



STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM AT THE SANDY LANE CENTRE, SANDY LANE, STOCKTON HEATH.

Present: Councillor H J Dutton (Chair)

Councillors S Barlow, N Bent, S W Boggan, S L Dean, A M Fell, L Murphy, S H Taylor, P Todd, P J Walker, G Welborn and J C Wheeler.

Attending: Mrs. L Jacob (Clerk); PCSO Chris Hodgson; three members of the public.

18/083 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C E Jones, C E Jordan and D Robb.

18/084 Declarations of interest

Cllr Walker and Cllr Wheeler declared that they were members of Warrington Borough Council Development Management Committee and would therefore not participate in any items regarding planning issues.

18/085 Public Participation

85.1 PCSO Monthly Report

PCSO Chris Hodgson attended and gave his report for October 2018. This included eight incidents of theft, the majority occurring in or around retail outlets and restaurants/bars; one theft of number plates; three burglaries including the theft of a car and damage to a garden shed; two traffic incidents although no injuries were sustained; eight incidents of anti-social behaviour, including disturbances by young people during Halloween, neighbour disputes, a motorbike being ridden in the early hours of the morning and incidents of dog fouling.

Cllr Wheeler highlighted the dangers to pedestrians of crossing at the Sandy Lane/London Road junction.

PCSO Hodgson remained at the meeting and offered advice to residents and participated during the report given at minute 18/093.

85.2 Members of the Public

A resident reported that a hedge on Whitefield Road has overgrown the boundary of the property to which it belongs by such an extent that it impedes pedestrians using the pavement. The hedge is on a bend in the road which exacerbates the danger. Warrington Borough Council have been informed and they report that two letters have been sent to the resident advising them of the report. No action has been taken by the householder to date. The case was opened in June 2018. The clerk reported that she had viewed the issue. Cllr Barlow reported that she had visited the owner in the past. The clerk to enquire to WBC to establish where the case currently stands and to write a letter to the residents to advise them that the issue has been brought to the attention of the parish council.

A resident reported that Sandy Lane has been increasingly used by coaches and heavy goods vehicles; that the 20 mph speed limit is not observed by drivers and that parking on each side of the pavement is hazardous. PCSO Hodgson advised that he could monitor the situation. Additionally, the resident was dismayed at the unsatisfactory surface of the Forge Car Park. Cllr Barlow provided information on the traffic consultation held by WBC on Sandy Lane; suggested that some measures could be pursued regarding speed and gave an update on the planning that WBC is undertaking with regard to the Forge Car Park.

A resident reported on the events held for the World War I Centenary Commemoration

and asked the parish council to consider writing to and making a donation to the charities chosen by the bag piper and bugler. This will be placed on the agenda for the Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committee to consider on 4 December 2018.

Cllr Dutton added her thanks to the many people in the community, from the churches to the children and scouts group, who came together to provide a memorable and fitting tribute on Armistice Day.

Cllr Murphy reported on the successful event, the Armistice Tea, held by the Friends of South Warrington in Stockton Heath Library on Saturday 10 November 2018.

The resident also reported that permission has been given by the Forge Shopping Precinct owners for Christmas decorations to be displayed and that Promote Stockton Heath have organised Christmas events for 8 December 2018.

85.3 Presentation by Richard Moore, WBC Environmental Protection Officer (Air)

Mr Moore sent his apologies as he was unable to attend and also advised that the information that might be shared at the meeting would form part of the Local Plan and must be available publically before it can be discussed with the parish council. The Local Plan consultation is now scheduled for April 2019.

18/086 Minutes

86.1 Parish Council

Resolved that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

86.2 Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committee

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning, Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 6 November 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

18/087 Matters to be resolved arising from the minutes

To consider the recommendations of the Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committee of Tuesday 6 November 2018.

87.1 (minute P18/038) **Recommended** that approval be given for payment of the accounts as detailed on the schedule of payments dated 6 November 2018.

Resolved to accept the recommendation.

18/088 Matters arising from the minutes

The following updates on matters arising from agenda items from the aforementioned meetings, where the item is not listed under discussion below, were received:

Parish Council Tuesday 9 October 2018:

88.1 (minute 18/077.4) The Litter Pick event on 21 October 2018 was attended by councillors and about 16 residents, including several children. The event was followed that evening by a Bat Watch at Ackers Pit which attracted over 50 residents and at least two bats.

88.2 (minute 18/077.5) The bench at Walton Road has now been installed.

88.3 (minute 18/077.6) A resident completed a thorough clean-up of the lane by Bessie's Pie shop prior to the Remembrance Day event and was commended by councillors for the sterling effort given. The clerk has written to residents whose properties back on to the lane to alert them to the clean-up operation and request if they could help to maintain the area by periodically checking and clearing the area common to their property boundary.

88.4 (minute 18/078) Registering of Assets of Community Value is underway. The clerk has sought guidance from WBC and is awaiting a reply.

88.5 (minute 18/079) The next meeting of Promote Stockton Heath is 26 November 2018 at the Red Lion, 6-7pm.

88.6 (minute P18/057.d) The planning application 2018/32789, amended plans 53 Denbury Avenue, was refused by the Development Management Committee at its meeting on 7 November 2018.

18/089 Parish Action Plan

The parish action plan was discussed. The clerk explained that this was the first step in the process for forecasting the budget for financial year 2019/20 and that consideration of the services and projects which Stockton Heath Parish Council wished to deliver were outlined in the plan. This year the Village Committee and Land Assets Committee had discussed and contributed their plans and considered the financial implications. The impact of the decision by Warrington Borough Council to remove the council tax grant was also discussed, being that the Band D equivalent homes will be reduced by 167 for the coming financial year, which equates to a drop in precept income of £6576 at the current rate of £48 per Band D property. Warrington Borough Council have also announced that they are required to make savings of up to £25 million in the coming year and this may have an impact on service delivery locally. Cllr Barlow proposed and Cllr Taylor seconded that the action plan should be approved as the basis for forecasting the budget.

Resolved that the action plan will be adopted and form the basis for the proposed budget for financial year 2019/20.

18/090 Creamfields 2018

Councillors were broadly in agreement that the impact of the festival on Stockton Heath was minimal. It was agreed that Cllr Wheeler, who would be attending in her capacity as a parish councillor of a neighbouring parish, would also represent Stockton Heath and report back on the meeting being held on 29 November 2018.

18/091 Night Time Economy Consultation

The recent WBC consultation on the Night Time Economy was discussed and it was agreed that a response should be sent on the following points: Stockton Heath Parish Council believes there are sufficient bars, restaurants and cafes serving the village and that further establishments would equate to a surplus; that closing times during weekdays would be preferable before midnight; that the night time economy creates a litter problem that is not always serviced by Warrington Borough Council; that parking and traffic issues arise from users of the night time economy in the area and that there is an increase in noise and disturbance levels, particularly in the summer months and at times of celebration such as New Year.

18/092 Christmas Lights Switch On

The arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch On event on Friday 30 November 2018 were discussed and it was

Resolved that:

- a) Arrangements will be made for turning on the lights in Victoria Square on Friday, 30 November commencing at 6pm. The Clerk has advised the head teachers of St. Thomas' School and Stockton Heath Primary School and the Landlord of the Mulberry Tree Public House, Victoria Square of this confirmed date.
- b) City Illuminations will provide illumination to 5 trees at Victoria Square, one tree at Pilling Gardens, one tree at Whitefield Road junction and one tree at St. Thomas' Church. They will also install and remove lights from the real Christmas Tree at Victoria Square, provide the necessary test certificates and arrange for the necessary permits and licenses by liaising with WBC.
- c) Tim Stansfield has been requested to provide a Christmas Tree in Victoria Square and, on the account of the Parish Council, as a gesture of goodwill, Christmas Trees for

display to the front of the five Charity Shops in the village centre – Claire House, Age UK, Save the Children, Mind and St. Roccas, on the understanding they provide their own lights.

- d) The same arrangements as for 2017 have been made for the provision of a public address system by Acts Sound & Lighting and a small platform for the Chairman.
- e) School choirs from Stockton Heath Community Primary School and St. Thomas' C E Primary School have been invited to sing carols and 300 carol sheets have been printed.
- f) A lantern-making event, supported by the South Area Neighbourhood Team, will be held at St. Thomas' Church Hall on a drop-in basis on 30 November 2018 from 3.30pm until 5.00 pm. Children will be invited to parade with their lantern to Stockton Heath Primary School following the Switch On.
- g) A parish newsletter will be delivered to homes in the parish prior to the switch on event which gives details of the Lantern-making activity and the Switch On event.

18/093 Reports from Outside Bodies

The following reports from attendance at other meetings were received.

Police and Crime Commissioner Parish Liaison Meeting, 6 November 2018 attended by Cllrs Barlow and Jordan.

Cllr Barlow provided a report in the absence of Cllr Jordan:

The meeting was well attended by parishes and the new Chief Inspector for Warrington, Simon Meegan, was introduced. Stockton Heath had reported to the meeting that they were receiving a good service from the PCSO team but wanted to move forwards with the idea of holding joint surgeries and receiving information in addition to the monthly crime report. Cllr Barlow suggested that a half-yearly review meeting with Inspector Neil Drum should be arranged soon.

18/094 Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided information received since the Monthly Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 9 October 2018. Additional items received since 7 November were tabled.

18/095 Councillors' Reports

Cllr Walker – reported that changes had taken place to the Planning Policy Guidance regarding the assessment of local housing need and that a consultation had been issued from central government. He volunteered to send a response to the consultation on behalf of the parish council.

Cllr Todd – enquired if there were any plans to provide a defibrillator at the Sandy Lane Centre.

Cllr Dean – reported that the broken sign at Ackers Road had been replaced.

Cllr Boggan – reported that the faulty lights at the Medical Centre had not been repaired; that a retail property might have contravened the conservation area design statement by using a colour out of keeping with the adjoining properties; that WBC should be asked if parking on Sandy Lane can be restricted to one side of the street.

Cllr Taylor – the brick paving at Victoria Square has lifted due to tree root growth and become uneven; that a male had been seen begging at the Forge Shopping Precinct and in the car park.

Cllr Barlow – it is possible that WBC will not be supplying bedding plants at Alexandra Park and that the parish council might consider a partnership with the Friends, utilising our current contractor to assist in providing planting at the park; there is no signage to the park or the library on the highway and that WBC might be approached for permission to explore how such signage could be provided.

Cllr Dutton and Cllr Murphy commented on the World War I Centenary Commemoration, minuted earlier.

Part II

18/096 Staffing

An update was provided on a staffing matter and it was agreed that the arrangements that have been put in place are appropriate and are to continue until the matter is resolved.

18/097 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 December 2018 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm