MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT 19:30 ON TUESDAY 19th JULY 2022

**Present:** Councillor Campbell (Chair)

Cllrs Allen MBE, Bland MBE, Farnsworth, Partington & Sharpe

Helen Buckley (Clerk)

Mark Tune (Traffic Management – Warrington Borough Council)

PCSO Dean Swann (Cheshire Police)

PCSO Tom Palfrey (Cheshire Police)

PCSO Georgina Morris (Cheshire Police)

**Apologies:** None

Cllr Campbell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2023/67 Code of Conduct – Declarations of Interest**

None.

**2023/68 Minutes of the Meeting held 21st June 2022**

 **Resolved**

Minutes approved.

**2023/69 Matters arising from the minutes**

2023/27a Traffic Calming: Mark Tune is here to update us on this.

2023/56 Request for Funding for Ukrainian Hub: there are two committee members present to tell us about this.

No other matters arising.

There’s a sign up saying that HGVs are not to go down Kenyon Lane. There needs to be better measures in place regarding HGV routes.

**2023/70 Traffic Calming & Speed Surveys – Mark Tune, WBC**

1. CAZ signs: these were put in place when there wasn’t even a clean air zone. Transport for Greater Manchester is coming up with a new plan. Mr Tune read out the report from Transport for Greater Manchester. It will cost £2m to take the signs down.
2. Round Thorn: work is now complete on this. It has completely transformed the street.
3. Traveller unauthorised encampment/Kick Rails.
4. Winwick Lane: Cllr Allen said that the residents of Oven Back Farm have complained about dust and sand everywhere. They’re in Warrington but it’s a St Helen’s project.
5. Flooding on Wigshaw Lane: work has now been undertaken but we’ll need to see what happens when it next rains.
6. Pipe near Glaziers Lane: they think this is three quarters blocked. Nothing can be done about the fourth manhole – can they raise the kerb to stop the house from flooding?
7. Growth of weeds on Wigshaw Lane – Dave Vasey at WBC said that it’s been done but some people think that not all of it has been done. Cllr Sharpe said that he has done some along Heath Lane and Kenyon Lane.
8. Vehicle activated signs: there were no complaints when they were put in. Cllr Allen asked if they could be put on Kenyon Lane instead, on the straight stretch.
9. A resident present asked if the 40 zone could be dropped to 30. She said that a collision recently occurred outside her house. The police were informed. She said that there were two incidents in two weeks. Mr Tune said they'd need to understand if it was speed-related. Warrington Borough Council would discuss it with its police colleagues. It's not always the case that altering the speed limit would make a positive impact. Drivers tend to take their messages from their environment rather than the speed signs.
10. The dip on Mustard Lane: Cllr Allen provided a brief update in that she's meeting with an officer from Warrington Borough Council on Monday called Ryan Dyson.
11. There are a number of surveys going on in the area. They are not connected to the Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme. The one by the Horse Shoe on Smithy Lane is to determine whether a crossing should be installed.
12. Hazardous walking routes: if it's under three miles and the route is deemed dangerous then the (high school) student is eligible for tree transport.
13. The footpath next to the Plough is very narrow. One resident said he's seen cars go into his neighbour's gardens.
14. Mr Tune brought a map to go over where traffic surveys need to be done. Also, where no HGVs should go.

One resident commented that, if traffic is diverted from the M6, they end up going down Mill House Lane. HGV drivers should not be using their mobile phones as a sat nav device.

1. Cones were put out to stop people going down Dam Lane from Mill House Lane.
2. Mr Tune marked out on his map where people would like speed surveys to be carried out.
3. Mr Tune updated everyone on the temporary measures that have been in place in the past.
4. Cllr Sharpe requested that Mill House Lane be reduced from 60mph to 30. Mr Tune said that he would like to carry out a survey initially.
5. Cllr Partington said that he was under the impression that it would be more to do with traffic calming, like in Winwick. Mr Tune said he needs to understand where it's needed. CIlr Partington queried if there's a budget available. Mr Tune explained that he is given a capital allocation once a year for the whole of Warrington. This amount is £600,000. If, for example, it is determined that a crossing (that would cost £100,000) needs implementing then it will be put on a list to be prioritised. There are eighteen locations currently on this list. Some programmes take a while to get to the top of the list.
6. Mr Tune reported that on one road in Fearnhead, some traffic was recorded at 65mph every hour all week. One of the PCSOs present said that there may not be enough resources to enforce speeding issues. People naturally slow down when they know there's a police van there. There was further discussion around where on the map the speed surveys should go. Mr Tune confirmed that during the summer holidays is not a good time to do surveys. Probably mid-October would be the most sensible time to do it. Southworth Lane, Mill House Lane, Smithy Lane, Lord Street, Heath Lane, Kenyon Lane and Mustard Lane were identified as the main areas of concern. Mr Tune said that he has spent nearly all of his revenue for the year.

**2023/71 Cheshire Police June Report**

a. PCSO Palfrey read out the report for June.

b. PCSO Swann, currently covering Croft, is leaving tomorrow.

c. PCSO Samuel is still off on long term sick leave.

d. PCSOs are either leaving to 'go regular' or they are being posted elsewhere.

e. One resident reported that the Unitarian Chapel's graveyard had been vandalised. The lid of one of the tombs had been removed.

f. PCSO Palfrey confirmed that he and PSCO Morris are trying to cover three wards at the moment.

g. CIlr Allen enquired about the police surgeries as this was going to be a regular occurrence. PCSO Palfrey said that he would find out but their resources are stretched. They are also being asked to carry out school talks and cover summer carnivals.

h. One resident said that 'Speed Watch' would be good. Cllr Campbell said that it's been done before.

i. There was an enquiry as to whether a bus service could be run from Culcheth, Croft and Glazebury ward to the new Warrington Youth Zone. Could the Parish Council fund a minibus for this? Culcheth High School used to run a film night on a Friday. MAD Culcheth has also stopped. There's not a lot for local youths to do.

j. One resident brought up the signs near the General Elliot that state that alcohol cannot be consumed in public. PCSO Swann confirmed that this is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

**2023/72 Request for Funding for Ukrainian Hub** (2023/56 previously)

1. There were two committee members present at the meeting to formally request help from the Parish Council. The committee was set up when the Homes for Ukrainians scheme was set up.
2. There were hurdles to overcome to enable families to come over. The committee wanted to create a hub for all hosts. It's not just about helping them to get here, it's about helping them once they are here. There are sessions every Wednesday evening and Sunday afternoon during which any Ukrainians can access support and help to integrate. The Wednesday evening session is more around helping them write CVs and apply for jobs, and also to assist with any language needs. The Sunday afternoon session is more of a social arrangement where everyone can catch up over a drink and some cake.
3. School uniforms have been given, they now need summer clothes.
4. They've started to do days out with them – they’ve recently had a day at Chester Zoo.
5. Some Ukrainians have also taken on committee roles.
6. The committee put together a Ukrainian float at Croft Carnival.
7. They now have to start paying rent at the Daten. They need more volunteers and donations.
8. Liverpool Diocese has been in touch with them after Croft Carnival – they would like to blueprint what they've done and take it across the whole of the north west.
9. CIlr Allen asked how many families are in Croft. There are three in Croft and one coming soon.
10. There are 80 individuals/38 families across Warrington.
11. Cllr Allen stated that Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council gave a one-off donation and wondered if Croft PC could do something similar. Shall we match Culcheth and Glazebury? CPC will give £1,001.

**Resolved**

Croft Parish Council donated a cheque of £1,001 to the hub.

1. They started doing leaflets last week. The hub itself only started approx. nine weeks ago.
2. They have access to two rooms at the Daten and also the outside area. They can have as many as 100 people attend the Sunday sessions.
3. The host families get so much money per month from the government.
4. Some of the Ukrainians need to retrain now that they're in the UK. One lady was a teacher in Ukraine but her degree doesn't transfer over to here so she's having to retrain.

**2023/73 Clerk's Report: Correspondence**

1. Speeding signs – there was some debate around whether to have the solar powered option and whether to have the Bluetooth option.

**Resolved**

The council decided to go with the original quote which is to have solar powered speeding signs with Bluetooth included. However, the clerk is to contact TWM to find out what happens to the data collected by the Bluetooth device.

The signs will be ideally placed on the long stretch of Heath Lane, in the position of the existing sign coming away from the Plough.

1. Cllr Allen asked if it's possible to relocate the existing signs to Kenyon Lane. The council agreed to this.

**Resolved**

The existing signs from Heath Lane to be relocated to the straight stretch of Kenyon Lane.

1. Kick rails around the land at CYAC. The council agreed to the 2m option for the overhead barrier.

**Resolved**

The council to go ahead with the 2m height option.

d. New noticeboards – the cllrs agreed that the clerk can choose whichever ones she feels are most appropriate.

**Resolved**

The clerk to decide and proceed with this.

1. New laptop – again, the cllrs agreed that the clerk can proceed with whichever make/model she sees fit.

**Resolved**

Clerk to choose and buy a new laptop.

1. The clerk requested a resolution that she and the chair can have delegated authority to make decisions during recess.

**Resolved**

The clerk and chair to have delegated authority to make decisions during recess and keep members updated with any news via email.

g. The clerk also requested a resolution that the chair plus one other councillor can sign cheques for payroll and suppliers during recess.

**Resolved**

The chair plus one other councillor can sign cheques during recess.

h In the July 2021 Clerk's Report, Mike had mentioned that the risk assessment for the Christmas Tree lighting event needs to be submitted over the summer. The clerk and chair will work on this.

**2023/74 Clerk's Report: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Bench**

At the June meeting, the council agreed to have a bench to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The clerk has received four quotes. The council agreed to proceed with the quote from Warrington Borough Council.

**Resolved**

The clerk to confirm with Angus Lord at Warrington Borough Council that the parish council wishes to proceed with its quote.

A resident present suggested that the parish council should also maintain its existing benches. The resident will forward a list or map of where these benches are. The clerk will then ask her contact who is due to repaint the play equipment and benches at the playing field if he can quote for this work to be done.

**2023/75 Clerk's Report: AGAR**

The council approved the AGAR and it was signed by the chair and clerk. The clerk will submit it to the external auditor.

**2023/76 Clerk's Report: Dog Bye-Law on Playing Field**

The clerk wondered if the wording on the dog bye-law sign on the playing field noticeboard needed updating, so as to include all assistance dogs, not just guide dogs for the blind. The council will look into this.

**2023/77 Clerk's Report: Financial Reports**

The financial reports were up to the end of May.

The bank reconciliations were in balance.

The May creditor list amounts to £6,960.02. There are no issues regarding the budget.

A list of July's cheque payments was distributed to the councillors. This list amounted to £4,398.60, however was later amended to £5,399.60 to include the £1,001 donation made to the Ukrainian Hub above (see minute reference 2023/72).

**Resolved**

That the creditors' cheque payment list for July totalling £5,399.60 be approved.

**2023/78 Borough Councillor's Update – ClIr Allen**

1. Cllr Allen wasn't at the last borough council meeting. The next one is in September.
2. ClIr Allen will be meeting with someone from the borough council on Monday to see the footpaths that need attending to. Lots of hedges have already been cut back.
3. Cllr Allen had a borough councillors' surgery on the last Saturday of June in Croft.

**2023/79 Recess**

a. One resident requested if David J Platt's could look at the trees in the graveyard. The clerk will contact Platt's to arrange this.

b. Another resident enquired about the toilet block and the seven trees for the jubilee. The clerk has already begun to make enquiries as to having sanitary and nappy bins in the toilet block. With regards to the trees, Cllr Campbell said that the council would need to take advice regarding the trees as it can be tricky to plant them near concrete as it can make the ground bumpy if the roots protrude. There was the suggestion that maybe trees could be 'sponsored'. It's best to plant trees when they're dormant, around October time. Cllr Campbell will look into this.

c. One resident commented on the carnival, that people were being directed through the double gates along with tractors and other vehicles which poses a risk. The clerk will feed this back to the secretary of the carnival committee.

**2023/80 Members' Referrals**

Cllr Partington mentioned that there had been some fly-tipping on Main Lane. He escalated the issue to Warrington Borough Council and it was removed within only a couple of days of reporting it.

**2023/81 Date of next Parish Council meeting – 20th September 2022 at 19:30**