



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on
WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2018 at 7PM
in the PARISH HALL, MONTREY CRESCENT**

Present:

Councillors: Mrs B Ashcroft, Vice Chairman
Mrs SM Murphy
J Pearson

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting and then suspended Standing Orders and went to Public Participation and Policing of the Area before returning to the Agenda.

2018/106 To pass as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 12th December 2018

Resolved: to agree for the Vice Chairman to sign the Minutes of the above meeting as a true record.

2018/107 To Note Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs K Cleary, S Barton and B Pilkington
A letter of resignation had been received from Cllr Mark Flynn

Resolved:

To note the above apologies

To accept Cllr Flynn's resignation and advertise the current vacancy in line with current regulation

2018/108 *Public Participation

The only item raised this evening was the current draft of the St Helens Local Plan:

Resident comments included

Assurance from Parish Councillors that they will oppose the removal from Green Belt and offering for development. Cllr Pearson explained that the requirement to have a Local Plan is a national one. Land has to be found for employment and housing land and where possible he agreed this should be brownfield. He further informed of the meeting re the session being held by St Helens Planning on 20th February in the Community Hall where all information can be given and advice given on how to submit their comments. Comments re these sessions ending too early for working people and Cllr Pearson took their point and confirmed he had already requested feedback from Planning regarding this. District councillors confirmed they will take back the concerns of residents to St Helens Council. Cllr Pearson further explained not all brownfield sites are suitable for development and in a lot of cases this is due to former industry leaving behind contaminated land.

Cllr Murphy confirmed that Parish Council has lots of the same views as residents and would not support any development of the site unless infrastructure issues can be satisfactorily addressed and also confirmed Parish Council is not presuming development will go ahead.

Concerns expressed included:

the suitability of the proposed land (drainage, old mine workings, etc.)

Infrastructure issues and remarks re no appointments being available at doctors etc. at the present time so there are worries of the impact if the numbers are raised by up to 1000

Potential impact to aquaduct installed fairly recently in Billinge Road between the two proposed development sites

Plans outside the borough to accommodate rise in resident numbers: a query was raised re reports of proposed improvements at Our Lady's possibly relating to increasing pupil numbers as a result of this and other developments – Parish Council had not been consulted in relation to any such proposal, so are unaware at the current time. The cost of educating children outside St Helens Borough (possibly in relation to the above) along

with general concerns of how much support for St Helens will actually be achieved in increasing the number of houses were also raised

Residents requested a public meeting to further discuss issued prior to the 20th February. Residents requested a letter to every household in the area informing re the session on the 20th – Parish Council confirmed this is already advertised on both St Helens and Seneley Green websites, one social media with hard copy display of posters throughout the area by the end of the week.

for information only, issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2018/109 To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members

No Declarations were received

Resolved: to note the above

2018/110 * Policing of the Area

Parish Council had written requesting regular meetings with the police following the last meeting (no reply as yet). It was reported by Cllr Murphy that the station in Newton-le-Willows is dropping opening hours to one day a week. It was proposed we write to Andy Cooke, Merseyside Chief Constable and Jane Kennedy, Merseyside Crime Commissioner re our great disappointment at this news and also that Parish Council received no formal notification.

Cllr Murphy also informed the meeting that St Helens Councillors representatives voted against the increase in precept to cover the funding shortfall at Merseyside Police.

for information only, issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2018/111 *Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's Update

Included in the Clerk's Update:

Defibrillator, Carnival, Health Living Coffee and Chat, report on Parish Champions Evening

Resolved: to receive and note Clerk's Update

2018/112 To Note the Decisions of the Planning Committee

No comments had been submitted re the application below.

FEBRUARY

APPLICATIONS

P/2019/0083/HHFP 22 Oban Drive Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension.

DECISIONS

P/2018/0805/HHFP 68 Hamilton Road Two storey side extension Granted

P/2018/0793/HHFP 32 Thornhill Road First floor side extension and porch to front Granted

P/2018/0803/HHFP 3 Melrose Crescent Two storey side extension, single storey side extension and first floor extension to front elevation. Granted

P/2018/0804/FUL 28 - 30 Hamilton Road First floor extension to existing single storey commercial block to create 3no. 2 bed flats, new shop fronts, ramp to front and ground floor rear porch. Refused

P/2018/0815/HHFP 62 Leyland Green Road Single storey rear extension with new balcony and associated works to widen front access, new hardstanding and fencing along with new decking area to rear. Granted

