

PRESENT: Chairman Jeff Warburton Councillor John Erlam
Councillor Kevin Gregory Councillor Peter Jackson
Councillor Angela Norbury Councillor David Norbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk Sue McDonald

1 APOLOGIES: Councillor Gemma Herbertson, Councillor Ed Daniel

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None

3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 17th November 2015. Proposed by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor D Norbury. **RESOLVED:** the minutes of the meeting on 17th November 2015 were approved and signed.

4 POLICE REPORT No police representative was in attendance

5 MATTERS ARISING All matters arising have been dealt with or added as agenda items

6 COUNCILLOR JAMIE MACRAE'S REPORT No report was available - Councillor Macrae was on holiday

7 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Council, with great reluctance, formally accepted the resignations of Councillors Ed Daniel and Peter Jackson. The Council offered grateful thanks to Pete and Ed for their significant contributions to the success of the Council and all agreed that they will be sorely missed.

As the resignations fall within six months of the election in May 2015, the Council will co-opt replacement Councillors. The following procedure will take place:

- A letter of vacancy notification will be sent to Cheshire East on 20/1/2015
- A Casual Vacancy Notice will be displayed on the notice board for 14 working days from 20/1/2014
- Advertisements for replacement Councillors will be displayed on the notice board, in Ashley News and on the website
- The Council felt it was important to have a Councillor who could represent Hough Green and the Clerk will create a vacancy notice for display on Hough Green
- Applications will be considered at a Council meeting, the Council will vote and the successful applicants formally invited to sit on the Council

8 CHANGES TO ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

The project is nearing completion and the following progress was reported:

- All changes have been completed barring decoration, some outside work which has been hampered by the weather and the relocation of the font
- A recent meeting with the architect regarding new heating concluded that the most viable solution would be gas..
- Cheshire East Community Fund had awarded a grant of £12,000 to be used for heating only - the church has access to additional funds for heating
- A gentleman from Hale has kindly offered to cover any shortfall for completion of the changes if necessary
- If, at the end of the project, there is any remaining money it will be used to install a bookcase and new lighting

9 HS2 PHASE 2

9.1 General Report

The hybrid bill will probably not pass through parliament until after the next election

9.2 HS2 Signs

Mr Brooks senior has given permission for HS2 signs to be displayed on the Tatton Estate properties but would not allow the large signs to be displayed. It was agreed to put the purchase of the large signs in abeyance for the time being pending a suitable non-Estate site.

10 PLANNING MATTERS None

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS**11.1 Payments for Authorisation**

£75.00	HMRC	PAYE
£99.22	D Norbury	Sleepers for School Playground
£298.00	Gardening Co Cheshire	Labour for improvements to School Playground

11.2 Precept

Councillors unanimously agreed that the precept for 2015-2016 will be £3,000 as in previous years

12 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**12.1 Dog Fouling on Ashley Mill Lane**

Cheshire East has promised to send an official out to inspect the area and determine if, and where, notices should be displayed. Providing dog litter bins would depend upon the practicalities of emptying them by operatives. Cheshire East also hoped to time the visit to catch the offending dog walkers allowing the fouling

12.2 Hedge at the Corner of Ashley Mill Lane and Ashley Road

The hedge has been cut back and the new sign has been done.

12.3 Hedge at Swallow Barns

The hedge is still obstructing the visibility splay and there had been another accident, on Christmas day, at this site. The Council agreed that the Clerk should pursue this matter with Cheshire East.

13 SPEEDING IN ASHLEY**13.1 Corner of Ashley Road at North Lodge**

Cheshire East had previously reported that the road in this area is in good condition and that the number of accidents did not warrant special measures. The Council were unanimous in stating that this stretch of road was dangerous not only for motorists and pedestrians but also for the increasing number of cyclists now using the road. Councillor Gregory reported that parts of the road on the bend are down to the substructure. The Council agreed that the Clerk should report this matter to a senior authority within Cheshire East

13.2 Speed Watch

The Council agreed that this matter should be put in abeyance until the weather improves and the nights are lighter

14 MANCHESTER AIRPORT No report, Councillors were unable to attend the meeting on 30th September

15 SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Improvements had been completed although clearing by Cheshire East was outstanding

16 TATTON PARK

Councillor D Norbury attended a meeting on 27th November and reported the following:

- BeWilderwood - It appears that nothing will happen until 2017
- Tatton Dale - Funding is being considered to renovate the Mill at Tatton Dale. In addition refurbishment of the stable yard is being considered although it is unclear whether the stables would become holiday or hostel accommodation

17 ASHLEY STATION**17.1 Fewer Trains**

The possibility of fewer trains stopping at Ashley Station was largely based on low passenger numbers which, in turn, is based on ticket sales. However, the true number of passengers is grossly underestimated because tickets are not purchased on as many as 75% of journeys. Passengers have not been avoiding payment - there is no ticket office at the station and there is rarely an official present for passengers to purchase tickets on the train. The Clerk will contact Northern Rail with this information

17.2 Platforms

The platforms require some attention, such as weeding. Daffodil bulbs have been planted in the planters and on the banks

18 TATTON ESTATE**18.1 Informal Gathering 19th November**

The Chairman attended this event and reported that the meeting had been very enjoyable and informative

18.2 Ashley Hall Traction Engine Rally

- The event will take place from 23rd to 25th May inclusive
- If successful it is envisaged that this will become a regular event

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 New Community Space at St Elizabeth's (also see Item 8)

Councillors were anxious to ensure that the newly created community space in the church was well used and supported. Initial thoughts were that the space could be used for polling booths and Council meetings although it would be suitable for many other activities. The Clerk was asked to request ideas in Ashley News

It was recognised that a volunteer would be needed to open and close the church for community events

19.2 Rose Queen Fête

The Rose Queen Fête will take place on 16th May 2015

19.3 Brereton Trust

The Brereton Trust had been presented to Mr Arthur Sant who expressed delight upon its receipt

19.4 Gulleys

Cheshire East cleared the gully near the Birkin Bridge although others in the vicinity were not. There are a number of gulleys in Ashley requiring cleaning. The Clerk will contact Cheshire East

19.5 Hedge at the End of the School

This hedge is overgrown and needs attention

19.6 Ivy at Ashley House

The ivy at Ashley House is overgrown and needs attention

19.7 Libby Lane

The Council asked the Clerk to send a letter of congratulations on becoming Bishop of Stockport and also to thank her for all her support to Ashley

20 CORRESPONDENCE

- Email correspondence was forwarded to Councillors
- Post

Cheshire East	Notification of Precept Arrangements
Cheshire Community Action	Community Pride Competition details
Manchester Airport	Runway 1 Closure Notice
Commercial	Advertisements

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th March 2015 at 8.00pm in Sunnyside Nursery, Back Lane Ashley.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed: _____ **Chairman 9th March 2015**