

PEOVER SUPERIOR PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk - Liz McGrath
Telephone - 01565 653844

Chairman - John Bennett
Vice Chairman - Gordon McGrath

Minutes of meeting

Held at 7.45pm on Tuesday 29th June 2010 at Over Peover School.

Present: Chair of meeting John Bennett (JB), Gordon McGrath (GM), Peter Clarkson (PC), Barry Wienholdt (BW), Anthony Dobell (AD), Bessie Coppack (BC), Sheila Read (SR), Jamie Macrae (JM), The Clerk.

10.62 Apologies for absence: Jill Wille (JW) sent her apologies as she will arrive late to the meeting.

10.63 Declarations of interest in any agenda item - PC declared an interest in the affordable Housing item as a neighbour to the proposed development.

10.64 Minutes of May Meeting - already circulated. AD proposed and BW seconded that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting and they were duly signed as a correct record.

10.65 Discussion of Matters arising from last meeting

- Benches - BC reported she had contacted Kieth White and he would get on with the job as soon as he was able. SR and GM reported that the new bench on the parish field would be installed before the next meeting.

10.66 Finance - The clerk reported she had attended a training session on finance and there were a few changes she would like to make to the systems already in place. One such suggestion was that the members signing the cheques should not only initial the cheque stub but also the invoice as an extra level of scrutiny.

10.66.01 Authorisation granted to pay the following: - JB/AD

- Cheshire East Room Hire for meeting 18/5/2010 £29.80
- Hulse landscapes, mowing war memorial and cross roads £75.00 plus £13.12 VAT
- Clerks Fee and expenses - Liz McGrath £529.55 plus £4.90 VAT
- Printing of Parish Plan Flyer - Viv Cunningham £111.18 plus £19.46 VAT

10.67 Cheshire East Council Report - JM reported to the meeting that along with the published cuts in the government budgets there are cuts being made in the current year's budget in several departments. A synopsis of these cuts and how they will affect services and parish councils will be sent to all parish clerks to keep the parishes informed. Cheshire East are protected a little as they do not have a high support settlement from the treasury and they do have a level of flexibility to move money around to their own spending priorities however the cuts will have an impact. One area affected in the Local transport plan but any local parish works will be met, however speed reviews may suffer from the cuts.

The freeze on council tax will not affect the parish council's ability to set an appropriate precept but Police, fire and other authorities are under pressure to have a 0% rise.

Cheshire East will maintain their statutory responsibilities but cuts will come in the areas that are classed as desirable responsibilities such as free swimming. The Village Rider is a service JM would like to see publicised more among the villages as it is a service for all and not just the elderly. Hopefully new flyers will be produced that are more reader friendly. In the mean time publication on parish notice boards and newsletters would be appreciated.

Highways in Cheshire are funded from the government according to the mileage of A and B roads. Cheshire East has in JM's opinion, suffered from a chronic under investment in highways maintenance and this alongside the high number of C roads in the borough mean that our roads are not in a good state of repair. Therefore coupled with cuts to this years buget will result in tough decisions having to be taken. However a new procurement for road maintenance is being sought for autumn 2011.

Concern was raised over the lack of the road sweeper being used on the roads in Over Peover.

10.67.01 Simon Davies is to be contacted by the clerk regarding the schedule and absence of the road sweeper.

10.67.02 JM to follow up the implementation of the speed limit for Over Peover and the Clerk is to forward the summer newsletter to JM

JM left the meeting and JW arrived at 8.40pm.

10.68 Highways - Stocks Lane has been surveyed and it is hoped that in the autumn work will begin to connect an existing drain (if tests prove that it is a working drain) to new road gullies and re surfacing will take place from approx polo pitch to Stocks Old Vicarage. If by then no response to a letter regarding the wooden posts has been forthcoming and they have not been removed or replaced by white plastic markers the posts will be removed by highways.

Free Green and Chelford Lanes are on a wish list and Free Green is high on that list but no funds are available this year for the necessary resurfacing.

10.69 Planning - Planning Applications:- None received

Planning Decisions/Withdrawals

- Application 10/0510M - Old Vicarage - erection of 7 stables and tack room
APPROVED W/C
- Application 10/1130M and 10/1137M - Peover Hall - en-suite in chimney stack
APPROVED W/C
- Application 10/1122M - New Hall, Stocks Lane - Single storey rear extension
APPROVED W/C
- Application 10/1360M - 1, Free green Cottages - two storey extension side and rear
REFUSED
- Application 10/1386M - Oakfield Manor - alterations and extensions
APPROVED W/C

Report from planning seminar - the full report is to be circulated to members but there was disappointment that the new planning laws were not explained at the seminar except that in cases of certificate of lawfulness the planners need local knowledge to judge the validity of such applications and that is where the knowledge of the parish council comes in.

Affordable Housing - revised plans have been circulated to all previously consulted parties and objectors of the original application and comments should be made by 13th July 2010.

The farm shop has been withdrawn and the design of the 15 houses has been revised. Whilst the parish council welcomed the revised plans which are improved, the parish council feels the applicants could go further in their breaking down of the houses in to smaller groupings such as semi detached. The issue of 'local need' is still to be established and the council would welcome a formal survey to access the local need.

10.69.01 The council resolved that BW, AD and JB to draft a response in light of the meetings discussion and with reference to their original objections and points raised.

The parish council have received queries from residents regarding the apparent redevelopment/change of use of the gardens and land at SunnyCroft, Well Bank Lane, Over Peover. The issue is whether planning consent is necessary or has been received. **10.69.01 It was resolved to forward the concerns on to Cheshire East Planning department.**

The planning enforcement officer has forwarded an update on the application 09/1745M which was refused 26th Aug 2009. He is awaiting final approval of the draft notice.

10.70 Update on Parish Plan/IMG - JB reported that the summer flyer had gone out last week and so far there had been a poor response to the community speed check appeal. However the clerk had also received some interest and would speak to Steve Barnett regarding this. The quotes for the play equipment are not all in but the plan is to buy a small piece of play equipment and refurbish the rocking horse with the parish plan money.

The meeting on the 14th July will publicise all areas where help is needed and all are welcome.

Village Hall - 6 volunteers have come forward and so the owners of the village hall will be informed by letter and asked to confirm they are happy to still go ahead. Once their responses have been received the parish council will endeavour to get the new management committee together for a meeting before our next parish council meeting on 27th July 2010.

10.71 Christmas Tree Lights - Although there is a desire to have a Christmas tree in the village with Cheshire East no longer willing to supply, erect and take down the tree, the cost of creating the necessary electricity supply £500 - £600 and there being no volunteers to help with this project it was felt that it cannot go ahead for this year.

10.72 Trees – Meeting took place on 10th June 2010 between residents, parish council and Cheshire East Borough Council. Representing Cheshire East were George Broughton, Parks development manager, Dorian belt, Operations manager north, Gary Newsome, Assistant arboricultural officer, and Stuart Barber, senior arborist.

In the opinion of the arboricultural officer these trees are all perfectly healthy and have made significant compensatory growth to counter the lean they show. And whilst it may seem like a solution to remove the leaning trees this could in fact have a detrimental effect on the other trees in the area as each tree is protecting another from wind and harsh weather, removing just one could upset the whole line.

The problems of the sap leaking on to gardens are caused by Aphids eating the leaves of the trees and are in fact a sign of the diverse habitat which exists around the trees.

Residents whose gardens are affected by overhanging branches are within their rights to trim back to their boundary any overhanging branches but they must be aware that if any action taken by them leads to damage to the tree they are liable to prosecution.

Cheshire East did agree to come and trim the base of one tree as it poses a security risk as someone could be loitering behind it. They also agreed to come and remove a dead tree and dead branches from neighboring trees.

10.73 Parish Field Fencing – 3 quotes have been received all ranging from just under £3000 to £6000. The grant from Manchester airport is unlikely to cover the whole cost and with the current limits of the precept other funds are needed to pay for this project. **10.73.01 the meeting resolved to contact WREN to see if they would contribute and if so what percentage and also seek some funding from Barclays Bank and other local businesses.**

10.74 Correspondence

- Chalc area meeting none is available to attend, annual meeting clerk will respond with two names but attendees to be decided nearer the date and quality parish council the clerk is to enquire as to what is involved.
- Wiksteed brochure
- Invitation to rural housing event 8th July – GM and JW to attend
- Cheshire Local Access Forum best practice – to be circulated to all members
- Local Service delivery – details to be circulated to all members. Marylyn Kirby LAP manager attending September meeting and will hopefully update us on progress.

10.61 Any Other Business – None.

Meeting ended 10.09pm

NEXT MEETING 7.45 PM ON 27th July 2010 AT OVER PEOVER METHODIST