

Gawsworth Parish Council

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Minutes

of the council meeting held

Tuesday 12th January 2021 (via Zoom)

20/109 Present

Cllrs Richards (*presiding*), Briercliffe, Clarke, Mitchell, Parry, Shepherd, Tyrrell and Woods.

A Keppel-Green (*Parish Clerk*)

20/110 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Briggs.

20/111 To note the declaration of members' interests

No member declared an interest in any item on the agenda.

20/112 Public Participation

PCSO Julia Short addressed the meeting and reported that police surgeries were continuing to be held online and that a key issue in the wider rural area at the moment was uncontrolled dogs resulting in sheep scaring and dog-on-dog attacks; the council offered its support in reinforcing messages on this issue to the community. Cllr Woods enquired if information could be provided on serious accidents on the A536 and PCSO Short advised that this was often restricted until after a court hearing due to being relied on as evidence, making it unavailable.

20/113 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held 10th November

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes subject to a correction to 20/096 to state all members were present and 20/101 to refer to a serious accident.

20/114 To receive a report from Cheshire East Councillor(s)

Cllr Smetham spoke in relation to roads, highlighting the swift action of Cheshire East Highways in requiring unauthorised works to stop on Church Lane and their work cleaning Lowes Lane. It was noted that a leak/spring had appeared on Lowes Lane and had been reported to highways.

Following an enquiry via email from Cllr Woods, Cllr Jeuda advised that she had submitted an enquiry with the Monitoring Officer to ascertain whether Cheshire

East Council had submitted a response to the consultation on standards in public life. In relation to accident data for the A536, Cllr Jeuda stated that information should be available from Cheshire East Highways.

Cllr Woods highlighted the Cabinet's approval of the '20s plenty' scheme and his support in implementing this in Gawsworth, particularly on the country lanes.

20/115 To receive reports of Parish Matters

Cllr Briercliffe reported that there had been a number of power cuts which Scottish Power stated was due to branches on overhead wires and reported that a large branch was hanging over footpath no. 6.

Cllr Shepherd highlighted that a number of pavements adjacent to where gas works have been undertaken in South Macclesfield had been resurfaced and enquired if this was related to the works or Cheshire East Council undertaking improvements.

Cllr Woods requested a discussion at the next meeting on the implementation of *20s plenty* in Gawsworth and reported on a meeting with the Place Directorate at Cheshire East Council highlighting that the council was looking to undertake further asset transfers suggesting the council may wish to look at taking on the former depot on Maggoty Lane and the strip of land on the A536 – it was agreed to consider this in due course.

The council recorded its thanks to Cllr Clarke for her work organising the Christmas Trail.

Cllr Parry highlighted a problem encountered by a disabled resident in crossing the A536 due to the lack of a dropped kerb; Cllr Woods highlighted this could be addressed as part of the safer roads scheme. Cllr Smetham was invited to address the meeting and advised that she had taken the issue to the Macclesfield Area Highways group and it had been approved as a future project.

Cllr Clarke reported that the Woodhouse Lane sign and frame required replacement.

Cllr Mitchell highlighted that there is a lack of spaces for residents to exercise dogs and queried the reason that there is a prohibition on dogs in the park; it was agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Cllr Richards highlighted that the gully at the bend on Church Lane continued to be blocked and the condition of Church Lane particularly the edge to the pools and that any repairs need to retain the original stone edging.

20/116 To consider planning matters

a) To consider application 20/5440M – Chestnut Cottage, Lowes Lane

- b) **To consider application 20/5344M – 8 Penningtons Lane**
- c) **To consider application 20/5808M – Cowley Farm, Cowbrook Lane**
- a) Cllr Richards read the objections of a neighbouring property. It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application as inappropriate development in the greenbelt.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections subject to the retention of chimneys in order preserve the character of the area.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections subject to the officer being satisfied that the mast will assimilate into the landscape as much as possible.

20/117 To consider commissioning a new noticeboard/sign for the Village Hall
It was **RESOLVED** to commission the new noticeboard/sign at a cost of £1,919.

20/118 To consider commissioning works at Nancy’s Wood and Gawsorth Park

- a) **To approve tree works**
- b) **To consider replanting to repair the park hedge at Church Lane**
- c) **To consider refurbishment of the tennis court**
- d) **To consider works to repair the paths in Nancy’s Wood**

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to commission tree works as outlined.
- b) It was **RESOLVED**¹ to commission the repair to the hedge.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to commission the refurbishment of the tennis court.
- d) It was **RESOLVED** to commission repair works.

20/119 To consider new street name signs for Lowes Lane and Shellow lane
It was **RESOLVED** to order replacement heritage style cast iron signs.

20/120 To consider the adoption of a management plan for Nancy’s Wood
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the management plan.

20/121 To consider formal recognition of parishioners’ contributions to support the community during the pandemic
It was agreed that Cllr Clarke liaise with the school to explore a potential permanent artwork installation in the park and that this be given consideration at a future meeting.

20/122 To agree the 2021/22 budget and precept
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and reserves with the amendment of reducing the general reserve by £4,097 to set a precept of £27,862 equating to a Band D of £34.

A discussion of the planning reserve was held noting that should the council need to commission a planning expert to support its scrutiny of the strategic development sites it would be able to utilise non-earmarked reserves should it so determine.

¹ Cllr Woods highlighted his objection on the grounds that a secondary access to the park should be created here.

20/123 To consider financial matters

- a) To note the council's financial position year to date
- b) To note and approve payments
- c) To note conclusion of 2019/20 audit

- a) The council's financial position was noted.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments detailed below.
- c) It was **RESOLVED** to note the external auditor's report was noted.

20/124 To approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Virtual Practitioners' Conference

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk's attendance.

20/125² To consider the Parish Maintenance and Actions Logs

The logs were noted.

20/126 Member questions to the clerk

The Clerk responded to a question stating that approximately 180 responses were received to the broadband survey and that an analysis would be disseminated in due course.

20/127 To note the dates of forthcoming meetings

The dates were noted.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payee	Detail	Amount
ICO	Annual Registration	35.00
Tuke Joinery	Fencing at Pleasance and works at Park	4,932.00
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Ecological Surveys of Park/Woodland	1,458.00
R Richards	Reimbursement – RBL Wreath	18.50
EoN	September Streetlighting	16.10
EoN	October Streetlighting	16.63
EoN	November Streetlighting	16.10
Ivy Cottage Tree Farm	Christmas Tree	230.00
Lightech	Christmas Lights	249.60
Jolt	Annual Website Hosting	159.60
A Keppel-Green	January Salary and Reimbursements	877.66
J O Connor	Distribution of Broadband Survey	50.00
Northwich Town Council	November and December Maintenance	499.80
HMRC	Q3 PAYE	329.80
Gort and March	Q3 Payroll	43.20
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2019/20	288.00
	Total	9,219.99

² Cllr Tyrrell left the meeting at the start of this item.