

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc FSLCC

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Minutes

of the council meeting held

Tuesday 9th January 2024 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

23/130 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

23/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Clarke.

23/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Hardy and Richards declared a non-pecuniary interest in 23/140 as members of the Parochial Church Council.

Cllr Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 23/4783M on the grounds of being known to the applicant.

23/133 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

23/134 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 14th November 2023.

23/135 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Puddicombe noted issues had been raised with respect the recent works to pavements

on Penningtons Lane. Cllr Wilson highlighted that the new CEO had been appointed and the council had commenced a budget consultation where it currently has a deficit of £12m.

In response to a question, it was stated that uptake to the green bin subscription scheme was currently around 30% of households and increasing.

Cllr Shepherd read an update from Cllr Smetham which noted that Cllr Craig Browne was stepping down as Deputy Leader.

23/136 PLANNING

23/4783M – Beech Cottage, Church Lane

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

23/4536M – Greenacres, Gawsworth Road

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

23/1961M – 16 Surrey Road

It was noted that this application had been refused, but had incorrectly referred to Policy G2 of the Gawsworth Neighbourhood Plan in determining the application (which does not apply to that part of the parish)

Cllr Kinsey joined the meeting.

23/137 FINANCE

The financial position year to date was noted.

The clerk reported that CIL funds had been received in respect of the Gaw End Lane development of which a small portion was in the parish and explained these must be spent within five years and can only be used for infrastructure or addressing the needs arising from development.

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
SLCC	Practitioners' Conference	£411.00
Gort and March	Q3 Payroll	£45.36
HMRC	Q3 PAYE	£624.87
Northwich TC	October/November Contract Works	£675.00
Defib Warehouse	Zoll AED 3	£1,386.00
Jolt	Annual Website Hosting	£175.20
M Herring	November Contract Works	£500.07
A Keppel-Green	Dec/Jan Salary, Nov pay adjustment, Reimbursements (7)	£1,957.53

	and HWA Q2/Q3	
GritBins.net	Replacement Grit Bin	£201.28
	Total	£5,661.31

23/138 STAFFING MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the clerk’s salary progression from SCP 24 to SCP 25 with effect 1st April 2024.

It was agreed there should be an appraisal conducted by the Chair in advance of this item being considered in 2025.

23/139 2024/25 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget as presented.

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

It was **RESOLVED** to set a precept of £33,134.

It was agreed that wider public engagement on the precept should be conducted over the coming year and the increase clearly explained to the community.

23/140 ST JAMES CHURCH CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

It was noted that the churchyard would be full within 5-10 years with there being less than 25 burial plots currently available. It was further noted that the church has a financial deficit of around £400 per week which presents challenges in justifying increased expenditure for a churchyard extension. It was reported that churchyard had been extended circa 1960 and 1990 and that the cost for a further extension would be c. £10k.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the churchyard being extended recognising the value of having a local burial ground.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would be open to the principle of providing financial support subject to detailed discussion.

Cllrs Hardy and Richards abstained from voting on both resolutions.

23/141 COMMUNITY COMPOST SCHEME

It was **RESOLVED** not to explore a community compost scheme at this time, to promote home composting and to explore the matter under the Green Gawsorth Strategy workstream.

23/142 INVESTMENTS POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the revised policy.

Cllr Hardy left the meeting.

23/143 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Dempsey advised the Village Hall Committee agreed to provide financial assistance to the cost of the new defibrillator and reported a suspected breach of planning at Woodhouse End Lane which she had provided information of to the clerk.

Cllr Richards reported there continued to be water on the A536 at the dip near the tip.

Cllr Woods highlighted the new AV system installed in the village hall.

23/144 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

23/145 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

Attention was drawn to the new format for the Gawsorth Gazette.

23/146 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

23/147 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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