

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor Ed Daniel
Councillor John Erlam Councillor Kevin Gregory
Councillor Gemma Herbertson Councillor Peter Jackson
Councillor Angela Norbury Councillor David Norbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

2.1 Declarations of Interest: None

2.2 Dispensations: None

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting on 27th November 2013. Proposed: Councillor Warburton, seconded: Councillor Jackson. RESOLVED: the minutes of the meetings on 27th November were approved and signed.

4 PCSO SOPHIE EMERSON'S REPORT

Sophie was unable to attend the meeting and no report was received.

5 COUNCILLOR JAMIE MACRAE'S REPORT

Councillor Macrae was unable to attend the meeting

6 CHANGES TO ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

6.1 General Report

Councillor Gregory provided the following report:

- An account specifically for the project was to be opened
- There is to be a meeting with the architects to determine the current status of the plans
- Waste would be disposed of via a septic tank
- Heating by biomass was being explored
 - currently unsure where the boiler and pellet store would be sited
 - Purple Energy provided typical running costs no figures provided to Council
 - pellets cost about £200/ton
 - there will be a payback via the Renewable Heating Initiative, possibly 12-15% on an investment and return basis - currently unsure where the boiler and pellet store would be sited
- The Diocese and English Heritage are in support of the project, Cheshire East Planning is still an unknown
- Financial Considerations
 - Approximately £10,000 is required for the project
 - Money is required for materials such as bricks, timber etc
 - Brookhouse (John Hindle's family firm) will do all the construction work at zero cost
 - Purple Energy provided typical running costs no figures provided to Council
 - pellets cost about £200/ton
 - there will be a payback via the Renewable Heating Initiative, possibly 12-15% on an investment and return basis - currently unsure where the boiler and pellet store would be sited
- Fund Raising
 - Posters are being printed to bring awareness to the project and the need for funds
 - Additional fund raising ideas are needed and the Church will welcome any suggestions
- The planned deadline is Easter 2014, depending upon getting planning consent

Comments:

Councillor Daniel stated that permission was required for the installation of a septic tank. In addition, as a biomass heating user, he was concerned that the estimates for heating may be too low because the Church was not well insulated. Biomass may not work unless there is always somebody available to attend to the hoppers etc.

Councillor Herbertson wanted to know if there had been any thoughts about how the Church would be used as a village hall.

Councillor Erlam invited Councillor Gregory to see his biomass system which was gratefully accepted

6.2 Fund Raising for the Church Alterations

- All Councillors suggested that Councillor D Norbury holds another duck race as it was very successful and enjoyable
- There is a village hall trust fund (not associated in any way with Ashley Parish Council) which could possibly be used towards covering any eventual shortfall. Councillors felt strongly that it should not be used as a first contribution. The trustees will discuss this possibility
- Ashley Parish Council may consider awarding a grant towards the alterations should a suitable application be received and approved

7 HS2 PHASE 2

Councillor Gregory reported the following:

- At a meeting attended by George Osborne, he stated that Councillors can respond both as a Council and as individuals
- Councillor Gregory will take notes at the next cluster meeting and forward them to the Clerk who will write to George Osborne and HS2 Ltd

8 MATTERS ARISING

All matter arising from the last meeting have been added to this Agenda

9 PLANNING MATTERS**9.1 Planning Applications Already Considered**

None

9.2 Planning Applications to be Considered

None

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS**10.1 Precept for 2014/2015**

The Council unanimously agreed that the precept for 2014-2015 should be £3,000, as in 2013-2014

10.2 Payments for Authorisation

£ 75.00	HRMC	PAYE Income Tax Quarter 3
£ 86.98	K Gregory	Compost (station planters) + Christmas Lights

11 MANCHESTER AIRPORT

A card advertising the airport's Community Outreach program had been received. No other updates were received.

12 TATTON PARK**12.1 General Report**

Nothing to report

12.2 BeWilderwood

Nothing to report

13 TATTON ESTATE

No representatives from Tatton Estate were able to attend the meeting

14 NORTH LODGE

Reported to Highways and the Police. Highways, Simon Davies, replied (quote)

"Thank you for bringing this to our attention. In these cases it is appropriate to investigate the causes of the accidents and then try to remedy any defects, e.g. road surface, warning signs etc. Barriers are there to deal with the aftermath so much better to prevent."

Councillors agreed that if, after two weeks there had been no action, the Clerk would contact Highways again

15 CONNECT CHESHIRE

Information on the Cheshire East website is confusing in that Ashley is both included in and excluded from the fibre upgrade. The Clerk had provided examples of the mismatching statements

16 HEDGES AND GRASSLAND

16.1 Swallow Barn

Cheshire East cannot make an owner remove a hedge. The only recourse is to issue an enforcement notice. They added that there have been situations like this one where the fencing was put in acting as a boundary fence. The Councillors were firmly of the opinion that this particular Cheshire fencing was installed as an aid to visibility

16.2 Gallaghers

The Clerk was asked to send another letter to Sterling Properties reporting that the hedge needing cutting

17 A556

A letter had been received from the Highways Agency regarding the implementation of the A556. Councillor Gregory took charge of the letter

18 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who attended

19 SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

The sandstone blocks had been moved away from the climbing frame

20 TELEGRAPH POLES

The fallen telegraph pole had been replaced but the one near Lamb Lane is still badly leaning

21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21.1 Local Area Plan

Councillor Herbertson had responded to the Local Area Plan Committee

21.2 Rose Queen Meeting

There is to be a meeting later this month to discuss the Rose Queen Fete for 2014 and to highlight what does and does not work

22 CORRESPONDENCE

Email correspondence - all information only emails forwarded to Councillors

Postal correspondence:

- Planning Inspectorate - A556
- Manchester Airport - Community Outreach 2014
- Cheshire East - Precept Arrangements for 2014

23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 10th March 2014 at 8.00pm in Sunnyside Nursery, Back Lane Ashley

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signed: _____ Chairman 17th March 2014