

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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Minutes

of the annual council meeting held

Tuesday 16th May 2023 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

23/000 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Hardy, Kinsey, Mitchell, Richards, and Woods.

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

23/001 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Shepherd be elected Chair.

23/002 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the deadline for Cllrs Clarke and Wright to give their declaration of acceptance of office to the end of the June meeting.

23/003 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was agreed to defer appointment to the next meeting.

23/004 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke, Dempsey and Wright

23/005 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Woods as representative on the Village Hall Committee and not to appoint a designated member for ChALC, noting all members could attend meetings as desired.

23/006 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING WORKING GROUPS

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Clarke, Dempsey and Hardy to the Park and Woodland working group.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Hardy, Shepherd and Wood to the Communications working group.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Dempsey, Hardy, Kinsey, Mitchell and Woods to the Green Gawsforth working group.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Kinsey, Mitchell and Woods to the Footpaths working group.

23/007 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Shepherd declared a prejudicial interest in 23/017 on the grounds of a relative working for a company which had submitted a tender.

23/008 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

23/009 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 11th April subject to the addition of noting thanks to Cllr Parry for her service to the community.

23/010 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson reported that announcements were forthcoming on the leadership of the council following recent elections, that the Danes Moss development was not raised as a campaigning issue during the election campaign with the cost of living being a bigger issue for residents but that whilst they expected a planning application for the Barratt's owned land to come forward soon they believed the larger scheme was dead in the water

A report from Cllr Smetham that she had received confirmation from Cheshire East Highways that an order had been placed for traffic light equipment (including a pedestrian crossing) at the crossroads and that they aimed to undertake the works in the summer.

Cllr Woods stated that he felt the overall feeling in relation to the traffic lights was positive but the council should be presented with full plans to understand the impact on surrounding roads and impact of the works.

23/011 PARISH MATTERS

In respect of the Annual Parish Meeting it was noted that Gawsforth Hub was in talks with ONE Macclesfield on recycling; the community was supportive of the draft strategic plan; there had been discussion on wildflower planting; there was some concern about urbanisation and additional pollution being caused by a 20mph speed limit.

Cllr Woods reported weedkiller had been used on the Pleasance when it should not, that the bollard at the war memorial had been damaged and that he had contacted the new PCSO.

Cllr Shepherd reported that the Surry Road street sign needed replacing and that the verge at the corner of Moss View Road / Congleton Road was encroaching the pavement and limiting access.

23/012 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that the council continues to meet the requirements to exercise the General Power of Competence.

23/013 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDING ORDERS

The following amendments were agreed for the draft financial regulations: remove reference to EU thresholds and tennis court fees, add a reporting requirement to 3.5 and remove references to committees where not relevant.

The following amendments were agreed for the draft standing orders: add a statement that the rules of debate may be applied at the discretion of the chair to control debate but that free flowing debate under the guidance of the chair would be the norm; update references to the chairman to the chair; specify that CEC ward members would be invited to address the council at each meeting; addition of a clause that the council will take reasonable steps to make an audio/video stream of meetings available and enable remote public participation; addition of an order in relation to convening the parish meeting, addition of an order in respect of proactively making information freely available on the council website and addition of reference to the complaints policy.

Cllr Richards joined the meeting during this item.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve updated financial regulations and standing orders as amended.

23/014 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

It was **RESOLVED** to seek re-accreditation at Quality Gold level under the Local Council Award Scheme, confirming the council meets all necessary requirements.

Cllr Hardy left the meeting.

23/015 PLANNING MATTERS

21/0429m – Brookside Bungalow, Lowes Lane (revised plans)

It was **RESOLVED** to reiterate previous comments and note that the application still does not accord with satellite imagery evidence of the existing use. It was further requested that enforcement action be undertaken in respect of the wider use of the site.

The latest decisions were noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a formal complaint to Cheshire East Council with respect the prior approval application at Land at Woodhouse End Road and that Cllr Woods would prepare the background to this.

23/016 STRATEGIC PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to approve to adopt the plan and defer consideration of priorities for the ensuing year to the next meeting.

23/017 PARISH MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Cllr Shepherd left the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Woods preside.

It was **RESOLVED** to apportion the contract as recommended in the Clerk's report subject to the contract allowing for the bank of ranger hours to be reviewed each January (for following financial year) with the ability to remove the bank if required.

Cllr Shepherd re-joined the meeting and resumed the chair.

23/018 FINANCE

The financial position year to date was noted.

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
Lally Tree Management	Tree Surveys	900.00
Marmax	Park Bench	388.80
B Garner	Street Name Sign Works	100.00
A Keppel-Green	April/May Salary, Mileage and Reimbursements (inc bunting)	1,911.75
	Total	3,300.55

23/019 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted and it was agreed that a review of outstanding items should take place.

23/020 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

The Clerk undertook to progress the planting of Penningtons Lane.

23/021 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

23/022 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13th June.