P/2018/0909/HHFP 3 Forres Grove: Demolition of existing garage along with the erection of first floor front extension, first floor rear extension and replacement detached garage to rear Granted

Resolved:

to receive and note the report from the Planning Committee

2018/113 To Pass Accounts for Payment/Receive Financial Update

670	Clerk - Jan Salary	1174.77
671	Sports Attendant - Jan Salary	203.14
672	Caretaker CH and PH	609.36
673	British Gas -PH	357.93
674	Eon - PH	125.98
675	Eon - CH ~£1423.43(six months - see also trans 653)	705.66
678	BT – alarm line1208	203.45

679	Terryokee (£40 balance, £150 pd on the night)	40.00	*
680	Sapphires (room dressing for Champions Evening)	140.40	*
681	GMS - legionella monitoring	240.00	
682	Amanda's	420.00	*
683	Direct Source - Champions shield,plaques	258.98	*
684	Sports Attendance - Feb Sal	124.36	
685	Caretaker PH and CH	533.82	
686	Clerk - Feb Sal	1175.37	
687	SMART Pension Oct-Jan	255.40	
688	Truline	700.16	
690	FIS (CCTV Maintenance)	96.00	
691	St Helens Council Inv 1407484 Grounds SLA	511.25	
692	Clerk - expenditure reclaim: invitations/dj/magician/planters	343.50	*
TOTAL		8256.79	

* S137 payments of £1202.88 (£30 for planting up of planters and the remainder for the Parish Champions evening)

Resolved:

to pass the above schedule accounts for payments (£8256) and to approve S137 payments of £1202.88

2018/114 Precept 2019-2020

The Clerk was invited to inform the meeting of the procedure for setting the Precept and confirmed figures relating to estimated expenditure in the coming year including salaries, expenses plus estimated income from hall/playing fields are included in a full written report to Councillors for their consideration, so they are able to make an informed decision. After a brief discussion, Cllr Murphy drew attention to the three recommendations being made and proposed to raise the Precept in accordance with Option B.

Resolved:

To agree the estimated figures including salaries (inc expenses) and councillor allowances.

To review hire charges at the next meeting

To agree to set the Precept at £34.84 (as per Option B) – a rise of £1.01 on the current year

For the Clerk to notify St Helens Council of our agreed Precept by their deadline date of 8 February 2019

2018/115 Parish Council Committees

Members had been requested to consider creating an Estates Committee with the proposed Terms of Reference circulated at the meeting and also to invite Members to join the Planning Committee which is currently depleted to one Member due to illness and resignation.

Cllr Murphy proposed all Members be part of the above Committees.

Resolved:

For all Parish Councillors to be members of the Estates and the Planning Committees

2018/116 Schools' Crossing Patrol

Cllr Pearson reiterated the issue from last year when Parish Council agreed to support (£1542) for the school year 2018/19 and then to review. This support had been requested for a further year. Cllr Murphy commented that there is no Crossing Patrol at Garswood Primary so proposed Parish Council write to Rectory Primary School to ask if they can make any contribution to the funding for this.

Resolved:

To support for a further year

For the Clerk write to Rectory Primary School asking if they can provide part of the funding for this

2018/117 Update on Halls

Included in the Clerk's Update was details of three current jobs: one had been completed (fire door), following the structural engineer's report, two quotes had just been received for the two options (brickwork over internal hall door). Cllr Murphy asked for comparative quotes for this work. A damp specialist is required to give recommendations to resolved the issue on one wall.

An update on hire of halls was also given.

Resolved:

to receive and note update

for the Clerk to obtain comparative quotes for the brickwork issue

2018/118 Youth Club Update

Cllr Barton was absent from the meeting but had reported he would update at next meeting.

Resolved: to note the above

2018/119 Youth Council Update

Cllr Barton was absent but had reported he would update at next meeting

Resolved: to note the above

2018/120 Wildflower Planting at Spindle Hillock

Cllr Barton had sent the following report to the meeting: Grounds Maintenance (St Helens Council) have undertaken ground preparation and will work in conjunction with him, Elaine Murphy and other volunteers. We have received a donation of 50 free bags of compost from B&Q in Leigh. The costs to Parish Council should only involve seeds/bulbs. There is also a Village in Bloom event but no details are available yet (pending a meeting with Cllr Murphy and Elaine Murphy).

Cllr Murphy mentioned youths on motor cycles had been churning up the grass/prepared ground and also on the playing fields so asked the public present to pass on details if they have any information relating to this.

Resolved: to receive and note the above update