

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 12th October 2022 in the Gawsworth Scout Hall

22/083 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

22/084 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mitchell and Wright.

22/085 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item under discussion.

22/086 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to address the council.

22/087 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th September subject to typographical corrections.

22/088 A536 SAFER ROADS SCHEME UPDATE

Jonathan Copnall and Alex Davies of Cheshire East Highways provided an update on the scheme, explaining that the average speed cameras had been installed and would be operational shortly. It was further explained that the next phase of sign renewals would commence in the next month. It was explained that the speed limit review had been undertaken but not yet released and that the review concluded that the average speeds are

below the current limits and accordingly the limits are considered appropriate. It was stated that the review used data from 2019. The council was advised that the traffic lights planned for the junction were based on the number of accidents between 2011-2016 and that the number had reduced in the period 2017-2021; it was explained that Cheshire East Highways would review whether lights were appropriate at the junction or alternative measures would better increase safety.

Councillors expressed concern that Cheshire East Council was unaware of the number of accidents/near misses at the crossroads. It was agreed to update the crossroads safety report and re-submit to Cheshire East Council and if necessary raise the issues directly with the Department for Transport.

22/089 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smetham reported that the council had a deficit of £12m, that the Planning Department was experiencing issues with staff retention and that the planning application for *Land South of Chelford Road* had been deferred.

22/090 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Woods reported that there had been cases of sheep worrying and noted thanks to the rural policing team.

Cllr Dempsey reported that Cheshire Wildlife Trust was consulting on a proposal for a nature recovery project on the South Macclesfield Development Area in place of the proposed housing. It was agreed councillors would submit comments to the clerk to enable a council response to be submitted.

Cllr Richards requested the clerk ascertain the frequency with which the litterbin outside the Lych Gate was emptied.

Cllr Hardy suggested that the council consider the installation of an additional litterbin on Church Lane and reported that the hedge outside Maggoty Wood required trimming on the Marton Lane side.

22/091 PARISH RANGER

Concern was expressed at the idea of employing a parish ranger.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk issue a flexible tender for the Parish Maintenance contract including the additional duties outlined in the report and adding leaf clearance of drains and pavements. On receipt of tenders the various options for the contract and creating a ranger role would be considered.

22/092 VILLAGE HALL GATEPOST REPAIR

It was **RESOLVED** to commission works to repair the gateposts at a cost of £1,024.

22/093 VILLAGE HALL LEASE

It was **RESOLVED**¹ to approve the draft lease.

It was **RESOLVED**¹ that the lease be offered on a 35-year term.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to finalise the lease with the tenant subject to any modifications being agreed with the Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the sealing of the final lease by any two members.

22/094 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to hold a switch on event at 6pm on Thursday 1st December, inviting the WI to provide mince pies, the Hub to provide mulled wine and organising a brass band.

It was **RESOLVED** to plant a Christmas tree at Penningtons Lane and decorate with battery powered lights and that the clerk investigate the costs of motifs on the street lighting columns.

22/095 PLANNING MATTERS

22/3896M – Millfield, Mill Lane

It was noted that no plans were available to review on the portal.

22/096 FINANCE

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

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
A Keppel-Green	October salary and reimbursements	517.24
Northwich TC	September Works	839.10
Gort and March	Q2 Payroll	45.36
Royal Mail	Prepaid Reply	0.68
	Total	1,402.38

22/097 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

¹ Cllr Dempsey abstained from voting as Chair of Gawsworth Village Hall Committee

The clerk was requested to ensure the village hall hedge is cut to the same level on both sides.

22/098 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

22/099 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th November and Cllr Clarke tendered her apologies.