish Council meeting. There was also a query about the time taken for the Police/PCSO's to respond to an issue reported by several residents as well as the Parish Office and Cllr Warburton. Cllr Warburton has never received a direct response. Great Sankey PCSO's, including the parish funded PCSO, have been seen recently in the Town Centre. The SLA for the parish-funded role states that the PCSO can be moved to other locations for urgent operational reasons, but this shouldn't be for routine policing and members questioned how long this had been occurring. It was agreed that these queries should be raised with the policing team and the Police Advisory Committee would follow up within their discussions and meetings regarding the continued investment into PCSO's.

PARISH/2024/07: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 as a true and accurate record.

5. Employment Committee

5.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4.3.24.

Received and noted. The recruitment process for the apprentice gardener post was explained and is underway; shortlisting and interviewing will be carried out by the Head Gardener and two councillors during March/April.

5.2 to be informed of recommendations and decide whether to approve them.

The first two decisions come under delegated responsibility for the Employment Committee; the third proposed the recruitment of an additional caretaker for operational reasons and was agreed.

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2024
Tim Parry Community Centre

PARISH/2024/08: Shortlisting process for the apprentice role to be agreed with the Head Gardener. Shortlisted candidates to be invited for short practical test plus formal interview to be conducted by the Head Gardener, plus Cllr Williams, or Cllr Pennington. Myerscough College also to be invited as part of the panel (LGA 1972 s112).

PARISH/2024/09: To approve the draft contract for the Apprentice Gardener; start date to be agreed with successful candidate (LGA 1972 s112).

PARISH/2024/10: To recruit a weekend caretaker for a minimum of 8 hours per week plus holiday cover as needed (LGA 1972 s112)

6. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 5.3.24

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.

Received and noted.

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

One item had been approved by the Finance Committee under delegated authority and was noted.

PARISH/2024/11: To give a donation of £100 to the Royal Marines Association Corps of Drums towards a trip to Normandy for the 80th D-Day Celebrations (LGA 1972, s137).

6.3 to receive recommendations and decide whether to approve them.

The following recommendations from the Finance Committee were approved with no questions:

PARISH/2024/12: To undertake to pay Your Housing's solicitors fees for the transfer agreement for Brentnall Boat Park, £950 (Open Spaces Act 1906, s9).

PARISH/2024/13: To purchase 4nr Roslin Seats from Broxap in different colours for the Rose Garden at Tim Parry Recreation Ground (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10)

PARISH/2024/14: To agree a budget of £10,500 +VAT for a vehicle control bollard at the access road to Tim Parry Community Centre. 3 quotes to be obtained, final decision to be made by the Finance Committee via email (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10).

7. Community Projects Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 7.3.24

7.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.

Minutes were tables at the meeting and Cllr Morley gave a verbal report on the meeting.

7.2 to be informed of recommendations and decide whether to accept them.

The committee had approved a quote for leaflets to advertise the residents meeting for Marina Avenue Park under its delegated authority.

PARISH/2024/15: To accept the quote from Lime Print solutions of £60 to print 500 A5 leaflets to advertise the residents meeting for Marina Avenue Park being held on 20th March 2024.

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2024
Tim Parry Community Centre

7.3 to confirm volunteers for Sankey Fun Day, Sunday 23rd June 2024

The Community Projects Committee had hoped to confirm councillor attendance at the Summer Fun Day; given the low number of members present at the meeting, it was agreed instead to email all members to request confirmation of support. Whilst several councillors will be standing down at the elections in May, it is hoped they will still volunteer for the day and that the new council members will also attend.

8. Sankey Station: project update

The CIC will be resubmitting to the Community Ownership Fund for a grant towards the station house redevelopment. The advertising for expressions of interest from potential vendors had a good response; the CIC is following up on the most suitable of these for more information which will be considered further by the steering committee.

9. Parish Playing Field Advisory Committee: drainage project update.

The Advisory Committee has submitted the application forms to the Football Foundation who have replied with a further form for completion. The Parish Council has stated that it will commit to the enhanced maintenance on the field with an external contractor, but the Football Foundation has asked GSPC to discuss options with WHJFC for an agreement to purchase maintenance equipment for the club to use. A meeting will be arranged for this purpose. It was also noted that an indicative quote for planning services has been obtained as planning permission will be needed for the projects. This will go ahead if the response from the Football Foundation is positive.

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

None.

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

None.

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

Cllr Morley: asked members to share details of the Hong Kong Pathways launch event at the Gateway which aims to support Hong Kong British Nationals with finding employment.

Cllr Warburton: the planning application for the Pump Track on Dakota Park will be considered this week and if approval is given, installation will hopefully take place during April. He also noted that the Living Well Hub, based in Horsemarket Street, officially opened this week providing a range of NHS and non-clinical health services for Warrington residents.

Cllr Cotter: a follow up meeting for residents to discuss improvements to Marina Avenue Park will be held on Wed 20th March. WBC has confirmed that the benches funded by GSPC will be installed in the summer when ground conditions have improved. It is hoped this will encourage residents to form a Friends group for the park which will have a bigger voice for any proposals as well as access to funding opportunities which are not available to councils.

Cllr Watson: all members are to be emailed with a request not to respond to Facebook posts on community pages from an ex-contractor. The council has taken a corporate stance on this which is being managed through the Parish Office.