

## Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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### Minutes

*of the council meeting held*

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the Gawsworth Village Hall**

#### **23/023 PRESENT**

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

#### **23/024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Wright

#### **23/025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No member declared an interest in any item under discussion.

#### **23/026 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Three residents spoke in relation to the proposed traffic lights at the crossroads, expressing concern that Cheshire East Council had not been forthcoming with further information or consultation on proposals. One spoke further expressing concern that vague replies had been given to enquiries, that the parish council had been inconsistent with its position and the articles published in the *Gawsworth Gazette* and that further data was needed to be able to appraise if lights were appropriate for the junction.

#### **23/027 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> May subject to replacing "overgrown" to "encroaching" in 23/011.

## **23/028          CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson who had reported they had no further updates since the previous meeting.

Cllr Smetham noted that the council was beginning to increase activity again following the recent elections, noting the impending consultation on cuts to the library services, changes to green waste collection and other cuts being explored by the Environment and Communities Committee as part of the council's medium term financial strategy.

## **23/029          DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

It was noted that Cllr Wright had not yet given her declaration of acceptance of office. It was **RESOLVED** to extend the deadline to the end of the July meeting.

## **23/030          ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Hardy as deputy chairman.

## **23/031          PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr Shepherd reported she had met with the resident who had spoken in opposition to the proposed wildflower verge at Woodhouse Lane and it was agreed this be re-considered at the next meeting.

Cllr Clarke reported that the road signs by the Old Post Office were obscured by overgrowth.

Cllr Mitchell reported the road surface and edging along Church Lane by the church was poor.

Cllr Kinsey reported that the footpath at Benbrook Way was overgrown, and that the sign for the school fete was obscuring vision when turning right out of Lowes Lane.

Cllr Clarke reported vans were parking on the verge to the right hand side of the crossroads opposite the bus stop.

Cllr Woods noted the CEC consultation on the revised Gawsorth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan which was running to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## **23/032          A536 CROSSROADS TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND CROSSING**

It was noted that the original safer roads fund bid (2017) had proposed traffic lights at the crossroads alongside other safety measures along the A536. It was noted when Cheshire East Highways attended a meeting with the Parish Council in October 2022, officers had intimated traffic lights would not be installed and that alternative options were being

explored and that it was the alternative proposals for which the Parish Council had sought an explanation of the rationale.

It was noted that further information was still awaited from Cheshire East Highways on the specific proposals being taken forward for traffic lights.

### **23/033          PROBLEM PARKING**

Problem parking was noted by the Harrington Arms, around the Village Hall and on Longbutts Lane. It was agreed to invite the new PCSO to attend the next meeting to discuss further.

Cllr Kinsey left the meeting.

### **23/034          PLANNING MATTERS**

#### 23/1961M – 16 Surrey Road

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

### **23/035          STRATEGIC PLAN**

Following an initial discussion, Cllrs Dempsey and Richards left the meeting.

Further following discussion the following priorities for the year ahead were agreed:

- Updating the Park Management Plan and agreeing works to improve the play area
- Completing the review of the Conservation Area
- Establishing the Green Gawsworth Strategy working group commence work on the strategy
- Developing the business case for acquiring the land at Maggoty Lane for a new open space
- Commence the survey of public rights of way
- Promote work undertaken under the parish maintenance contract via social media
- Hold a meeting with representatives of community organisations to understand what/how they need support
- Develop a directory listing of community groups on the Gawsworth Life website
- Identifying areas for councillors to further their understanding on issues that may benefit the parish council

### **23/036          TREEWORKS**

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the tree works at Gawsworth Park, Nancy's Wood and the Pleasance.

**23/037 FINANCE**

The financial position year to date was noted.

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
A Keppel-Green	Salary and Reimbursements	721.18
JDH Business Services	Internal Audit	300.00
Northwich Town Council	April/May works	3,364.20
Npower	April Streetlighting	25.53
Npower	May Streetlighting	26.02
Gort and March	PAYE Year End	45.36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,482.29</b>

It was agreed the bank mandate should be updated to include four online signatories.

**23/038 AUDIT**

The Internal Auditor's report was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements 2022/23

**23/039 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS**

The logs were noted and it was agreed that the clerk would circulate a grouped schedule of outstanding maintenance issues for councillors to review for the next meeting.

It was agreed to remove a number of actions from the log.

**23/040 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK**

The Clerk undertook to progress the planting of Penningtons Lane, advising that he had been waiting to hear back from a nursery.

**23/041 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

**23/042 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was noted the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July.