

CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Email: crewegreenpc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of Crewe Green Parish Council held at Yoxhall Village Hall on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7pm

N.B. CGPC remains quorate providing at least one third of all Members are present and not less than 3.

(See STO item 1:x)

Denise French Clerk

Present

Councillor Deakin (Chair) and Councillors T A Browne, A Heler, D Lewis and S Edgar.
D French, Locum Clerk

41/21 Apologies:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Lewis.

42/21 Councillor Vacancies

There were no applicants to join the Parish Council and the two current vacancies remained.

43/21 Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

44/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Edgar declared that he was a member of Cheshire East Council's Community Governance Review panel and would not participate in any decision on this matter.

45/21 Public participation

There were 5 members of the public present. They raised concerns about lack of information regarding the Parish Council on both the website and noticeboards and also lack of information regarding the Community Governance Review. They sought clarification on the proposals relating to the boundary review and how this would impact on the Parish Council. Councillor Edgar explained that the boundary review proposals could result in some residents currently living in Crewe Green parish becoming part of Crewe Town Council's (CTC) boundary. There were currently 185 residents on the electoral roll for Crewe Green Parish Council and most of these could become part of CTC. The new development that was part of the South Cheshire Growth village would result in some new residents becoming part of Crewe Green.

In Weston and Basford Parish the boundary review proposed that Wychwood Park could be removed from the Parish. Both Crewe Green and Weston and Basford PCs had formed a joint steering group to consider the proposals from the Community Governance review and a joint letter had been sent to Cheshire East Council on behalf of both PCs supporting a merger of the 2 Parish Councils. The merger was based on the revised boundaries for both PCs and a new name had been discussed of Stowford PC.

Councillor Edgar explained that a leaflet on the proposals had been hand delivered to all properties; some members of the public explained they had not seen the leaflet and Councillor Edgar agreed to provide a copy by email for circulation and for the website. Members of the public felt there was affection attached to the name Crewe Green. Councillor Edgar explained the importance of maintaining a rural perspective which was felt could be better achieved by a merger with Weston and Basford. An additional benefit would be the opportunity for additional funds through Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) which could be available to Weston and

Basford as they had a Neighbourhood Plan whereas Crewe Green did not. The names of Crewe Green and Weston and Basford could be incorporated in any new parish name. Councillor Edgar explained that the boundary changes would start to be decided in January 2022 and over the next 12 months but would not come into effect until August 2023, after the next local elections in May.

It was noted that the former Clerk had not long left the post and the new Clerk was currently not able to update the website or noticeboards

46/21 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the Meeting held on 29 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

47/21 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting.

48/21 Community Governance Review and amalgamation with Weston and Basford

The Chair explained that the joint steering group had not met for 4 months. He would speak to the Chair of Weston and Basford PC regarding making progress including whether a meeting could be held in public and how to communicate with residents.

Resolved: that the Community Governance Review be considered further at the next meeting.

49/21 Community Garden

An update was provided by the project manager. Volunteers had undertaken various works including weeding, mowing and tidying. The fence could not be painted by the Community Payback Group. There had been a lack of additional support from residents although successful events had been held in the past such as community bulb planting. There was an outstanding invoice for the fence paint. A spreadsheet was circulated showing the grant funding income and expenditure. The remaining unspent balance was £402.98. The Council was requested to consider both a financial and personal commitment to maintaining the garden. The Council was also asked to put some photos on the website which the Clerk agreed.

Resolved: that:

- (a) the remaining balance of £402.98 be paid to the Project Manager; and
- (b) the Community Garden be considered further at the next meeting.

50/21 Planning Decisions and applications

Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were noted:

21/0810N, detached garage, re-alignment of driveway and new front wall – Ivy Dene, Crewe Road, Crewe Green – REFUSED • 21/1551N – Listed Building consent to remove the existing masonry paint from all elevations, carry out repointing works, replace damaged bricks as necessary and apply a limewash paint as a suitable alternative coating – Crewe Hall Farm Cottage, Old Park Road – APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

Planning Withdrawals

There were no planning withdrawals to report.

Planning Applications:

21/4111N, listed building consent for installation of a septic tank and drainage system – Fir Tree and Vicarage Cottages, Narrow Lane

Resolved: that no objections be made to this application.

51/21 Cheshire Growth Village

Councillor Edgar reported that there was no update to this meeting.

52/21 Speeding Initiative

An initiative had been promoted by Chalc working with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and his officers to develop partnership working with local councils. This would involve pilot schemes in four localities where average speed cameras could be installed. There would need to be a financial commitment from the local council.

Councillor Browne referred to speeding issues on the B5077 and a recent road accident. The Clerk reported that some councils had funded Speed Indicator Devices and received grant funding from the PCC towards this.

Resolved: that the update be noted.

53/21 Reports from Councillors

Cllr A Lewis had sent the latest report from PC Jolley which the Clerk had circulated.

Councillor D Lewis circulated a location plan showing the street lights for which the council was responsible. Members discussed whether the street lights were necessary from a light pollution perspective but pedestrian and cyclist safety was also important. The option of converting to LED was discussed which was expected to cost around £450 per light.

Councillor Edgar referred to the street lighting officer at CEC and also that he had a highways budget still to be allocated. Councillor Browne referred to the removal of warning signage on the B5077 which was understood to be because it was out of date. Contact would be made with the street lighting officer at CEC for an assessment of the street lights including the option of conversion to LED.

54/21 Clerks report

The Clerk referred to the handover which had been protracted. She now had the keys to the noticeboard and the contact for the website and training would be arranged. She would be able to progress the banking once the council had made a formal resolution.

55/21 Report from Cheshire East Councillor

Cllr Edgar updated had no further update.

56/21 Correspondence

The Clerk outlined various correspondence she had circulated including the Police and Crime Plan and Community Governance Review.

57/21 Financial matters

The Council considered:

- (a) the Internal Audit Report;
- (b) the Annual Governance Statement
- (c) the Accounting Statements
- (d) authorising Denise French, the Clerk and RFO, to manage the bank account and undertake relevant transactions
- (e) payments of the accounts and a summary of the Bank account
- (f) that NatWest has made an apology and paid the Parish Council the sum of £300
- (g) making a payment to the former Clerk/RFO in recognition of additional work undertaken to address the banking issues with NatWest

Resolved that

- (a) the Internal Audit report, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements be deferred to the next meeting;
- (b) the Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the Parish Council bank account, be changed to add Denise French, clerk and RFO and Councillors Martin Deakin and Alison Lewis and the current mandate will continue as amended;
- (c) the account summary and payments be deferred to the next meeting;
- (d) the apology from NatWest be noted; and
- (e) the payment to the former clerk be deferred to the next meeting.

58/21 Councillor Matters

There were no additional matters.

Note: no decision can be made on these matters but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council.

Remembrance

Resolved: that the Chair will lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

59/21 Date of next meeting

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be in December at a date to be confirmed.

Please note Provisional Meeting dates are as follows: 17 January 2022, 21 March 2022, 16 May 2022

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

