

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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Minutes

of the council meeting held

Tuesday 14th November 2023 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

23/113 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Dempsey, Hardy, Mitchell and Woods

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

23/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke, Kinsey, Richards and Wright.

23/115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dempsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in application 23/3994M on the grounds of being known to the applicant.

23/116 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident reported that someone had slipped whilst laying a wreath at the war memorial, noting that previously a volunteer had cleaned the stones around the memorial.

A resident questioned the process with respect the development of the proposals for signals at the crossroads, stating they needed to understand what the revisions were.

23/117 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 17th October subject to two corrections to 23/103

23/118 PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT CROSSROADS

Jonathan Copnall of Cheshire East Highways joined the meeting and presented on the revisions to the scheme. It was reported that:

- It is not possible to create additional footway on Dark Lane due to the highway widths
- Queue length modelling has not yet taken place
- A camera will be connected to the lights to monitor traffic exiting the Methodist Church car park to feed data into the smart signals.
- It is not possible to install keep clear markings on Dark Lane at the exit to the car park, but will be possible opposite driveways on the Church Lane properties.
- There will be shielding to the signals to reduce light pollution to neighbouring properties
- There will not be a review of the overtaking restrictions on the A536, but it was noted that they are based on visibility and any review is unlikely to change the existing arrangement
- The council is currently looking at a Feb-April installation
- There was no requirement for formal consultation, but there would be consultation on proposals for waiting restrictions

It was **RESOLVED** to feedback that:

- a) The council still wishes to see further modelling undertaken to assess the impact of the strategic developments and how it may impact
- b) The impact of changes on Lowes Lane would require monitoring and traffic signals during the necessary roadworks would require optimisation to minimise any increase in traffic through the village. Greater traffic management to prevent vehicles seeking to divert down Lowes Lane during construction would also be required
- c) Events at the Hall should be considered during construction to minimise any disruption to these events
- d) After construction is complete a debrief should be held to review how the process could have been better managed

23/119 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk read an update from Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson which stated the council was continuing to mitigate its budget shortfall which is presently £18.7m, encouraging all residents to engage with ongoing consultations on cost cutting measures and that the council was developing a new strategic plan aimed at reducing health inequality and working towards net zero.

Cllr Smetham highlighted that the council was consulting on a new green spaces maintenance strategy and Adult Social Care charging. It was further reported that the council had appointed an interim Chief Executive Officer.

23/120 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Dempsey reported that the Village Hall Committee had agreed a solution to its storage needs, and that a run of cupboards would be installed in the side room. It was noted that this did not require permission of the Parish Council.

Cllr Mitchell enquired if there had been any progress with respect the land slippage at the Church Lane Pools.

Cllr Hardy suggested that the way information is disseminated be explored and it was noted the Communications working group could look into this.

Cllr Woods enquired if a date had been agreed for the siding out of the car park hedge.

23/121 PLANNING

23/3921M – Land off Woodhouse End Road

It was **RESOLVED** to object on the grounds of the proximity to the SSSI, repeating the same objections as were raised for the previous application and questioning the suitability of this site for farm.

23/3740M – Land off Dark Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to reiterate previous objections to this development and to reference policy PG10(iii).

23/3994M – Middle Moss Farm, Lowes Lane

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

23/4054C – Shellow Farm, Shellow Lane

Cllr Mitchell left the meeting.

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

Recent planning decisions were noted.

23/122 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL ALLOCATIONS POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to repeat previous comments that the council considers there should be a parish first, rather than borough-wide first cascade to the allocation of all affordable housing.

23/123 CONTRIBUTION TO VOLUNTEER SIGN CLEANER

It was **RESOLVED** not to make a financial contribution.

23/124 FINANCE

The financial position year to date was noted.

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
Gawsworth Methodist Church	Hire of Hall for Footpaths WG meeting	£24.00
Ivy Cottage Tree Farm	Pleasance Christmas Tree	£258.30
Nature Sign Design	Ladder Sign	£1,224.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath	£27.50
M Herring	Ranger Services Sept/Oct	£ 771.44
A Keppel-Green	November Salary and Reimbursements	£746.70
St James Church PCC	Christmas Tree Festival Entry	22.00
	Total	£3,074.15

23/125 STAFFING MATTERS

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

23/126 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

It was noted that Moss View verge still required cutting back and should be prioritised.

23/127 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

Arrangements for Christmas lights at Penningtons Lane were discussed.

23/128 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

23/129 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024.