

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HANKELOW PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN HANKELOW METHODIST CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, HANKELOW
ON 12 NOVEMBER 2012**

PRESENT: Councillor G Foster Chairman
Councillor G Cope Vice-Chairman

Councillors C Ainley, I Jones and A Lee

Notes:

- (i) Prior to the start of the meeting, members of the public addressed the Parish Council.
- (ii) Borough Councillor Rachel Bailey was in attendance during public participation but owing to a previous engagement, withdrew prior to start of the Parish Council meeting.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any non-pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and, in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

No declarations were made.

44 REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members were reminded to complete their Register of Interests form which should be sent electronically to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils. A copy should also be sent to the Clerk for uploading onto the website. This was a legal requirement under S.29(7) of The Localism Act 2011 which stated "*A parish council must, if it has a website, ensure that its register is published on its website.*"

45 MINUTES – 17 SEPTEMBER 2012

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2012 be approved as a correct record subject to the following:

Minute No. 29 (Report of Members Appointed to Outside Bodies)

Burial Board

Delete the first sentence commencing "It was understood....."

Amend the second sentence to read: "The parents of children who had been killed in a number of road traffic collisions some years previously had asked the Burial Board if it would take over the responsibility for upkeep of the graves."

46 MATTERS ARISING (not detailed elsewhere on the agenda)

46.1 Procedure for Street Renaming

The Clerk reported that Cheshire East Council had advised that it would be possible to re-name part of Audlem Road (in the vicinity of the church) to "Old School Lane".

The Borough Council had confirmed that under S.21 of the Public Health Act Amendment 1907 the Council may, "with the consent of two-thirds of the number of ratepayers, and persons who are liable to pay an amount in respect of Council Tax, in any street, alter the name of such street or any part of such street."

Consultation would need to be undertaken with the occupiers of the six properties affected. Following that, the Parish Council would need to seek the approval of the Ward Councillor and the Cheshire East Council Strategic Director – Places.

The cost of the changes would be a fee of £372, plus £31 per affected property, a total of £558, the cost of which should be met by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Parish Council proceed with the proposal to rename that part of Audlem Road (in the vicinity of the church) which was currently principally accessed from Hall Lane;

(b) That the occupiers of the six properties identified be consulted about the proposed change in name from “Audlem Road” to “Old School Lane”;

(c) That the cost of £558 to effect the changes be borne by the Parish Council; and

(d) That the outcome of the consultation be reported to the next meeting.

47 REPORT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no matters to report.

48 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

In the absence of Borough Councillor R A Bailey the Parish Council proceeded to its next business.

49 FINANCIAL MATTERS

49.1 Chairman’s Allowance

£82.00 Mrs G Foster – balance of Chairman’s allowance

The Chairman’s allowance was payable under the Local Government Act 1972 S 15(5) to offset the expenses of the office. The amount was payable as a lump sum and would normally be paid at the Annual Meeting after the Chairman was elected. There was no requirement to account for the expenditure as this was an allowance. The Chairman had already been paid £18 of this allowance and had elected to declare how she had spent it.

The Parish Council was asked to authorise payment of the balance. The Chairman declined to accept the balance of the allowance at this time.

49.2 Authorisation of Payment

RESOLVED: That the following payment be approved:

£34.66 Councillor I Jones – Purchase of materials for plinth

Members were asked to ensure that any invoices for payment be reported to the Clerk prior to issue of the agenda.

49.3 Receipts and Payments Statement – 1 April – 30 September 2012

The Parish Council received a Receipts and Payments Statement for the first half-year and noted the bank reconciliation as follows:

		£
	Total receipts	7,321.03
LESS	Payments	<u>-1,912.96</u>
		<u>5,408.07</u>
Bank:	Current Account	4,891.94
	Building Society Account	<u>816.13</u>
		<u>5,708.07</u>
LESS	Unpresented cheques	<u>- 300.00</u>
		<u>5,408.07</u>

49.4 Draft Budget Proposals – 2013-2014

Subsequent to issue of the agenda, new information had been received from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils setting out matters to be considered when Parish Councils set their budget and request a precept from Cheshire East Council.

Each parish councillor who either owned or rented land in the council's area (the Parish Council's area) would have a disclosable pecuniary interest. A criminal offence may be committed where a Member with a DPI participated or voted at a meeting. Dispensations which used to be a matter for the Borough Council were now a matter for individual local councils to consider internally. A 'dispensation' allowed Members who had such an interest to claim a dispensation which will allowed them to participate in meetings.

This information had only been provided on 11 November and the Parish Council was, therefore, unable to consider the budget proposals at this meeting. The issue of dispensations would be considered at the January meeting, prior to discussion of the draft budget.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council consider the draft budget proposals 2013-2014 at its January 2013 meeting.

49.5 Parish Plan

A sum of £300 had been deposited in the Parish Council's accounts under the heading of 'Parish Plan'. A grant of £140 had been made at the previous meeting (payable to Hankelow Methodist Church) to enable informal coffee sessions to be funded for a few months. This left a sum of £160 and the Parish Council was invited to consider how this should be spent in furtherance of aspirations expressed in the Parish Plan.

A number of suggestions were made, but no decision was taken at this point in the proceedings.

49.6 Cheshire Community Pride

It was reported that following the Parish Council's success in receiving an award in the Community Pride Competition 2012, the Cheshire Landscape Trust wished to celebrate by planning a native tree in the community and offered a choice of a Bird Cherry or an Oak.

The planting would take place on Wednesday, 5 December at 2.00 pm and would be attended by Helen Carey (Chairman of Cheshire Landscape Trust, Vice-Chairman of Cheshire Community Action and former National Chairman of the Women's Institute), Bob Price (Cheshire Landscape Trust Vice-President), Kathy Benn (Cheshire Community Action) and Katie Lowe (Chief Executive of Cheshire Landscape Trust).

RESOLVED: (a) That the Clerk notify Cheshire Community Action that the preferred tree choice was a Bird Cherry;

(b) That the tree be planted on the wide verge in the vicinity of the bench;

(c) That Councillor I Jones and Val Morrey (Chairman of Hankelow Amenities Group) attend the tree-planting ceremony;

(d) That arrangements be made for the press to be notified; and

(e) That arrangements be made for the plaque "Community Spirit Award 2012" to be affixed nearby.

50 PLANNING

The Parish Council was invited to submit observations on the following planning application by 5 December 2012.

12/3950N - Barn A, Hankelow Hall, Hall Lane, Hankelow – addition of cellar within exiting footprint of current planning permission P08/0869 to Barn A, together with additional pitching door and rotation of dwelling. Increase ridge height by 500 mm on garage to make better use of loft space.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to planning application No. 12/3950N.

51 INSURANCE REVIEW

At the previous meeting, it had been suggested that a review of the Parish Council's insurance be undertaken. The current policy was due for renewal on 1 June 2013 and it was agreed that the review be undertaken early in 2013.

52 REINSTATEMENT OF PERMISSIVE PATH – HANKELOW TO AUDLEM

It was reported that a site meeting had been arranged at Corbrook Court with Messrs Robin and Timothy Morris of Morris Care for 15 November at 2.00 pm. The Chairman and the Clerk would be attending, together with a Member and the Clerk from Audlem Parish Council.

53 CONSULTATION – FUTURE PLANS FOR CHESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Cheshire Fire Authority had now published its annual plan, the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2013/14 and the years beyond and had launched a 12 week consultation period on 24 September, which would run until 17 December.

This draft plan was the most significant in the Fire Authority's 15 year history, as it set out a number of far-reaching proposals, which had been developed so that it could maintain and improve the services it provided to the local community and make most effective use of its reduced funding.

The Parish Council was invited to submit comments by 17 December.

RESOLVED: That no observations be made on the consultation document issued by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

54 NOMINATION TO NALC SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Each parish council with an electorate of less than 6000 was invited by the National Association of Local Councils to make a nomination to the newly-formed Smaller Councils Committee.

The Committee would comprise up to five members of National Council, three members representing smaller councils and either the Chairman or one of the Vice-Chairmen of National Council. Three members receiving the highest number of votes would be elected for a one-year term. Only one nomination per smaller council could be accepted. If the Parish Council wished to make a nomination, the Clerk would forward the nomination form to the nominee who must complete a personal statement and details of qualifications and credentials.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council decline to make a nomination to the NALC Smaller Councils Committee.

55 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported report receipt of correspondence received since the last meeting.

From	Item	Date issued to Members	Action required
ChALC	New pension regulations		The Clerk would notify Thirsk Payroll

From	Item	Date issued to Members	Action required
ChALC	Candidates for Police Commissioner Elections on 15 November	17 Oct and subsequent candidates details	Information
ChALC	Boundary Commission – NW constituency changes	21 Oct	Consultation exercise until 10 December 2012

56 SHARED INFORMATION

Parish Councillors were invited to share information or to request the inclusion of items on the next agenda.

- The future use of The White Lion Public House was raised. A Member commented that under the Localism Act 2011 it was legitimate for the Parish Council to consider this as a “building of interest”. This item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, individual parish councillors were asked to try to establish if there was any local interest in bringing this building back into community use.

57 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7 January 2013

58 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Parish Council was invited to exclude the press and the public from the meeting, in accordance with Paragraph 1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of the following two items.

This matter had been raised by members of the public prior to the start of the meeting, all of whom were of the view that the matters should be discussed in public.

Members now considered the matter. The Clerk’s advice was that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 such matters should always be dealt with in the absence of the press and public on the basis that whenever information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, or company, other than the Parish Council, was discussed, it should be in private to avoid a situation where a company could lose its competitive advantage if the information was discussed openly.

This advice was not accepted by Members and the matters referred to were discussed in public. The Clerk was asked to seek the advice of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

59 INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGNS

The Parish Council considered quotations for the provision of interactive speed signs for use in the parish. This equipment would monitor vehicle-speeds and would be combined with a flashing light indicating vehicle speed.

Councillor Ainley, who had been involved in preparation/discussion of the specification with potential suppliers, outlined the various options.

RESOLVED: (a) That the Parish Council proceed with the purchase of a Mini 300 Polypropylene Modular Speed Control Sign system;

(b) That the quotation from TWM Traffic Management Systems in the sum of £2,396 (to include an additional battery and mounting clips) be accepted; and

(c) That the Clerk be authorised to place the order.

60 ESTIMATES/SPECIFICATION FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Parish Council was invited to consider a draft contract and draft specification for the maintenance of grass verges and the Green at Hankelow. This had been prepared by Councillor Ainley who had distributed the various iterations to Members.

There was a brief discussion about Cheshire East Council's proposals under its Local Service Delivery Model. The Clerk was asked to establish if Cheshire East Council had given formal approval to the transfer, or devolution, of the grass-cutting contract to the Parish Council.

This matter would be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

In the meantime, it was –

RESOLVED: That the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Ainley, make such amendments as necessary to the draft contract and draft specification, as discussed at the meeting. (S.101 of the Local Government Act 1972.)

61 PARISH PLAN

At this point in the proceedings, Members continued discussion of an earlier item (Minute No. 49.5), viz, the use of funding under the heading of "Parish Plan".

It was **AGREED:**

- (a) That £100 be spent on the purchase of 25 Kg of Daffodil bulbs, in view of Cheshire East Council's rescission of its offer to provide these free of charge; and
- (b) That the Amenities Society be asked to consider spending of the remainder of the Parish Plan funding.

.....Chairman