

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

Squirrel Brook, 68 Manor Park South, Knutsford, WA16 8AN

clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk 07584 057 228

www.gawsworthpc.org.uk



Minutes

of a meeting of the council held

Wednesday 28th September 2022 in the Gawsworth Scout Hall

22/066 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Clarke, Dempsey, Hardy, Richards, Parry and Woods.

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

22/067 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mitchell and Wright.

22/068 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item under discussion.

22/069 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One of the candidates for co-option introduced themselves and highlighted that new fencing had been installed on Lowes Lane which was obscuring views; it was noted this had been reported by Cllr Smetham.

A resident stated they were in attendance to listen to discussion on the siting of the community garden and noted the accident caused by the stones on Dark Lane.

A resident reported that the Save Danes Moss fund now stood at £14.5k and that they were targeting a total of £40,000 for legal challenges; over 20,000 people had signed the petition against the development and the Macclesfield Labour branch had stated its formal opposition to the development. It was further reported that the group were holding a number of environment and nature focused events to highlight the importance of the land.

22/070 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th August.

22/071 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Two candidates had applied to be co-opted for the vacant seat for Moss Ward. The Chairman thanked both for putting themselves forward and one candidate added an addendum to their statement.

A signed ballot was requested and it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Clair Dempsey to the council. Cllr Dempsey signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

22/072 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Puddicombe reported that Congleton Road had been resurfaced and that work was commencing in October on Moss Lane. Cllr Puddicombe reported that Cheshire East Council was unable to get out of the legal agreement in respect of its role in the development of the SMDA without significant penalty and that he expected the application would likely be refused by the Strategic Planning Board when it is presented to the committee.

Cllr Smetham reported on a number of news items published by the council including the increase in ward member highway improvements budgets, the agreement of a new household waste recycling centre operation contract with ANSA, a number of planning matters elsewhere in the ward and a current consultation on the Developer Contributions SPD.

22/073 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Hardy reported that the pothole on Gawsworth Road which has been repaired a number of items appeared to be sinking again.

Cllr Clarke reported an incident of theft where empty tool boxes were found on the field by Benbrook Way and noted reported that the path from Benbrook Way to Woodhouse Lane was very uneven.

Cllr Richards suggested the Parish Council have a tree at the church Christmas Tree festival, it was agreed to in principle and noted that a decision would be made at the next meeting.

Cllr Parry highlighted the issue of speeding on Dark Lane, the recent car accident and the persistent issue of obstruction of her driveway due to the stones.

The adequacy of signage along Dark Lane with respect it narrowing, and the suitability of the speed limits on Dark Lane and the derestricted section of Penningtons Lane were

questioned – the Clerk advised that a review of the speed limits could be requested under Cheshire East Council’s new speed management strategy once the process is published.

Cllr Woods suggested that verges be planted with wildflowers, and it was agreed this be discussed at a future meeting. Cllr Woods requested the Clerk contact Cheshire East Council to request its Health and Wellbeing van visit Gawsorth and reported that Gigabit vouchers for connecting to gigabit broadband are available. Cllr Woods further reported on attendance at a meeting of the Cheshire East Council Countryside Access Forum where he had raised the suggestion of creating permissive paths on CEC landholdings; it was agreed the Footpaths working group develop a proposal.

22/074 COMMUNITY GARDEN PROPOSAL

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of a community garden by some members of the Gawsorth Gardening Club comprising 4-6 raised beds in the area of the park to the east of the eastern path beneath the Village Hall subject to a final sketch proposal being submitted and agreed by the Clerk and Park and Woodland working group; the club obtaining public liability insurance and the gardening club submitting a risk assessment for its activity in the park, a method statement for the installation of the beds and contractors’ public liability insurance for approval by the Clerk.

It was noted that the garden would be managed by an independent constituted group and that the ownership of the infrastructure installed in the park would remain with the group.

22/075 PARK REPAIRS

It was **RESOLVED** to commission repairs to the toddler ramp, springers and wetpour as well as removal of the remaining roof and replacement of bolts on the junior play.

It was noted that the Park and Woodland working group would bring forward a proposal for the replacement of equipment to a future meeting.

22/076 PARK SHELTER

It was **RESOLVED** that the Park and Woodland working group be tasked with bringing forward a proposal for the siting and specification of a shelter.

22/077 PLANNING MATTERS

22/3173M – United Utilities, Harbour Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections.

22/2357M Dighills Farm, Congleton Road

It was **RESOLVED** to question whether the other barns referenced in the application are on the development site and if so whether these could instead be refurbished to remove the requirement for an additional building in the interests of preserving the openness of the greenbelt but that otherwise the council has no objections.

22/078 FINANCE

The council's financial position year to date was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments

Payee	Detail	Amount
HMRC	PAYE Q2	335.40
A Keppel-Green	September pay and reimbursements	620.85
Northwich TC	July/August Works	2,029.80
Broxap	Bins	2,757.24
Gawsworth Scouts	Hire of Scout Hall Sept 21-Aug 22	330.00
	Total	6,073.29

22/079 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted. The issue of items being marked as resolved by Cheshire East Council on Fix My Street when they have been programmed but not yet been completed was raised.

It was reported that a tree had fallen in Maggoty Wood, and it was suggested that the council could work with National Trust with respect the ecology on Nancy's Wood and Maggoty Wood.

22/080 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

The Clerk was asked to provide newer councillors with name badges and to confirm arrangements for council surgeries.

22/081 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

22/082 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12th October.