

HANKELOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 24th November, 2011.

THOSE PRESENT: The Chairman, Cllr. Ainley, Cllr Cope, Cllrs, Jones and Cllr. Lee; also present were three parishioners.

The Chairman requested one minute's silence in Memory of Frank Goodwin who had been a former member of Hankelow Parish Council and a very popular member of the local community.

PRESENTATION

Sharon Angus-Crawshaw had been invited by the Parish Council to give a talk on her role as Manager of Nantwich Local Area Partnership. Nantwich L.A.P covers Nantwich Town Council and 32 parish councils, including Hankelow. The main role of the L.A.P. is to coordinate services such as the Police, Parish Councils and the Town Council in situations where a single authority could not solve a problem, such as starlings roosting in great numbers in Nantwich. Ms. Angus-Crawshaw said she was not available to give advice to Parish Councils but could be contacted if the Parish Council required information concerning contacts at Cheshire East Council. Ms. Angus-Crawshaw also advised the Parish Council that there is a Town and Parish Council Conference to take place at 6.00p.m. on 24th November at Congleton Town Hall. The conference would include such topics as Budgeting, Superfast Broadband and Place Shaping. There is also to be a Parish Planning Network Event at the New Life Church, Congleton between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. on 29th November, 2011 when there will be a Speaker, Nick Chase from A.C.R.E and Councillors will have an opportunity to network with other Parish Councils.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER, 2011.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October were read and being approved by Cllr. Cope and Cllr. Ainley, were signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING:-

(a) SPEED LIMIT.

Cllr. Ainley had been unable to attend the last Meeting of the L.A.P. and will contact Sharon Angus-Crawshaw for an update of the proceedings.

(b) DAMAGED ROAD SIGN.

The Clerk reported that the damaged road sign on the main road through the village had now been replaced.

(c) CONFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP OF VILLAGE GREEN.

Charlie Foster has some documentary evidence of ownership of the village green. However after consulting a local solicitor it is apparent that full confirmation needs to be sought from the Land Registry Office. It was agreed that Cllr. Jones and Charlie Foster should attend the Land Registry Office for confirmation.

(d) P.A.Y.E.

The Chairman reported that progress had been made in the registering of the Parish Council for P.A.Y.E. and that the Clerk had received her salary up to the end of September for this financial year and the first payment of P.A.Y.E. had been made.

(e) Cllr. Jones reported that he had visited Natwest Bank in order to register as a signatory on the Council's cheques and he had been advised by Natwest Bank that all the new Councillors would be required to attend the Bank together to provide evidence of identity. It was agreed that the new Councillors should attend Natwest Bank Nantwich on Wednesday 9th November, 2011 in order to complete the application forms.

(f) PURCHASE OF A TOKEN FOR ELLIOT HULME.

The Chairman reported that she was moving forward with her decision on the purchase.

(g) HANKELOW SCHOOL BELL.

The Clerk read out a letter she had sent to Rev. Andrew Gunstone, Methodist Minister for Audlem and Hankelow concerning Audlem Methodist Church Council's views on the placement of the School Bell in the village. The Clerk had not yet received a reply. It was agreed that the Council should wait for a reply before proceeding.

(h) WILLOW TREE ON THE GREEN.

Cllr. Jones reported that not only the willow tree on the green needed attention but also the chestnut trees needed inspection for signs of canker. Sharon Angus-Crawshaw suggested that the Clerk should contact her for the name of Cheshire East's Tree specialist, in order that a decision can be made concerning the care of the trees. Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Cope.

(i) QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The Chairman reported that she had been unable to obtain residents' views concerning the placement of a bench close to Park View.

(j) HANKELOW IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Cllr. Lee reported that good progress was being made in the preparation of the Improvement Plan. At the last meeting of the H.I.P. Steering Group, Claire Jones visited from Cheshire Community Action and she had asked to review the draft Plan. She confirmed that the plan should be endorsed by the Parish Council and Cllr. Lee said that the draft Plan could be endorsed at the next P.C. Meeting. The draft Plan has to be submitted to Cheshire East Council for comment. The next meeting of the H.I.P. Group is on 2nd November, 2011 and proposals should be finalised by that date. It is proposed to launch the final Plan at a village meeting in March. An implementation and review phase will follow.

(k) DEDICATED EMAIL ADDRESS FOR HANKELOW PARISH COUNCIL.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should pursue the installation of a dedicated email address. Proposed by Cllr. Cope, seconded by Cllr. Ainley.

4. REQUESTS FOR FINANCE.

The Clerk read out a letter she had received from Sheila Ainley, Treasurer, Hankelow Methodist Church setting out the Church's charges for the hire of the Schoolroom for Parish Council meetings for 2010/2011 and 2011/2012. The annual charge for the hire of the schoolroom had previously been £100. and this amount was now due for

the period 2010/2011. However, an increase to £150. 00. per annum was requested to cover increased running costs, to start in April, 2012. It was agreed that £100. 00 should be paid now with the payment of £150. 00 to be made in February, 2012 for the 2011/2012 meetings.

The Chairman reported that she had attended a Burial Board Meeting where it had been agreed that the precept for 2011/2012, should be waived. This would mean that the Parish Council will not be required to pay £175. 00 to the Burial Board for the next financial year.

The Chairman also reported that the Burial Board intend to provide a Memorial to 35 paupers whose unmarked graves had been found in Audlem Cemetery. The Burial Board has funds to provide the Memorial.

5. FINANCE.

The Chairman had inspected the Council's accounts and had calculated that the Council's running costs are £2,840. 00 per annum without extras, such as the purchase of items for the village or the cost of entering competitions. The current precept 2011/2012 is £2,200, making a deficit of £640. 00. A discussion followed, during which it was noted that there would be additional costs, such as the cost of hiring the schoolroom, as the hire fees were rising significantly and that there would be future demands such as the devolution of Cheshire East services for the mowing of the village green. It was reluctantly agreed to raise the precept by £800. 00 to £3,000. 00 per annum, equating approximately to an additional £8. 00 per household for the £2012/13 precept. Proposed by Cllr. Ainley, seconded by Cllr. Lee.

6. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA.

Cllr. Jones reported that he had collected the daffodil bulbs from Crewe and he also requested the P.C.'s permission to lend the projector screen to A.S.E.T. for their 1940's Exhibition in the Public Hall on Friday, th11 November, 2011. It was agreed that Parish Council would lend the projector screen.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting with the date of the next meeting being set for Monday, th6 February, 2012.

CHAIRMAN.