

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOWER PEOVER PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT LOWER PEOVER SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2013 AT 7.30PM**

Present Cllrs L. Halman (Chairman), S.D Nuttall, Mrs S. L. Geake, G.T. Dutton, R.E. Taylor, Mrs R. A. Kendall, J. A. Jackson
Cllr G Walton (Cheshire East Borough Council)
PCSO Kelly Mankee
Acting Clerk Mrs E A McGrath

Police Report – PCSO Mankee has spoken with local businesses and farmers and local people and the main concern is that of Speeding. As a result of this she has undertaken speed enforcement along Crown Lane. In 1 ½ hours 18 cars were pulled up and received speed awareness courses, fines and points. This has been reported in the Knutsford Guardian.

PCSO Mankee has also made contact with the school and they are hoping to run a poster design competition with the winning design being published in the village.

It is PCSO Mankee's opinion that permanent flashing speed signs may be a deterrent but the cost of these is considerable. She will continue to deploy the SID along Crown Lane from time to time.

Other policing issues are reports of theft from oil storage tanks and suspicious vehicles on Cheadle Lane. There has also been a rise in cold calling for scrap metal.

Cllr Kendall reported that some Red Cross charity workers have been cold calling and when refused has asked for a water bottle to be filled if refused they left the householder feeling intimidated.

PCSO Mankee said that these sorts of incident cannot be investigated unless they are reported.

Please encourage residents to report incidents such as these by calling 101.

PCSO Mankee is hoping to join up the rural watch scheme between east and west so that all the area is covered and there is joint action.

PCSO Mankee left the meeting.

13.01 Apologies - none

13.02 Minutes of the meeting held 15th January 2013

These were read to the meeting, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

13.03 Matters arising from the minutes not already covered in an agenda item.

The Chairman reported that meetings of the parish council can be held anywhere except licenced premises as long as the press and public can attend.

The Chairman also expressed thanks to Cllr Taylor and Cllr Walton for their work regarding the precept.

The Garden party invitation was open to Chairpersons and retiring chairpersons only.

The Chairman also asked that the clerk send letters of thanks to Phillip Kershaw and Jackie Weaver for their help regarding the absent Clerk.

Cllr Halman then Proposed that Liz McGrath be confirmed as acting clerk and RFO in Mr Leigh's absence. This was seconded by Cllr Kendall.

13.04 Finances

The RFO presented the meeting with a summary receipts and payments account for the period 12th November 2012 to 11th March 2013. These showed the balance in the Barclays Bank Community Account at 11th March 2013 was £8139.30.

The following cheques had been paid during the period:-

Date	Cheque No	To	For	£
15/11/12	100554	Lower Peover School	Room Hire for meeting	18.00
15/11/12	100556	Mr G Leigh	Clerks Expenses	71.72

22/11/12	100555	Warburton Landscapes	Grass Cutting	1008.00
26/11/12	100553	Adactus Housing Association	Return of Grant	<u>150.00</u>
				<u><u>1247.72</u></u>

The following amounts were now due and the members agreed for them to be paid:-

To	For	£
PCC St Oswald's Church	Upkeep of the Graveyard	300.00
Lower Peover School	Room Hire for meetings	18.00
Mr G Leigh	Clerks Fee – ½ year	906.00
HMRC	PAYE due	226.50

In the discussion of the grant to the PCC Cllr Dutton declared an interest as a member of the PCC and did not partake in the discussion. The meeting decided to pay the PCC a reduced amount of £300 in a grant towards the maintenance of the graveyard as there is considerable strain on the parish council's finances due to the provision needing to be made to paying the Clerk and the acting clerk.

The meeting also decided to forgo the community pride competition this year in an attempt to save money.

The acting clerk produced for the meeting an analysis of the funds available to the parish council, not including the precept amounts of 2013/14. These figures analysed out as follows:-

	£	£
Opening Balance	8139.30	
Less Cheques from 11/3/2013	1450.50	
		TOTAL 6688.80

Analysis

Parish Plan	£2077.20
Grant of Easement Funds	£1462.75
Parish Council	£3148.85

The acting clerk then left the meeting whilst a proposed salary was discussed.

On returning to the meeting the meeting the parish council offered the acting clerk the same salary as received by the Clerk as well as expenses. The Acting Clerk accepted these terms subject to the drawing up of a temporary contract and job description.

13.05 Unitary councils

Cheshire East, Cllr G Walton reported that if the proposed reduction of the A50 to a 50mph speed limit takes place he would then support a reduction of Middlewich road to 40mph along its length through Peover inferior to Toft. Cllr Walton is hoping to push for an overall lowering of speed limits within the borough as a matter of policy.

There has been a well-publicised shake up of personnel at the borough council and there is to be more working together of departments to bring about 'joined up' approaches.

13.06 Smithy Green

13.06.01 Beech Tree – the parish council has been instructed by highways that the overhanging branches of the beech tree need to be pruned as they are causing an obstruction to the highway. Chris Hudson, CE tree protection officer has been in touch and would grant permission for the work to take place. Clerk asks Mr Hudson's advice on a suitable tree surgeon to undertake the work and

look to completing the necessary paperwork. The meeting noted that pruning should take place late autumn or early winter to avoid sap bleeding.

13.06.02 Telephone Box - 18 months has passed and nothing has been done regarding the painting of the telephone box. The box is becoming a serious hazard as vagrants and those caught short seem to be using it as a public convenience. Cllr Jackson suggested having the box removed and selling it on. The meeting felt this was not something they could do. Cllr Halman proposed, Cllr Dutton seconded and the motion was carried to ask the probation service community service if it would be something they would take on.

This item is to be left on the agenda so progress can be followed up.

In the meantime a lock is to be placed on the door of the phone box to prevent it being used.

13.06.03 Notice board – the notice board is also in a start of disrepair. The meeting suggested this work could be done along with the telephone box.

13.07 Broadband & Email – a meeting had been held at the Hall @ Marthall on 1st March with George Osborne to discuss the provision of high speed broadband across Cheshire.

The meeting was attended by some local residents and they expressed their disappointment that their parish council was not represented as most other local councils were.

The acting clerk explained to the meeting about the scheme and the need for local people to register their interest on the connecting Cheshire website as rural areas would be prioritised according to demand and that demand needed to be demonstrated as being above 20%.

13.08 Correspondence

A schedule of Correspondence was received by the council had been circulated to Members.

The meeting considered the cost of £12.50 per week expensive to have Royal Mail redirect the Council's mail to the Acting Clerk. Cllr Geake, Cllr Halman and the acting Clerk would continue to collect the post from Mr Leigh.

13.09 Planning

- i. Application 13/0107M commented on last meeting had prompted correspondence from the applicant wishing to view the minutes of the meeting. He was informed he could do so once the minutes had been agreed and signed off at a meeting of the Parish Council.
- ii. Application 13/0419M - extension to the side of the existing house was discussed by members. The members had no comments to make
- iii. Application 13/00387/FUL – Proposed side /front extension at 1st floor level was viewed and discussed by members they had no objections.
- iv. Application 13/00554/LBC - listed building consent for installation of air bricks was viewed by members who supported the application.

13.10 Highways

The Clerk was handed a list of Potholes from around the parish by Cllr Geake, these would be logged with the unitary authorities.

Cllr Jackson said the potholes on Barrows Brow also needed attention. These two would be logged.

The Council had received a diversion order for Peover Inferior path No 4. Cllr Jackson objected to the movement of the footpath as it made for a less interesting walk and moved to object to the diversion. Proposal went without a seconder. Cllr Halman proposed and Cllr Geake seconded that the council have no objection to the diversion. Motion was carried with one vote against, one abstained and the majority in favour.

Cllr Geake reported that Neither Peover Footpath No 6 at its junction with Foxcovert Lane was becoming dangerously slippery as the path was falling away. Also the presence of aggressive dogs on part of RB 3 in Peover Inferior is intimidating walkers and riders. The Clerk is to report both to the unitary authority.

13.11 Matters for the next Agenda

Parish Plan update from Mr McIntyre – Clerk to follow up

Moving of Trees on Smithy Green – one quote acquired, two more needed

New Chairman needed

Update on Telephone box

Meeting closed 9.25pm

Signed:

Date: