

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM AT ST PHILIP'S CHURCH, HASSALL GREEN

PRESENT

Councillor L Barber, Chairman; Councillors J Batchelor, B Colclough, A Curwen, S Hollinshead, and R Moss;
Ralph Bason, Clerk; Cheshire East Councillor J Wray.

Apologies – S Farrington, A Malbon

21. MINUTES

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

22. PUBLIC FORUM

Further to Minute 2, concerns expressed again about the stuck grid in Alsager Road. It was agreed that Cheshire East Council be contacted again about the concerns expressed at the last meeting.

The Council agreed to raise once more about the absence of a timetable of bus services at the bus stop at Betchton Road junction, and the possibility of bus services to serve Hassall Green village.

A member of the public raised the continuing problem of speeding traffic through Hassall Green and the Chair undertook to ask the PCSO, Sue Holt to look into this.

23. MOTORWAY BRIDGE

The Council considered the reply from the Highways Agency regarding screening following the upgrade of the M6.

The Council agreed to ask Highways England to clear overgrown vegetation in Alsager Road which obstructed the footway near the Motorway bridge, and to restore the fencing and trees at Station House removed in connection with the upgrading of the M6.

24. FINANCE

Expenditure

The Council approved the following items of expenditure:

Lamppost poppies in Malkins Bank - £129.87

(retrospective approval of decision taken in advance of meeting after consultation with Councillors, and noting a contribution to charity in lieu of similar poppies elsewhere in the parish by one Parish Councillor).

Clerk's Salary – 2 months @ £137.70 = £275.40
Clerk's expenses - Postage £3.30; Travel - £24 (attend meeting and to post notices).

Balances

The Council noted the current financial situation:

Current account - £ 11,164.79

Reserve account - £ 1,866.03

25. BUDGET

The Council considered its budget for 2022-23. Having resolved a dispensation for Councillors to discuss financial matters in this respect it adopted a budget (appended to these minutes) and agreed to precept Cheshire East Council in the sum of £2,314 (being the same as the current year).

During consideration of the Budget, when the website was discussed, it was agreed to increase provision to £300, and that Councillor Curwen liaise with the provider to improve the service.

The Council also agreed to add budget items including training and street furniture.

26. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following Planning Application which had been received for consultation purposes from Cheshire East Council:

21/4850D - Chells Hill Farm, Church Lawton - Discharge of conditions – no objection.

21/5077C – New Inn, Newcastle Road - Outline planning permission for a 2 storey detached dwelling including a double detached garage – object as while the Parish Council did not object in principle to this application as it would tidy a brownfield site, it was likely to increase traffic in the area and so the Council would ask that permission be conditional on the installation of traffic lights or other appropriate safety measures at the junction of Newcastle Road, New Inn Lane and Love Lane. This junction had been the site of several accidents, including one fatal, in recent years, and any increased traffic movement in the vicinity and distraction of drivers could potentially worsen matters. Should the application be approved the Council would expect adequate visibility splays from the development to New Inn Lane

21/5041C – 5 Betchton Road, Malkins Bank - Rebuilding of previously demolished house on end of terrace: The Parish Council objected to this application, because of the problems the new build would cause in terms of parking. The Council asked whether the applicant could put in provisions for parking such as making agreement with Cheshire East to

turn some of the wide (30ft pavement and grass verge) into parking spaces.

21/5705C - Hood Lane Farm, Reynolds Lane, Betchton, CW11 4SX - a new high voltage overhead line – no objection

21/5648C - Westleigh, 34, Betchton Road, Malkins Bank - Outline planning for new dwelling on land adjacent to 34 Betchton Road – to express concern about the lack of parking facilities.

27. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Council noted the following decisions made by Cheshire East Council:

21/2133C - Dean Hill Farm, Newcastle Road, Betchton, CW11 2TG - Listed building consent for removal of store/boiler and hopper room and the construction of a single storey sun room extension – undecided.

21/3401C – Land off Hood Lane, Betchton – Detached Garage – approved

21/4439C – Land off Roughwood Lane, Hassall, CW11 4YA – Detached dwelling – undecided.

28. SPEEDING ISSUES CONSULTATION

The Council received correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner which was proposing a pilot scheme in at least four localities where average speed cameras could be installed.

It was agreed to look forward to receiving the results of these schemes, but in the meantime the Chair undertook to ask the local Police and Community Support Officer to monitor speeding traffic in the area, and to invite her to attend a future meeting of the council.

29. PLANTERS AND SEATING

The Clerk undertook to ask Rowlinson's of Nantwich to provide costings of planters and benches for the area. It was also agreed to invite Hassall Parish Council to the next meeting to share ideas.

30. QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Council agreed to consider activities which might be undertaken to celebrate the Jubilee in June 2022. St Philip's church and Hassall PC would be asked to consider joint celebrations.

31. CARE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

After an invitation from Cheshire East Council for representation on the Sandbach Primary Care Network the Council had agreed in advance that

Councillor Curwen represent Betchton on this body and formally agreed to make this appointment.

Councillor Curwen informed the Council of the remit of the organisation: its role, activities and priorities, and asked for suggestions as to projects which might be included in a crowdfunding exercise to promote improving neighbourhoods, connecting people and combatting climate change. Councillors agreed to ask to that the introduction of community facilities in the area be considered since Hassall Green had seen the closure of its only shop and two pubs in recent years.

32. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on correspondence from Cheshire Fire Authority consultation on its 2022-2023 Draft Annual Action Plan and the Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24.

Also, the developers of the development at Roughwood Lane had informed the Council that its contractors intended to reinstate the lane and reopen it before Christmas.