

MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

held by Zoom Video at 7.00pm on MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2021

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. ATTENDANCE

ACTION

Chairman: Cllr. R. Collier (RC)

Council Members: Cllrs. A. Lee (AL); M. Torrance (MT); J. Bowman (JB); S. Coppel (SC); J. Robins (JR); D. Hammond (DH).

Also present: Cllr. L. Gibbon; G. Ayres (GA - Parish Clerk) + two members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. R. Wilkinson

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J. Bowman regarding items 11 and 12 concerning trees.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were approved subject to one amendment noting that Cllr Lynn Gibbon sent her apologies.

5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following matters were raised:

a) the owner of 50 Church St highlighted problems caused to the property by trees at the Top Pumphouse. The roots are undermining the kitchen wall and stable block and are now also visible in the pub car park. A photo of cracks in the brickwork was displayed. She set out her preferred solution (remove and replace) and asked for a site visit with the CWAC Tree Officer. (See item 11 below);

b) the applicant for planning permission at 23 High St made a statement explaining the nature of the proposed development, the reasons for it and his concern to preserve the character of the building. (See item 6 below);

c) there are large numbers of cyclists and other visitors (often following a "treasure trail") in the village during lockdown, possibly in contravention of Government guidance to stay local. The PCSO has been informed. She will monitor the situation and take action in line with Cheshire Police's policy of "Engage, Explain, Encourage, Enforce";

d) concern was expressed at the poor state of the roads in the Parish and the large number of potholes. Cllr. Robins kindly offered to log the worst of the potholes on the CWAC "Report It" App.

JR

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS 20/04561/FUL and 20/04562/LBC - 23, High St.

Having heard from the applicant (see item 5b above) and seen written objections from a neighbour, the Parish Council decided not to object to these planning applications, but to ask CWAC to carefully consider the massing of the development and its impact on light in the neighbouring property when reaching a decision.

GA

7. BUDGET 2020/21

The budget for 2020/21 was reviewed against actual spend to end November and approved by the Parish Council.

It is likely that an additional £6000 will be spent before the end of the financial year plus any money spent on website and tree works.

8. PRECEPT

Bearing in mind the discussion on budget at item 7 above, it was agreed to keep the Band D precept charge for 2021/22 at £46.17. This amounts to a total of £9599 and is less than 2020/21 when it was £9760.

GA

9. PARKING

CWAC have undertaken informal consultations on the proposal for yellow lines at Bakery Cottage but formal consultations will only begin when pandemic lockdown restrictions ease.

10. PARISH FIELD

Cllr. Wilkinson and his working party were thanked for laying stone chips to improve the surface of the Parish Field. The Council agreed to pay the invoice for the material used (£381.62). This will come from the ringfenced money paid for filming in the village.

GA

11. TREE SURVEY

The Parish Clerk reported that CWAC have granted permission for work recommended in the survey to various trees on the Avenue and Parish Field. No application has been submitted yet for work to trees at the Top and Lower Pumphouses.

Lower Pumphouse – the Clerk will submit an application to CWAC for permission to carry out the work recommended in the tree survey.

GA

Top Pumphouse – having heard the concerns in item 5a above, and recognising the tree protection, health and safety, and insurance liability implications, the Parish Council decided to submit an application to CWAC to remove all three trees (two of which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders) and plant more suitable replacements. The Parish Clerk will complete the necessary paperwork. She will also ask the Tree Officer to attend a site meeting to discuss the matter and, should approval be forthcoming, the best way of going about it to prevent ground heave and further damage to property.

GA

12. PLEACHED LIME TREES ON HIGH ST (Noah's Ark)

One of the trees planted recently to replace a failed sapling is infected with phytophthora and dying. If not dealt with quickly it may infect other trees in the row. The Tree Officer has, therefore, approved urgent works to remove the tree. Cllr. Wilkinson will arrange this at no expense to the Parish Council. Consideration will be given to planting a replacement, possibly of a different variety, once a soil analysis has been undertaken. The Parish Clerk will circulate to Councillors information previously received about possible soil tests.

RW

GA

13. LOWER PUMPHOUSE

The Parish Clerk will instruct CWAC to undertake the necessary work to sample, test and risk assess the water quality, which they estimate will cost around £500. Cllr. Hammond reported that a one-off grant may be forthcoming from local CWAC Councillors to cover the cost and he will apply for this.

GA

DH

The renovation works to the Lower Pumphouse have been completed and Trinity's full and final invoice for £6611.14 has been paid. A cheque for £3500 has been received from the Heritage Society, being their contribution to the cost, and for which the Parish Council thanks them. Neither cheque has been banked yet.

Cllr. Collier will write to Trinity Renovations to ask for a sketch map of the position of the stop tap under the floor and consideration will then be given to a way of recording its location on site.

RC

14. WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

The work to address accessibility issues is in hand but not yet complete.

15. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

The Chair of the School Governors has asked for a grant of £500 towards new play equipment which will cost about £15,000 in total. The Parish Council appreciates that it will be a valuable learning and play resource which will be available to local children outside school hours. The current Parish Council Grant Awarding Policy specifically excludes "statutory organisations" but applications from community or voluntary groups are welcome. The Grant Awarding Policy and application form are available on the Great Budworth website and Cllr. Robins will bring this to the attention of the school.

JR

16. MEETING DATES 2021

It was agreed that meetings will continue to be held by Zoom video for the foreseeable future and the list of dates was noted. The dates will be posted on the website.

GA

17. HS2

Cllr. Lee reported that a large bundle of material about HS2 had arrived in the post but that it added little to existing understanding of the project, and the closing date for the consultation to which it referred had already passed when the bundle was received.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed as a true record
Chairman of the Parish Council