

Mollington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 January 2017 at Mollington, Backford & District Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mike Jones (in the Chair), Amanda Clarke, Charles Charlesworth, Phil Crane, Brian Crowe and Mike Riley

In Attendance: Mrs Pauline English (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

17.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Angus MacSween

17.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Charlesworth declared an interest in Minute 17.08 as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Councillor Riley declared an interest in Minute 17.05(2) in relation to St Oswald's School as he was an immediate neighbour

17.03 OPEN FORUM

No issues raised

17.04 MINUTES

It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

17.05 PLANNING

(1) Applications Received:

16/03810/FUL	Addition of conservatory and ramp and install new stone and level off driveway to create slant away from the home of Crabwall Hall Residential Home, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NE – No comments to be made
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(2) Decisions:

16/03810/FUL	Addition of conservatory and ramp and install new stone and level off driveway to create slant away from the home of Crabwall Hall Residential Home, Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester, Cheshire CH1 6NE – APPROVED by Borough Council
16/04625/FUL	Retention of small outdoor stage with roof and associated seating area at St Oswald's Church of England Aided Primary School, Grove Road, Mollington, Chester CH1 6LG – APPROVED by Borough Council with no conditions attached despite strong objections from neighbours and the Parish Council. Councillors had looked on the CWaC website for a copy of the Officer's report to find out why he had made this decision but there was no report available. Councillor Riley had written to the Planning Officer but had not received a response. It was agreed that a formal complaint should be made. Councillor Crowe would provide the correct forms.

(3) Awaiting Decision: None

17.06 HIGHWAYS, PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND AMENITY CLEANING

(1) Pothole repairs throughout the village were breaking up, especially on Station Road by the Village Green. Clerk to report this to CWaC.

(2) The sign at the corner of Townfield Lane/A540 had been flattened. Councillor Charlesworth had reported it to CWaC.

(3) A pathway was needed from The Elms in Townfield Lane to the bus stop outside Mollington Grange on the A540. Councillor Crowe to raise with Kieran Collins, CWaC Area Highways Manager.

(4) A refuge was needed on the A540 to enable people using the bus to cross the road in safety. The alternative might be to reduce the speed limit to 40mph. Clerk to contact Kieran Collins, CWaC Area Highways Manager.

(5) It was noted that the footpaths across the golf course were still accessible, although Footpath No.11 needed cutting back to allow easier access. Paths were still waymarked.

17.07 MOLLINGTON SCHOOL AND PLAYING FIELD

See Minute 17.05(2) above.

17.08 VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Charlesworth declared an interest in this item as he was the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

He reported that the Hall Committee still aimed to submit a grant application for the Hall rebuilding project to the Big Lottery Fund by the end of March. New questionnaires would be circulated to local individuals and organisations asking for their present and future needs of the Hall. The responses would form part of the justification in the application. The recently appointed Hon Treasurer had withdrawn because of other commitments. A potential replacement had been found and in the meantime the Chairman would cover. Mrs Janine Moorcroft had been appointed as Hon Secretary and had started work at once.

17.09 WEBSITES

It was agreed that Councillor Crane, Chris Jones (Mollington Digital Champion) and the Clerk should meet for a training session on loading information onto the Parish Council website. Councillor Crane offered to host the meeting.

17.10 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **CWaC Special Expenses Consultation:** Three services had been identified (play spaces, Christmas lights and PCSOs) the costs of which were potentially seen as double taxation. In a parished area one or more of the services might be provided by the Parish or town council and a Special Expenses allowance would be made in the Council Tax bill to offset these charges. Special Expense charges did not increase the total amount of money raised from residents. They adjusted how Council Tax was allocated to different areas depending on which of the three services they received from CWaC. An on—line questionnaire was provided on the website and comments were requested by 31 January 2017.
- (2) **CWaC Lord Mayor Consultation:** CWaC, on behalf of the Charter Trustees for the City of Chester, were seeking the views of residents on the future of the civic and ceremonial activities of the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of Chester. From April 2017 it was proposed that only the residents in the Chester Charter Trustee area would meet the costs for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Chester, rather than these being met by the residents of the CWaC borough area. It was noted that this would cost around £4-£5 per household.
- (3) **CWaC Parking Strategy Consultation:** Following extensive research, independent consultants had produced a draft Parking Strategy on which CWaC was now consulting. The Parish Council was of the opinion that there should be an inclusive strategy covering the whole borough.
- (4) **Cheshire Community Action (CCA) Community Pride Competition:** CCA had informed Local Councils that the Community Pride competition would not be taking place in 2017. Although Essar continued to offer financial support for the competition, over the past few years CCA had utilised a substantial amount of its own reserves to keep the competition alive and this was not sustainable. A review would be carried out over the next twelve months.

17.11 FINANCE

- (1) **Budget and Precept for 2017-18: Resolved** that:
 - a) the Clerk's salary from 1 April 2017 be increased to an hourly rate of £12.538 (£1,956 per annum) in accordance with the revised NJC salary scales notified by NALC/SLCC in May 2016.
 - b) the monthly fixed payment of £10 to mitigate the costs of having the Parish Council's registered office at the Clerk's home be agreed for 2017-18.
 - c) the rate per mile to be paid for casual use of own transport by both employees and Councillors on Parish Council approved business should remain at 45p per mile.

- d) the Amenity Cleaner's wage from 1 April 2017 be increased to £8 per hour and his hours of work remain at six per week.
 - e) the precept be set at £7,000 (a Band D payment of £20.71 per annum)
 - f) the offer by CWaC of the payment of the remaining Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £204 covering the years to 2020/21 be accepted.
 - g) the Parish Council should not renew membership of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils in 2017-18.
- (2) **Risk Assessment:** It was resolved that the Risk Assessment for 2017-18 be approved.
- (3) **Internal Audit for 2016/17:** The appointment of Wellfield Accounting Services as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2016/17 at a cost of £88+VAT be approved.
- (4) **Payments:** It was resolved that the following payments be approved

Cheque No.		Amount
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary October 2016	129.20
229	Village Hall Annual Grant	700.00
230	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	20.00
231	T C Charlesworth-Garden Competition engraving and gift tokens	50.84
S/O	Parish Clerk – salary November 2016	129.20
232	Village Hall-Room Hire	16.00
233	Amenity Cleaner-wages November 2016	156.00
234	Amenity Cleaner-wages December 2016	156.00
BACS	Parish Clerk-expenses September 2016-January 2017	87.65
BACS	Village Hall-Room Hire January + July 2016	32.00
235	Amenity Cleaner-wages January 2017	156.00
236	Amenity Cleaner-wages February 2017	156.00

- (5) **Receipts:** None
- (6) **Balance** as at 3 January 2017 - £12,352.31

17.12 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NEXT MEETING

- (1) ChALC and the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) were hosting a free Seminar in the Canalside Conference Centre, Middlewich on 23 January 2017 starting at 9.30am. The Seminar would update Local Councils on CWLEP's vision for Cheshire and would allow some input into the development of the Strategic Economic Plan. No-one available to attend.
- (2) It was noted that the Fire Station site in Ann Street, Chester had been sold for student accommodation and would be replaced by a small single vehicle Station. It was agreed that the Parish Council should write to Paul Hancock, the Chief Fire Officer, expressing concern at the lack of immediate cover for the many vulnerable buildings in Chester.

17.13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 March 2017 at 8.00pm.