

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOWER PEOVER PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT LOWER PEOVER SCHOOL ON
WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2016 AT 7.30PM**

Present Cllr L Corlett (Chair), Cllr R. A. Kendall, , Cllr S Geake, Cllr Newton

Cllr G Walton (CE Borough Council)

Clerk Mrs E A McGrath

16.38 Police Report – Reports will be placed online. There have been a spate of opportunistic thefts in the area and the Clerk is to include this on a newsletter and re issue operation shield invite in light of this.

There was also a report of irregularities at the polling station in Lower Peover. The police investigation was satisfied that the errors were clerical and not electoral fraud.

16.39 Parishioners Question Time – None.

It was thought that there would be public in attendance regarding training to use the speed gun. If these volunteers come forward the Clerk will arrange training and for the speed gun to be made available to them.

16.40 Apologies – Cllr R Taylor, Cllr S Wilson.

Cllr Corlett has been approached by a member of the community who has expressed an interest in getting involved with the Parish Council. She has suggested that they be co-opted for 12 months as a community member initially. The Clerk is to issue an invite for him to attend the September meeting.

16.41 Minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2016

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

16.42 Matters arising from the minutes not already covered in an agenda item. –.None

16.43 Reports from the Unitary Authorities – Cllr Walton reported that there has been an increase in personnel in the planning department which should help a faster turnaround of applications. Planning has turned down significant applications for houses and wedding venues in recent weeks. The RHS flower Show at Tatton is this month. The Town and Parish Conference was recommended to members on 19th July. Cllr Corlett will try to attend as will the Clerk.

Cllr Kendall asked Cllr Walton about why small rural roads were not being repaired in respect of Potholes. Cllr Walton said report online and they should be done, however priority is always given to major routes.

Cllr Geake also pointed out that the verges again need cutting, why wasn't this done more often by the authority. Cllr Walton suggested that this be taken up at the Town and Parish Conference with Chris Shield who should be in attendance.

16.44 Highways

There has been an increase in accidents near Heesom Green Farm. The resident has met with highways but the conclusion was that a speed reduction was needed. The Parish Council resolved to write to the Police Safety Officer, Robin Johnson and ask for the route along Middlewich road to be reviewed for safety in the light of the increase in accidents in the last few months. So far there have been nearly 20 incidents this year. Cllr Walton asked to be copied in to the correspondence so he could follow it up as necessary.

Walk to school – The Police and Highways department of CWAC have met with the head mistress of the school and Clare Beharrell to discuss the escalating issues on the approach to the cobbles during peak times. PC Mankee reported that the Highways department are looking at reviewing the route and installing slow signs and renewing the markings. She will continue to keep a watch on the situation.

The meeting questioned the merits of the footpath scheme in light of the safety issues. The clerk is to write to Clare and ask if any further fundraising has been done and discuss the possibility of using the money to make the route safe for all users, not just pedestrians.

Footpath Nether Peover – The public rights of way (PROW) team are satisfied that the foot path has not been degraded now that the rubble has been levelled and buried on the site. However the environmental planning department have yet to answer legality and safety questions. The meeting voiced the opinion that maybe the environment agency should be informed. However they were concerned that penalties might not be issued against the perpetrator but the farmer of the land and this they felt was unfair as he had no control in this matter. The clerk is to seek advice on the best way to proceed.

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

The Clerk is to contact the applicants of the site on Middlewich road to ask for an update on what is happening with the site.

16.46 Housekeeping and Maintenance

- **Finger Post Sign** – Clerk still continuing to chase a contractor to do this.
- **Noticeboard, Telephone box and AED** - Grant for AED is in and costs for installing the electricity has been received. Due to an increase in cost of installing, Knutsford Community First Responders Trust has asked if the Parish Council will contribute £110 towards the electrical installation, as well as paying for the case at £875. The meeting agreed this should be paid for from Parish Council funds.
The Telephone Box is on the insurance policy.
The new noticeboard will cost £535. This quote was accepted by the meeting and the clerk is to get them to progress as soon as possible.
- **Broadband** – The situation for individual householders will only improve if they take the time to report the issue. However the Clerk has been informed that there is to be some phase two works carried out on Lower Peover box 1 which serves Lower Peover and part of Over Peover. It is hoped that this will help to improve the situation. This scheme is to be delivered by the end of the summer 2017.

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

The Annual return figures were outlined by the Clerk and were unanimously accepted by the meeting. The clerk then detailed the governance statements which were reviewed and agreed. The Parish Plan monies are to be used by the Parish Council for the schemes for the benefit of the parish. Cllr Geake proposed that the funds be used for the purpose of paying for Selecta DNA packs for the parish and the additional cost of the AED. This was seconded by Cllr Kendall and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

The proposal of pricing up the cost of mowing the verges to help visibility was put forward by Cllr Geake and seconded by Cllr Corlett. It was agreed that Cllr Geake, Cllr Newton and Cllr Kendall would get together to review where would need doing before any process were found by the Clerk.

First option would be to see if Warburton Landscapes would do it as an addition to the work they already do for the Parish.

16.48 Correspondence – A list of correspondence was circulated and is attached to these minutes. Item of Note was the fracking meeting by INEOS. Lower Peover is within the proposed area where fracking could take place. A potential site above ground would be the size of a tennis court. Pipelines would go to a depth of 3000m and 2km along. The resulting gas would then need to be piped away.

An application for planning would therefore include both the site and pipework. The main inconvenience would be the construction and during drilling there would be an increase in traffic moving the effluent away.

The earth tremors reported are said to be similar to that of a double decker bus passing your front door. Tremors are caused by drilling taking place near a fault line, and the industry try to minimise this eventuality.

Fracking cannot take place within 400m of a population, eg a village. Areas of Significant Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and ancient woodland are excluded areas.

There are three stages to the process:

1. Test the bore hole data -examine core extractions
2. Choose a site for test drilling based on the findings of 1.
3. Drilling and fracking. Would take 5 months to drill the holes and craking before any gas can be extracted.

The 1st consent to test drill is expected in September 2016, however it is not known where this is likely to take place.

It is thought there is enough gas for approximately 20 years.

16.49 Matters for the next Agenda

Hogweed on Church Field and possible widening of the footpath to prevent burns from the toxic sap
Verges

Meeting closed 21.06

Signed:

Date: