

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Crewe Green Parish Council held at Crewe Hall, Weston Road, Crewe on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Don Rickard (Chairman), Alex Lewis, David Lewis, Anne Rickard, Roy Spruce

Councillor J Hammond – Cheshire East Borough Council

Gaynor Hawthornthwaite (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ron Taylor from St Michael & All Angels Church and two members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman announced that Gaynor Hawthornthwaite had submitted her resignation as Clerk to Crewe Green Parish Council.

The Chairman welcomed PC Kerrie Cummings to the meeting who gave a short overview of her role and reported on the minimal Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour incidents in the Crewe Green parish. Kerrie was thanked for attending the meeting and was asked if she could keep the PC informed of any Crewe Green crime and anti-social behaviour incidents.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Marren and G Twiss.

## 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Don Rickard be nominated as Chairman. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Don Rickard accepted the position of Chairman.

## 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor David Lewis be nominated as Vice Chairman. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor David Lewis accepted the position of Vice Chairman.

## 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

## 5. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN FORUM

Two members of the public were in attendance and mentioned the level of litter in the area and asked whose role it was to do the litter picking. They also asked about the cutting of the overgrown grass verges. Councillor Hammond confirmed that litter picking is undertaken by Cheshire East Council on a regular basis and that some Parish Councils do have volunteers and in some cases their own Lengths man for litter picking. The PC agreed to follow up and consider litter picking by volunteers at the next meeting. The CEC contact is Andrea Bickerton.

**RESOLVED/- Clerk to note as an agenda item for the next meeting.**

Councillor Hammond confirmed that the grass verges are cut by Cheshire East Council.

## 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017

Members considered the minutes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**RESOLVED/- That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

## 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

All matters arising to be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

## 8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND SUMMARY OF 2016-2017

The Chairman provided the following report:

“Perhaps the most important aspect of our work this last year is our continuing surveillance of developments that threaten the erosion of the Green Gap. resulting in the urbanisation of the hamlet and overwhelming of the conservation area.

To this end we have closely monitored Cheshire East's various incarnations of its Strategic Plan and made representations directly and through the good offices of our County Councillors when our local environment has been so endangered.

As one of the smallest parishes in Cheshire East your Parish Council decided that we had not the resources neither of manpower or finance to embark upon the preparation of a local plan that could stand up to the professional expertise available to developers.

Fortunately, Cheshire East Council seems broadly sympathetic and supportive of our views and of neighbouring parishes.

The old strategy framework of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council before its abolishment envisaged that the Haslington By-pass and its continuation, now University Way, would be the limit of expansion in our direction. Unfortunately, pressures brought by developers have eroded this and almost all of University Way has been developed on both sides. The developments on the south side has consisted largely of warehousing with low value jobs and noise levels which have impinged unpleasantly upon the Hamlet especially outside the working day when noise travels more obviously.

There have been further attempts to obtain changes to the categorisation of the remaining area firstly for housing and then for more low value warehousing which would imping further upon the special qualities of the hamlet and conservation area.

The current designation provides is ideally suited for the kind of high tech, high value employment area that will be at a premium as Crewe Develops as envisaged in the Strategic Plan. It would also minimise any impact upon the hamlet with little noise generation especially at weekends and outside the normal working day. We have strongly expressed these views to Cheshire East but are led to believe that our objections are about to be over-ruled

Other infrastructure projects such as Sydney Bridge and the enlarged Crewe Green round-about have been presented to the Parish Council following which members forwarded their views to the public consultation. I personally have some concerns about the ease of entry from Haslington/Crewe Green at peak times but have been assured the simulations do not indicate a problem. I trust that will be the case.

Traffic along the B5077 and Slaughter Hill continue to present problems. The B5077 is arguably not fit for purpose given the narrowness, particularly along Narrow Lane, given the increase volume of traffic and the size of some of the vehicles now transiting.

Slaughter Hill is troublesome especially at the very narrow bottleneck at its entry into Haslington. Various means of alleviating the latter problem have been considered. These largely involved restricting heavy vehicles to Narrow Lane but doing so would merely transfer the problem to another already problematic site. Experiments were made in routing buses along Narrow Lane but this resulted in damage to mirrors and buses having to mount pavements as well as reducing services to Haslington. The current proposal of a lay-by on Slaughter Hill is intended to allow large vehicles especially buses to stagger their entrance to the pinch point.

The Parish Council at various times has had perennial difficulties in recruiting councillors although currently we only lack one. Suggestions at various times have been made that perhaps we should combine with Haslington but that has been rejected whilst we can maintain a quorum. I personally have supported this Parish Council since my time as a Borough Councillor. Although we have much in common with our neighbouring parish which is considerably larger, not everything perfectly aligns but where it does it gives another voice to strengthen presentations to County level. Haslington is very supportive which of course we reciprocate.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council for their support and efforts during the past year.

It is invidious to mention individuals because everyone has contributed but I would like to mention:

Roy Spruce, for his diligence and professionalism in scrutinising planning policy and planning applications. Gerald Twiss, for dealing with lighting and electricity which is often a frustrating task. I wish for Gerald that his treatment at Leighton will produce a speedy recovery.

David and Alex. For their rural knowledge of the area.

Our County Councillors David Marren and John Hammond, who have been most helpful in conveying our concerns and keeping us in touch with County matters. David is of course also a member of our Parish Council and illuminates our discussions with his knowledge of the background issues.

And last but most certainly not least my wife Anne who keeps me on the straight and narrow with if necessary a well-aimed kick under the table which I usually deserve."

## **9. REPORT FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS**

As Councillor Marren was unable to attend the meeting the following report had been circulated to the Parish Council prior to the meeting:

### **Cabinet Tuesday, 9th May, 2017 2.00 pm**

- 1) Will consider a report which highlights the findings of the recent informal stakeholder consultation on the proposed duelling of the single carriageway section of the A500 between the M6 and Crewe and Nantwich. The report recommends a preferred option for the scheme and seeks approval to undertake the further work necessary to submit a planning application and to develop the Outline Business Case. Ie

- a) adopt Option 2 as the preferred solution: Three different options have been considered for widening the existing A500 to a dual carriageway; adding a new carriageway to the north of the existing (Option 1); adding a new carriageway to the south of the existing (Option 2), and; adding a new carriageway that alternates between the north and south to avoid constraints (Option 3).
- b) Authorise the development of Option 2 to enable the preparation of a planning application and the Outline Business Case and to submit the Outline Business Case to the Department of Transport

c) to issue the statutory notices to enter land for survey purposes associated with the proposed new road.

d) Note that the Scheme Cost Estimate currently stands at £57m and that it will continue to be refined as the design is developed further

**2)** To consider a proposal to bring to final tender the procurement for the collection and treatment of food waste as a part of the garden waste bin recycling scheme.

### **Devolution and sub-regional working across Cheshire and Warrington**

Since 2015 Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington Councils, along with the Local Enterprise Partnership, like many other regions, have been considering a devolution deal for the sub-region.

In Cheshire East, a Members Working Group has been established to advise the Cabinet and Council on a future deal to ensure it meets the needs and ambitions of the Borough and to consider the implications for future partnership working in the sub region. This cross-party group has been meeting bi weekly since December 2016 and has been receiving updates on progress within the sub region and detailed Briefing Notes to inform its discussion on the main topics for consideration regarding the principles of a potential Devolution Deal.

Devolution involves reaching an agreement to transfer national powers and resources so that regions can make decisions locally to support economic growth and the transformation of services.

The specific powers and funding that we are exploring include those around housing, transport, business support, skills and public service transformation funding.

On 13 February Warrington Council's Executive Board decided to pursue a deal with Cheshire. At this stage, we will consider as part of an iterative process further discussions with our own Members, Ministers and civil servants over the content of a potential deal. If Cheshire East Members were supportive this could lead to a public consultation on the draft agreement. Our Members have not concluded their deliberations.

In the event of a successful deal being negotiated all Councils would continue to be independent bodies, responsible for their local services, and would not lose any of their powers.

We understand, like with devolution deals elsewhere, it is likely that a 'Combined Authority' will need to be formed so that a legal entity is in place to manage and be accountable for the new powers.

This is not councils merging or the creation of a super council, it's a new body that could manage the powers transferring from London to Cheshire and Warrington, and as has happened elsewhere. It does not affect the services and decision-making abilities already sitting with local councils.

Again, as a reminder, the Combined Authority would be represented by the Leaders of the Councils and chaired by a directly elected Mayor. The Mayor would be ultimately accountable for the new powers transferring from central government and would not influence decisions currently made by local councils.

A lot of work will take place to further consider Cheshire East's position

#### **Highways**

#### **Winter Service**

With the forecast of milder temperatures Winter Service will be closed down for this summer and the daily winter service action notifications will resume again in late October.

#### **Verge Maintenance**

The urban highway verge cutting programme (speed limits of 40mph or less) is now fully operational with crews working across the Borough on a daily basis; generally in an area every two weeks. We are currently still in the daffodil bulb die back period to allow the bulbs to regenerate successfully for next seasons growth.

#### **Weed Treatment**

The highway weed treatment includes the kerb / channel and the back edge of the footway, where it borders a wall or fence. The anticipated start date for the full programme is anticipated as mid may. In addition to these programmed treatments, we will also monitor the network and have resources working on a reactive basis with the aim to have a weed free network. If you have any areas of concern, then please don't hesitate to bring these to attention.

#### **HIGHWAY DRAINAGE**

##### Programmed Gully Emptying

**The gully emptier started Route 38 Crewe on 4<sup>th</sup> April and will be on this route for approximately 32 days until 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Gully emptying schedules, as well as other routine maintenance programmes, are designed using an asset management-based approach. Data collected during previous schedules, together with information such as the classification of road, proximity of schools, likely flood risk etc. allows us to define the frequency of emptying for all gullies across the network. Although not all gullies will form part of the programmed empty each year, highways will attend to specific issues where gullies are blocked and causing a danger to highway users or flooding to property.

With the success of the Level 1, 2 and 3 approach for carriageway and footway maintenance, highways will now be extending this strategy to the highway drainage programmes.

##### Level 1 – Empty and Clean

The initial emptying and cleansing of each gully.

##### Level 2 – Investigate and repair

Following on from level 1 works, where a problem is identified that can't be rectified at the time of the initial visit, highways will look to incorporate any further works within future programmes including:

- high pressure water jetting
- excavating onto the drain to discover the cause of the problem

##### Level 3 – Replace, renew, upgrade

Within our capital investment programme, they are able to carry out a number of minor improvement schemes to resolve those long-standing problems where the solution may have been identified previously but funding has not been available.

Details of this year's gully emptying schedules, together with clear and cleanse programmes, can be found by clicking on the following link [http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads/highway-services/gullies-and-drains/gullies-and-drains.aspx](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/highway-services/gullies-and-drains/gullies-and-drains.aspx)

Whilst working in an area, any gullies that are identified as requiring further jetting works will be identified with a red tag at the time of jetting. The crew will then endeavour to re-visit and resolve the issue before they leave the area. In the event that they are unable to do so, then this information will be fed back into the system and will be included for future works

##### **CEC Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Mat 2017 at Tatton Park**

Stepping Down is Olivia Hunter to be succeeded by Cllr Arthur Moran an independent from Nantwich. The Deputy Mayor will be Cllr Lesley Smetham a Conservative Councillor for Gawsworth.

##### **Partnership Newsletter**

The Newsletter, along with deadline dates and back copies, is also available on our [website](#). **Please send articles (maximum of no more than 200 words) with accompanying photograph or logo for the May / June Newsletter by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.** When considering articles for the Newsletter please think about stories or projects which have either been completed in partnership, require partnership input or maybe need support or help with resources, changes within your organisation or consultations which you wish to share with a wider audience, events, conferences and training opportunities which you wish to promote and posters, leaflets and information for organisations to display on their notice boards.

Councillor Hammond reported that there is to be a bus service review consultation which starts on 18<sup>th</sup> May which is unlikely to have a major effect on the Crewe Green area and also mentioned that there is to be the introduction of food waste bins from April 2019.

## 10. PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

### Highways

This was covered in the Chairman's report. There were no further items reported.

### Environmental Matters

The litter in the area is a concern.

### Street Lighting

Councillor Twiss continues to monitor the street lighting.

## 11. CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received since the previous meeting in March, which had been circulated and noted, as follows:

### From CEC

- Email on behalf of Cllr Ainsley Arnold, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning - Spatial Planning Update
- Communities Together - The Great Get Together will be taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June and people across the whole of the country will be getting together to mark the first anniversary of Jo Cox's murder on 16<sup>th</sup> June last year.
- Spatial Planning Update – March 2017

### From CEC – Councillor J Hammond

- VRDS DISABILITY NEWSLETTER

### Chalc

- Bulletins and Newsletters

## 12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- The Clerk reported that the Yorkshire Bank in Crewe will be closing from June 2017. It was noted that the Crewe Green Parish Council bank account will then transfer to the Macclesfield branch.
- The PC account balance as at 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was £6955.47. The first instalment of the 2017/2018 Parish Precept of £1500 was received from Cheshire East Council on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
- **Approval of Annual Audit Return**
  - Completion of Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2016/17: The PC considered points 1-8 of the Statement in Section 1, which was approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.
  - Completion of Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2016/17: The PC considered the Statement in Section 2, which was approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.
- **Approval of Accounts – 2016/2017**

The end of year accounts were approved and the internal auditor's report was received and noted.

**RESOLVED/- Clerk to return the completed Audit Return to the external auditor and to arrange to display the 2016/17 Accounting Statements and the Exercise of Public Rights Accounts on the noticeboards and website.**

Cheques were approved and signed for:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Chalc Affiliation Fee 2017 – Cheshire Association of Local Councils         | £61.95  |
| • Electricity Bill – 31.12.16 to 31.03.17 – Scottish Power                    | £111.38 |
| • Room Booking for the 9 <sup>th</sup> May PC Meeting – Mrs G Hawthornthwaite | £30.60  |
| •   |         |

It was agreed that the PC did not wish to renew the membership of the Cheshire Community Action Group.

## 13. PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Spruce provided a Planning and Summary of 2016/2017 report as follows:

“The number of Planning Applications requiring consideration by the Parish Council has remained relatively low.

In 2016/2017, the Parish Council considered only 9 no. Planning Applications.

As is usually the case in our Parish these Applications were however quite varied in type and scale.

The largest and most recently considered Application was for 5 no. warehouses on University Way. This Application remains undecided.

An Application for advertising relating to the Swansway Crewe Jaguar showroom was also considered - a project that is now completed and open for business on this prominent site being adjacent to the Crewe Green roundabout.

There were also a couple of Applications which related to the agricultural sector, being the Established Use Certificate Application at Top End Farm and the new livestock building at Park Farm.

Other Applications covered works to trees and other minor works.

The continuing lack of a Borough Local Plan and the inherent lack of a proven 5 year housing land supply continues to fuel the higher levels of Planning Application activity elsewhere within Cheshire East.

The Local Plan process continues to move forward and CGPC has responded to consultation requests as required. As part of this process, I have also attended CHALC meetings where responses have been collated on behalf of Town and Parish Councils within CEC. This has been a useful barometer to assess issues and concerns raised by other Councils at this level of the hierarchy.

I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council considered carefully all Planning Applications and consultation requests and responded to the Borough Council within the required consultation period. I would like to put on record again my thanks to Gaynor for her efforts again in this regard.

I would also like to again apologise for my absence from a number of meetings over the last 12 months due to my business and personal interests in both the UK and France, but trust that this has not unduly impacted on the Planning requirements of this Council.

I will as ever endeavour to keep track of the current Planning Applications and consultation requirements, even if this is done remotely and provide input as best as I can."

The PC had received a noted the Cheshire East Council Minerals and Waste Development Plan consultation and the Provision of Indoor Sports Facilities consultation.

**14. NEWSLETTER REPORT AND 2016/2017 NEWSLETTER REPORT**

A Newsletter Report had not been provided this year as it had been agreed that the next Newsletter should be published when there is something significant to report and that any items of public interest would be published on the PC website.

It was agreed that the next Newsletter should include information about the Parish Council and Parish Councillors, once a new Clerk had been appointed.

**15. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Church Matters**

Ron Taylor from St Michael & All Angels Church reported that currently it is a quiet time at the Church. The church is being used as a Polling Station on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and the church will be having a cake stall at the Haslington May Day event on the 20<sup>th</sup> May on the Green. The Summer Church Fair is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Parish Clerk Vacancy**

An advert is to be placed on the Chalch and Cheshire East Council website.

**RESOLVED/- Clerk to follow up and to note as an agenda item for the July meeting.**

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is the is to be held on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.00 pm**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed ..... Date .....

THESE MINUTES REMAIN UNRATIFIED UNTIL SIGNED AS CORRECT AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING