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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2021
AT 7PM IN THE PARISH HALL, MONTREY CRESCENT**

Present:

Cllrs

J Pearson, Chairman
S Barton, Vice Chairman
Mrs B Ashcroft
Mrs E Murphy
B Pilkington
P Peers
J Stevenson

Due to the meeting being held on Remembrance Day, a minute's silence was held at 7pm

2021/89 **To pass as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14^h October 2021**

Resolved: to pass the above Minutes and for the Chairman to sign them as a true record

2021/90 **To Note Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr S Murphy

Resolved: to note the above

2021/91 **Public Participation**

Among items raised this evening included:

Public Transport: buses are still leaving their engines running at the timing point in Station Road; the already appalling 156 service is being reduced to one every two hours from the hourly service and trains are still running at a reduced one per hour from two per hour and these are subject to regular cancellation – there was also a query re why the 156 follows such a long route to get to St Helens Town Centre. Cllr Pearson said all issues will be raised formally in writing to LCR Transport Committee. The reduction in train service had already been raised by Cllr Pearson with the LCRTC and a response is awaited. Residents commented that where public transport would be used, people are now using cars due to the lack of bus and train services. Cllr Pearson commented that £710M had been granted to Liverpool City Region for transport and a significant amount of this should be investing in services for St Helens. He further commented that an H&S assessment on the rail station carried out by Cllr Dennis McDonnell had been forwarded to LCR Transport Committee and that Cllr Liam Robinson, the Chairman of this committee will be attending the December meeting of the Parish Council.

Rail bridge at Spindle Hillock – query re when it will be completed (from 2015). In answer to a query re the lift that had first been raised many years ago, Cllr Pearson confirmed this had been raised again more recently and the response was that funding is not available but it is an issue that both Parish and Ward councillors continue to pursue.

Library: it was reported that there are no decisions yet on any of the St Helens library. A young resident spoke briefly about our library being the only place to read and study locally and given the dreadful transport links, she felt it was important to retain this service so local students are not disadvantaged by lack of available facilities. This comment was met with a round of applause. The importance also to older people was also mentioned along with the social side of the library. A wish to retain not only the service but the building was also noted.

Pathways: the narrow state of existing pathways was commented on and there was a request for consideration of a track/path around the perimeter of Birch Grove Playing Fields to support health and wellbeing in the area.

Litter Bins: it was requested for the bins in the play area adjacent to the Community Hall to

be relocated outside of the area.

Community Noticeboard: there was a request for relocation of the St Helens Council noticeboard from the grounds of Garswood Primary School to outside the shops on Hamilton Road to facilitate ease of access to information by residents. Cllr Pearson commented the land on Hamilton Road doesn't belong to St Helens Council which is the reason it was originally located in the school grounds but will investigate.

Speeding: Booths Brow and Leyland Green Road were specific roads commented on and confirmation that nothing had yet been done to encourage traffic calming.

Downall Green Signage: a query on progress with this: Cllr Ainsworth-Barton confirmed it had been ordered and ward councillors will chase for an installation date.

Several thanks were offered by residents present to FOSG and other volunteers for clearing and tidying the Remembrance area at Holy Trinity Church; to all those who have decorated Downall Green and Garswood for Remembrance with particular mention to Jason Shawcross plus Knit an Natter group – a round of applause was given.

for information only: issues raised under this item and any that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2021/92 To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members

There were no Declarations of Interest

2021/93 Policing of the Area

There was no crime report (October) available for the meeting.

for information only: issues raised under this item and any that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2021/94 Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's Updates

The Clerk reported on the following:

EMS: NHS mobile unit. conducting blood tests that may be able to detect up to 50 types of early-stage cancer will be located on the Community Hall car park from 22 November for one week. Promotional literature will be with us early next week. Propose publicising on Website, FB, noticeboards. Will also forward to Garswood Surgery, the schools and other organisations in the area.

All other items on the update was information in support of Agenda items.

for information only: issues raised under this item and any that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2021/95 Ward Councillor Update

Cllr S Murphy had sent in an update which was reported to those present:

Parkside and Omega developments had been passed by St Helens Council with the Haydock Point application being refused.

No decisions had yet been taken in relation to Libraries.

for information only: issues raised under this item and any that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting

2021/96 To Note the Decisions of the Planning Committee

Planning Committee reported no submissions had been made to St Helens Council Planning Section in relation to those detailed below:

APPLICATIONS

P/2021/0929/CLP 25 The Clough Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed demolition of existing conservatory and the erection of single storey rear extension

P/2021/0941/HHFP 17 Langholm Road First floor side extension with alterations to roof at rear

DECISIONS

P/2021/0855/CLP B 18 Kinross Avenue Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey side extension Granted

Resolved: to receive an note above information from Planning Committee

2021/97 To Pass Accounts for Payment

Members were requested to pass the schedule for payment in Appendix A (£4670.39)

and to also approve £43.62 in S137 payments

Resolved: to approve the schedule of accounts for payment (£4670.39) and also to approve £43.62 in S137 payments

2021/98 Simms Road Open Space Miners Memorial

It was reported again that due to current pressures on time of volunteers, plans are not yet available to submit to Planning for their initial advice on whether permission needs to be sought.

Resolved: to receive and note above update

2021/99 Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update

No meeting of the working group had taken place – please see information below:

Garswood Library: update was given in both Public Participation and Ward Councillor Update Agenda items.

Communication with Garswood Surgery on information gathering to support a mental health initiative was reported by the Clerk and expanded on by Cllr Peers who proposed a project group be formed to take this initiative forward – those wishing to volunteer were requested to leave their details with the Clerk. Cllr Pilkington also suggested contact with Merseycare.

Resolved:

to receive and note update given re Library

to form a Mental Health Initiative Project Group and to include volunteer residents

2021/100 Estates Working Group

No meeting of the working group had taken place but the Clerk updated on recently completed/outstanding work at both Halls.

Resolved: to receive and note above update

2021/101 Public Transport Working Group

No meeting of the working group had taken place but bearing in mind the comments under Public Participation, Cllr Pearson reiterated Cllr Liam Robinson (Chairman of LCR Transport Committee) will be attending the December meeting.

It was proposed notices of the meeting should be displayed at the rail station

The Clerk's Update to Members contained confirmation that arrangements to get to accessible stations from Garswood rail station remained unchanged: *Network Rail will provide appropriate transport to facilitate accessibility for those with disability and this was best to be arranged prior to travelling.*

Resolved:

to receive and note above update

to display notice of December meeting at the Rail Station

2021/02 Schools Update

Cllr Ainsworth-Barton reported the newly appointed headteacher at Rectory CofE Primary School (Mr Richard Brook) will take up the post in January

Resolved: to receive and note above update

2021/103 Communications Working Group

The Clerk reported a newsletter was currently being composed for distribution at the end of November. She requested Members to submit any news items/suggestions as soon as possible. It was proposed for the Clerk to ensure delivery to Station Road where non-delivery had been reported.

Resolved:

to receive and note above update

2021/104 Events Working Group

Following recent meetings No meeting of the working group had taken place :

The Santa Sleigh visit to schools plus streets in Downall Green and Garswood is planned for 14th December – a licence is awaited from St Helens Council (street collection) so donations towards the Ward Councillor Toy Appeal can be collected.

It was proposed for Parish Council to support by providing selection boxes for distribution at

the schools by Santa. A JustGiving page was also proposed and Cllr Ainsworth-Barlton confirmed he would be creating one. He also said more volunteers for sorting and delivering (not wrapping) would be needed

Resolved:

to receive and note above update

for the Clerk to purchase selection boxes for the Santa visit to Garswood Primary and Rectory CofE Primary Schools

APPENDIX A

21/107	e-on - PH electricity	110.06
21/108	BT - alarm and wifi	151.02
21/109	Rates - Parish Hall	580.00
21/110	Exp, Reclaim - A Boyle - 300 cable ties for poppies	43.62
21/111	Clerk Nov Salary	1,136.93
21/112	Caretaker Nov Salary	543.06
21/113	HMRC - period 7	192.51
21/134	Sports Attendant Nov Salary	560.20
21/115	E-on ch Gas Sept	114.15
21/116	E-on CH Gas Oct	229.20
21/117	E-on - balance C Electricity Oct	10.63
21/118	E-on - PH electricity Oct	29.01
21/119	Crystal Clear Glazing - replace/refit catches to high level windows	120.00
21/120	GWE Properties - shelving, fire doors, levelling of flags (rear)	850.00