

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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Minutes

of a meeting of the council held

Wednesday 11th January 2023 in the Gawsworth Scout Hall

22/113 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

22/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Wright.

22/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mitchell and Clarke declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 22/4808M on the grounds of knowing the applicant.

Cllr Dempsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 22/4855M on the grounds of being friends with the applicant.

22/116 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke in relation to applications 22/4982M and 22/4988M, seeking to understand the process and expressing concern at the amount of development proposed and expressing concern about the creation of a new farm on the field.

22/117 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th November subject to corrections to the attendance and apologies lists and a typographical correction to 22/107.

22/118 TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND CROSSING AT THE CROSSROADS

It was noted that there remained a great deal of uncertainty as to the specific proposals which could be brought forward by Cheshire East Council and that the proposals would require detailed assessment by the community to explore and understand the implications of change. It was agreed that some form of public consultation should be held when plans are made available.

It was **RESOLVED** to retain the current position of seeking to work with Cheshire East Council on proposals for an evidence led safety improvement at the crossroads.

22/119 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smetham reported that the council was facing greater financial problems than ever before with all departments overspending.

It was noted that voter ID would be required at the May elections and agreed that this needs to be publicised locally.

Cllr Jeuda reported that the South Macclesfield Development Area applications should be going to the Strategic Planning Board imminently and that local councillors were objecting to proposals.

22/120 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Hardy reported a number of potholes on Dark Lane.

Cllr Clarke reported that the stop sign at the crossroads had again fallen/turned and the stop lines faded. Cllr Clarke further noted that the bin in the village hall car park made turning challenging and suggested it be relocated.

Cllr Woods reported that the defibrillator had been installed, noted the need to look out for prior approval applications which the council is not directly informed of and suggested the council take over the management of the avenue of trees towards the Harrington Arms if Cheshire East Council would not undertake better management.

Cllr Dempsey enquired if there was a parish litter picking group and suggested a spring clean.

Cllr Mitchell reported that a number of drains were blocked and that potholes extended down much of Dark Lane.

Cllr Shepherd reported that the council would receive a presentation on the alternative vision for the SMDA at the next meeting.

22/121 CAR PARK GRIT BIN AND FOR SUSSEX AVENUE

It was **RESOLVED** to buy a standard sized grit bin for the village hall car park, noting that it must be regularly inspected, but not to provide a grit bin at Sussex Avenue.

22/122 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND EVENT 2023

It was agreed to look at holding an event on Friday 1st December, subject to it not clashing with other events. It was agreed to liaise with other groups to see what they would be doing and if they would like to get involved in building the switch on event.

It was agreed that the lighting at Penningtons Lane was not sufficient and that as well as investigating lights for the two street lighting columns, improved lighting should be sought for the tree.

It was agreed that a final plan should be agreed by June.

22/123 PLANNING MATTERS

It was agreed that the weekly planning lists from Cheshire East Council would be reviewed by the Clerk to ensure the council was able to review all planning applications in the parish, including the determinations which it is not formally notified of.

22/4982M – Land off Woodhouse End Road

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds that there is insufficient justification, the lack of provision for waste disposal, inappropriate impact on the landscape and local amenity and noting the incorrect statement in the nature conservation statement with respect to the proximity of the SSSI.

22/4855M – Goosetree Farm, Woodhouse End Road

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

22/4808M – 22 Woodhouse Lane

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

22/124 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	Dec/Jan Salary, 2022/23 home working allowance, reimbursements and adjusted April to November pay	1,730.53

Gort and March	Q3 Payroll	45.36
NPower	December Street Lighting	22.13
HMRC	Q3 PAYE	446.88
Jolt	Annual Website Hosting	165.60
Jolt	Website SSL Certificate	9.60
ChALC	Councillor Training (CD x 3)	80.00
Northwich TC	October-December Works and bin install	2,858.40
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2021/22	240.00
Ivy Cottage Tree Farm	Christmas Trees	284.40
Total		5,852.90

22/125 STAFFING MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Practitioners' Conference.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's role be regraded at the LC2 Substantive benchmark of the NALC/SLCC National Agreement commencing at SCP 24 with effect from 1st April and subject to annual review for progression through the range SCP 24-28.

22/126 2023/24 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget with amendments to reflect the revised salary agreed under 22/125.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reserve allocations.

It was **RESOLVED** to set a precept for the 2023/24 financial year of £29,190 representing a Band D of £35.35.

22/127 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

22/128 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

It was requested that the council discuss the preservation of hollow ways/sunken lanes at a future meeting.

The Clerk responded to a question advising that there had been no update from Cheshire East Council on progressing the Conservation Area Review.

The Clerk responded to a question advising that all seats on the council would be up for election in May and that he would obtain nomination papers from Cheshire East Council for those wishing to stand again.

22/129 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to address the council.

22/130 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 8th February.