

## Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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### Minutes

*of a meeting of the council held*

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Gawsworth Scout Hall**

#### **22/146 PRESENT**

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

#### **22/147 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hardy and Mitchell.

#### **22/148 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Clarke declared a non-pecuniary interest in the proposal for the little library on the grounds of being a friend of the proposer.

#### **22/149 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to speak.

#### **22/150 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **22/151 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Smetham reported that the council had made £20m of budget cuts and raised the council tax by the maximum allowed of 4.99%. Cllr Smetham noted the potential impact of the withdrawal of Arriva bus services in the borough which may affect Gawsworth routes.

#### **22/152 PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr Parry raised the issue of the early Sunday morning closure of Dark Lane/Gawsworth Road without notice, noting that the timing of the closure affected the ability of residents to attend church. The Clerk undertook to raise this with Cheshire East Highways.

Cllr Dempsey outlined a proposal for converting the grass verge on Woodhouse Lane to wildflowers with fruit trees, it was agreed to write to residents and to consider this at the next meeting.

Cllr Wright raised an issue relating to a resident, which it was noted should be referred to Cheshire East Council and Peaks and Plains.

Cllr Woods reported that the village hall car park requires attention with the hedge cutting back and siding out, tarmac repairs and relining. It was also suggested that the middle section of Nancy's Wood be planted with a small number of birch and that the council explore arranging training on the use of defibrillators. The impact of the clargester by Church Lane was raised.

It was noted that a council bench at St James Avenue had been removed by Peaks and Plains as it required repair or replacement.

## **22/153          COMMUNITY REQUESTS**

### Village Hall Noticeboard and Sign

It was agreed that a notice board should be installed on the Village Hall rather than the entrance to the car park and that this be progressed by the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for a solar-illuminated sign at the entrance signing the park and halls.

### Bunting for Coronation Celebrations

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase multi-coloured bunting within a budget of £400, that this include sufficient bunting for installation at Penningtons Lane and that provision is made for the storage of the bunting such that it can be used for future parish events.

### Bench for Community Garden

It was **RESOLVED** to fund the cost of a bench to match the existing benches within the park, but that it not feature any memorialising plaque.

### Little Library on the Pleasance

In principle approval was agreed subject to clarification of the ownership, maintenance, number of units proposed, materials and sketch, and that this be considered by the council once received.

#### **22/154 TREE SURVEYS**

It was **RESOLVED** to commission surveys for the council's outdoor spaces.

It was agreed that engagement should take place with Cheshire East Council concerning the maintenance of the avenue on Church Lane, noting the need for a management plan to ensure their continued longevity.

#### **22/155 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the corporate risk register.

#### **22/156 FINANCE**

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

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Zurich Insurance	Insurance 2023/24	655.92
Gawsworth Scouts	Christmas Lights electricity and use of Scout Hall (Sept-Mar) less ground rent	207.98
Northwich Town Council	January contract works	589.50
Grit Bins.net	Grit Bin and Salt	267.55
A Keppel-Green	March Salary and reimbursements	749.79
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,470.74</b>

#### **22/156 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS**

The logs were noted and a number of items reported as resolved.

#### **22/157 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK**

The Clerk responded to questions undertaking to confirm the inspection frequency for Maggoty Wood, confirming that the Sussex Avenue sign had been repainted and was awaiting reinstallation, outlining the status of the Woodhouse End Road planning applications, advising that he would circulate planning objections when submitted and confirming that he would obtain quotes for the entrance village hall sign discussed at the meeting and undertaking to arrange the reinstatement of damaged signs off Dark Lane.

**22/158 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to address the council.

**22/159 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was noted the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April in Gawsworth Village Hall.