

MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

held at the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on MONDAY 1st JULY 2019

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. ATTENDANCE

ACTION

Chairman: R. Collier

Council Members: M. Torrance (MT); J. Bowman (JB); R. Wilkinson (RW); D. Hammond (DH); J. Robins (JR).

Also present: G. Ayres (Parish Clerk); 5 members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. A. Lee; S. Coppel; L. Gibbons; P. Marshall

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

4. FORGE BROOK BRIDGE

Cllrs Marion Potts and Warren Davies from Marston Parish Council kindly outlined the current position. Until 2010 there was a permissive footpath along the southern edge of Budworth Mere from the A559 to Forge Brook but the landowner has not renewed this due to littering and anti-social behaviour. There was also a footbridge across the brook but this was damaged in 2017, deemed unrepairable and removed. Marston Parish Council is seeking to get both re-instated to improve access to Marbury Country Park. Loss of the bridge and footpath is a loss to the local community and has led to increased road usage to access the park as well as dangerous attempts to cross the brook.

The landowner is unwilling to enter into an agreement to re-establish the route across his land despite considerable support being demonstrated by a petition and the offer of a rota of local people to regularly inspect the path and remove litter.

It is not possible to demonstrate 20 years of use by the public since use of the path was called into question (ie when it ceased to be a permissive footpath). Thus, the only way to re-establish it is to make a Creation Order. CW&C are unwilling to do this but the Parish Council has similar rights to do so under the Highways Act 1980. Marston PC are considering this option but it could be costly.

They asked if the Parish Council knew of any person with legal experience who could help with this on a pro bono basis. Great Budworth PC will investigate this.

RC GA

They also asked if Great Budworth PC might be able to offer any financial support for the project. The Council agreed that it is sympathetic to the proposal to reinstate both footpath and bridge and will look at the matter again in six months' time when progress will be reviewed. They thanked the Marston Councillors for bringing it to their attention.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2019 were received and agreed as a correct record.

b) It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting were a correct record. They were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Representations were received regarding:

a) Delays to work on the Lower Pumphouse. The member of the public was referred to the earlier discussion at the Finance Committee. Delays are due to the fact that initial quotes received were unacceptable and so the work had to be put out to tender again. Funding is also an issue.

b) Guttering on the Top Pumphouse. It is understood that this was repaired following an insurance claim but now needs releasing. A working party will investigate this.

RW

c) Maintenance of the second section of the Avenue which is becoming overgrown with nettles. See item 10 below.

d) Parking. See item 9 below.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Given the protection afforded by Conservation Area status and Green Belt, the Council saw no advantage in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. It is an onerous process and few other parishes in the local area have gone ahead with it. It is understood that Comberbach PC has abandoned the idea having initially embarked on the process.

Cllr Coppell, who had raised the idea of a village social event to mark the screening of War of the Worlds, was not present at the meeting so the matter will be revisited at the next one.

SC

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

a) Traffic Mirror on Westage Lane. Cllr Lee who is leading on this was not at the meeting but will be asked for a report on progress.

AL

b) A559 Northwich Rd. A letter was sent to CW&C Highways Dept but no reply has been received. The Clerk will chase this but if nothing is forthcoming the matter will be escalated.

GA RC

c) Garden Bench on the Avenue. See item 11 below.

d) Lower Pumphouse Oak tree. Cllr Torrance will contact Nick Bowman to establish a start date assuming that there are no birds nesting. This work needs to be done before any work commences on restoring the Pumphouse itself.

MT

e) Smithy Lane grass verge. Cllr Hammond reported that this is no longer an issue as seen by Councillors at the site visit prior to the meeting.

f) Parish Field gate. At the site visit Councillors reviewed changes to the re-handing of the gate to improve vehicular access and egress.

RW

g) Parish Field storage container. At the site visit Councillors discussed Cllr Wilkinson's proposal to locate a steel container on the Field for Parish items currently stored at Westage Farm. Cllr Collier advised that he believed this would require planning consent and an initial conversation / consultation with the CW&C Planning Department should take place. The Clerk will investigate this. Meanwhile Cllrs Wilkinson and Hammond will

**GA
RW DH**

investigate other potential storage places in the Parish Hall. They will also look at the condition of the marquee to ascertain whether it might be preferable to discard it.

9. PARKING

There are two distinct issues – parking for local residents and inconsiderate parking by visitors to the pub and local events.

Cllr Bowman outlined the issues experienced by local residents and the Council agreed to further investigate residents' parking schemes. The Clerk will contact CW&C for advice on this.

GA

Visitor parking in the centre of the village causes problems of congestion (as demonstrated by the wedding the previous week) and can restrict access for emergency vehicles. Despite plenty of signage, it is clear that people are unwilling to walk from the Parish Field or Westage Lane. All voluntary measures outlined in the 2016 Parking Report have been implemented but with no success so now the Council will explore

- the use of bollards to display no parking notices as advised by Cllr Wilkinson. He will provide further information
- the potential for kerbing to discourage parking
- means of civil enforcement of parking restrictions

**RW
JR
RC**

In addition, the Clerk will arrange a meeting with the local PCSO to seek advice.

GA JB

10. THE AVENUE

Dog fouling – despite CW&C advising that they have addressed the problem, it still persists. Cllr Collier will log it again via their on-line system.

RC

Maintenance – the Clerk will seek a quotation from John Eaton to cut back the weeds and nettles. In the longer term it would be helpful to have an annual maintenance plan in place.

GA

11. FARTHING LANE

Cllr. Robins reported that the previous Chair of the Parish Council had obtained a quotation of £4320 + VAT for a new car park / turning circle at the top end of Farthing Lane but the cost was felt to be too high and the work was not proceeded with.

The siting of the garden bench needs to be considered as an integral part of any plans to improve the top end of Farthing Lane. The Clerk will contact CW&C to arrange a site visit with a view to moving the waste bin.

GA

12. TREE INCIDENT ON HIGH ST

Cllr. Wilkinson will liaise with the landowner and organise a working party to replace the stone slabs damaged by the tree fall.

RW

There was support for conducting a survey of trees owned by the Parish Council to establish their condition and the likelihood of something similar happening to one of them. Such a survey could also form the basis of a tree replacement strategy for the village. The Clerk will look through records to find when the last survey was conducted, by whom, and how much it cost.

GA

13. FINANCIAL REPORT

The recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting earlier the same evening were noted and agreed by the Council.

14. PLANNING

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections and no comments to make on applications 19/01838/FUL and 19/01839/LBC concerning alterations at the George and Dragon.

15. HS2

The Parish Council received the Clerk's report on the recent meeting held with the HS2 Engagement Team. The Council agreed not to comment on the latest HS2 consultation but will upload relevant information to the village website and attend quarterly meetings of the HS2 Implementation Advisory Group.

GA AL

16. CHESHIRE RAILINGS

The railings close to the entrance to the village are an important distinguishing feature, characteristic of the area and worthy of preservation. Those by the Lower Pumphouse were painted not long ago but those alongside the Plantation on the opposite side of the Northwich road are dilapidated. Cllr. Collier will speak with the owner to see if they can be better maintained.

RC

17. MANCHESTER AIRPORT

The Clerk will respond to the proposal from Manchester Airport to locate a temporary noise monitor in the village by suggesting it be located in the garden of Cllr. Hammond.

GA DH

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed as a true record
Chairman of the Parish Council