

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LOWER PEOVER PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT LOWER PEOVER SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM**

Present Cllr R. A. Kendall, Cllr S Nuttall and Cllr L. Halman.
Cllr G Walton (Cheshire East).
The Clerk

15.12 Public Questions and Comments –The members of the public were welcomed to the meeting and the floor was opened up to Mrs Claire Beharrell who wanted to discuss the issues faced for parents when walking their children to school.

Walking from the village to the primary school is hazardous due to the narrowed pavements, the speed of the cars and the lack of safe crossing places. A number of parents have given up walking as it was too dangerous and now drive the short distance.

Mrs Beharrell and the Clerk has had a good met with CWAC highways department and walked the route with them and they have come up with a number of suggestions. CWAC will remove the debris along the footways on the B5081 Crown Lane and this will be done by the Highways team. The three pot holes at the end of the Cobbles will be fixed and it has been already programmed to empty the gullies within the cobbles and this will be completed this financial year.

CWAC will produce plans to install new give way markings and markings to highlight the continuation of the footway from the cobbles as discussed on site. This lining crew are programmed in as of the 1st April and I will include this work to be done then.

The further suggestion was one of a scheme to drop the pavement on Crown Lane at a point where visibility is good and then install a new foot path on the opposite side of the Lane to take pedestrians to the entrance of the cobbles. A ball park figure for this scheme is in the region of £10,000. But there are no funds from highways to pay for this work.

Cllr Kendall asked if there were any figures of the number of people wanting to walk to school? Mrs Beharrell said she would do what she could to collate those figures, initially from Lower Peover Primary School but, where necessary including the secondary school children who walk to catch buses at Swan Green.

Cllr Halman asked if there were any funds available through the safer routes to school or similar scheme. Unfortunately these schemes no longer have funds available.

A suggestion was made to continue the 30mph speed limit down towards the cobbles. However this had been discussed at the meeting with highways and given the rural location of Lower Peover and the feel of the road when you drive it the highways opinion is that it was unlikely to be successful in reducing speed limit.

There are also a number of issues for parents walking along the cobbles. Drivers do not seem to be aware of the footpath area of the cobbles. This was also discussed by highways and with the cobbles originally being built as a single track road with pavement, unfortunately to allow traffic flow as it is the only route in and out, the footpath has to be dual purpose. The route through the Bells of Peover Car park is private and so highways cannot implement a one way system to allow the cobbles to remain as a single track road.

Mr Pont said he didn't realise that there was a footpath element to the cobbles and the feeling of the meeting was that this should perhaps be brought to the attention of parents driving to the school.

Cllr Nuttall asked if a car pooling scheme had been looked at. The Clerk said that there had been a walking bus scheme tried at one time, where parents parked at the crown and a walking bus took the children to school. However this was not a solution as you still had to negotiate the cobbles with more children and vehicles and so the scheme was abandoned.

Mr Griffiths said that he had taken the time last week to count the number of vehicle movements up and down the cobbles during school drop off over a 20 minute period. He counted 200 movements in that 20 minute period.

The issue of vehicles backing up on to Crown Lane during this time was also discussed. Traffic not turning down the cobbles have been known to attempt to overtake the queues and then narrowly miss vehicles waiting to turn in to the cobbles from the opposite direction. The meeting discussed if there was any way of making the school flashing signs more prominent? The Clerk agreed to discuss this with highways as the meeting felt not all users of the road are aware of the proximity of the school.

The Clerk agreed to keep those at the meeting informed of the progress, the presence of the footpath area of the cobbles, as well as sending out a 'parish news' update via the school and to try and make more people aware of the new parish website.

Cllr Kendall invited other comments from the public. Mr Griffiths wanted to comment on application 15/00442/FUL The Barn House, the cobbles. The time constraints for comments were initially very tight but these have now been extended to 24th March 2015. Mr & Mrs Griffiths are trying to come to some solution with Mr Yates but if this is not successful they will be objecting to the application as they feel the application is inappropriate for a conservation area and would only add to the congestion on the cobbles. They also pointed out that the design and scale of the building was inappropriate for the size of the plot.

The Parish Council agreed with Mr Griffiths that the application should be objected to and would be objecting under similar reasons.

15.13 Police Report – The Clerk read the reports to the meeting. The meeting felt these reports should be also shared with the school, on the parish website and in any parish news update.

CWAC Lower Peover Police Report 01/02/2015 – 07/03/2015

08/02 Yew tree Farm – Suspicious activity – still under investigation

20/02 – Crown Lane – Theft of motor vehicle – still under investigation no arrest at present

25/02 – 2 x highway disruption

06/03/2015 – Crown Lane Burglary – still under investigation

CE Policing report

10/02 We had a report of a HARD SELL which was basically a legitimate cold call from a company called Green deal advise bureau selling cavity wall insulation to a farm in Ollerton. Caller was left to feel highly intimidated. I personally dealt with this incident and carried out some enquiries with

Trading standards. Tweets have been sent and this was put out on Cheshire police alerts for the attention of the public.

20/02 An aggressive dog was reported to the police in the Percival Lane area of Ollerton . The owners of the dog have been advised under the new dog act legislation.

20/02 Distraction burglary - A vulnerable male living alone was called on at his home address in Over Peover by 2 Asian males. These males claimed to be from BT. The males had stolen his debit card and withdrew a substantial amount of cash from his account. Police conducted house to house in the area. This was Tweeted, and it went on Cheshire police alerts

23/02 Burglary occurred at a garden centre on Plumley moor road. Front and rear doors were forced. The safe and cash was stolen.

04/03 Theft of heating fuel from an address on seven sisters lane on Ollerton.

04/03 x 2 reports on both Main wearing road and Parkgate Avenue in Over Peover where a silver/grey Toyota Avensis – S reg has been seen with 2 males on board claiming they were from Cheshire east council asking residents if they require handy work to be carried out by them. This vehicle had NO connection with the council. We are urging the public to report any sightings of this vehicle to the police on the 101 number.

The open part of the meeting was closed

15.14 Apologies –Cllr A Jackson, Cllr R Taylor, Cllr S Geake, Cllr C Newton

15.15 Minutes of the meeting held 14th January 2014

These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairperson as a true record.

15.16 Matters arising from the minutes not already covered in an agenda item. – Cllr Walton updated the meeting on the progress made regarding the increase in incidents of vehicles coming off the road near heesom Green Farm. Highways will be installing some chevron signs and renewing the existing signage where necessary.

The Clerk addressed the issue raised regarding the community fundraising fund last meeting. She said that the parish council would ask for a set of accounts from the group to satisfy themselves that the moneys granted are being used responsibly. If there is a situation where the monies are used for something different from those to which they were granted then the Clerk would expect the fundraising committee to let the parish council know this and providing it was being used for a purpose allowed under the local government act of 1972 then there would be no problem.

15.17 Reports from the Unitary Authorities

Cllr Walton said there had been no change on the position with the local plan since the last meeting. There had been some vandalism to two new 50mph signs on the A537, reports of an individual digging them up.

The Budget has now been agreed and CE are confident that their part of the council tax will see no increase in 2015/16 or 2016/17. In the leaders recent report he was reporting a surplus of ½ million for 2014/15 period. There has been an increase to the highways budget of 6 ½ million pounds, although no investment has been planned in the Chelford Ward.

There has been a reduction in the external debt of 8 ½ million and CE have introduced the living wage.

The rural summit takes place on 16th March 2015

Finally the prime minister has written to CE and praised it for leading the way in best practise. Cllr Kendall asked why the slow down signs on the A50 flash when you are doing under 50 mph. Cllr Walton said they were set to 42mph as the bends needed to be taken at lower than the speed limit. Cllr Kendall also asked if the red route signs that were put up by Cheshire County Council and are now very out of date are planned to be removed. Cllr Walton said they wouldn't be replaced but there were no plans to remove them either.

15.18 Highways

The Cobbles the meeting felt this had adequately been dealt with at the beginning of the meeting. The Clerk has not heard anything from Andrew Kelly regarding the unadopted area of the cobbles. Cllr Walton is to follow this up and to also ask for the edge near the little house to be filled with MOT and topped with soil in the meantime.

Middlewich Road – The collapsed drain has been repaired and the flooding at the bottom of Plumley Moor Road is known to highways.

15.19 Planning – a list of the planning applications and decisions were presented to the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

The Clerk is to circulate the comments of objection to application 15/00442/FUL The Barn House, the cobbles prior to submitting them.

15.20 Finance – The Clerk went through the receipt and payments summary which is attached to these minutes. The meeting agreed the payments and the bank reconciliation was accepted as correct.

The meeting discussed what the new homes grant may be used for. It was suggested that it be put towards the proposed footpath scheme as it would be a benefit to the village and as part of receiving the grant the parish council have to indicate what it will be put towards.

The Clerk is to speak to CCA regarding the parish plan monies. There seems to be no movement on the parish plan and the monies remain ring fenced.

15.21 Housekeeping and Maintenance

15.21.01 Telephone Box – Shop is still willing to have the phone box, G Dutton is looking to remove the box ASAP.

15.21.02 AED - the ideal location for this would be in the newly refurbished phone box with a metered electricity supply from the shop. However the meeting felt more discussion was needed as to if the AED would be used, especially with first responders now carrying one with them. The Clerk is to respond to Mr Rees to say the Parish Council need more time to consider this.

15.21.03 Verges – Clerk is to contact Connecting Cheshire to remind them of their promise to reinstate.

15.21.04 pit opposite barrows brow – The Parish council has been approached by residents wishing to tidy up this pit. The area has become overgrown and is encroaching on the highway. The ownership of this pit has been the subject of parish council meetings before and it was not concluded. However CE highways would be pleased if it were tidied to improve visibility on the highway and so the parish council agreed that these residents could go ahead as long as they did so at their own risk.

15.21.05 Noticeboard – the noticeboard is in a state of disrepair and so the Clerk has asked three carpenters to give a price for repairing it. The Clerk has also looked at the replacement cost of the noticeboard. Advice from other councils is that you get what you pay for. An oak noticeboard would be in the region of £1500. It is hoped these prices will be available at the next meeting.

15.21.06 Election – the election packs should be with the clerk next week and so members need to indicate if they will stand again. There are 4 CWAC and 3 CE places on the council. Currently Cllr

Kendal, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Newton and Cllr Halman are CWAC representatives and Cllr Jackson, Cllr Nuttall and Cllr Geake are CE representatives.

15.22 Correspondence – A list of correspondence was circulated and is attached to these minutes.

The letter from the Pensions auditor was highlighted by the Clerk. The Clerk is to ask ChALC for guidance

Mr Leigh has declined the position of internal auditor. Therefore the clerk is to write to Mr N Davenport to see if he would be willing to take on this role.

15.23 Matters for the next Agenda

Noticeboard

AED

Verges

Telephone box

Walk to School

Internal Auditor

Pensions Regulator

Parish Plan

New Homes Grant

Meeting closed 21.30

Signed:

Date: