



**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**  
**immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting at the**  
**Community Hall, Billinge Road**

**Present:** Cllrs J Pearson (Chairman)  
B Ashcroft  
S Houghton  
J Shawcross

*Cllr Pearson was agreed as Chairman for this evening at the Annual Parish Meeting held earlier this evening.*

*Prior to the meeting Cllr Pearson introduced the Public Session (see Appendix C)*

**2023/144 To pass as a true record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

***Resolved: for the Chairman to sign the above Minutes as a true record.***

**2023/145 To Note Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Murphy, Pilkington and Stevenson

***Resolved: to note the above apologies***

**2023/146 To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**2023/147 \*To Receive any Chairman, Councillors and Clerk's Updates**

The Clerk updated on queries from the previous meetings

The query re future use of library building – a response from Archdiocese Estates still awaited

It has been confirmed we now have a PCSO in our area – Dawn Mason (from Moss Bank area)

We have received a response from Mayors Office in relation to our query on the recent announcement on a new rail station at Carr Mill (see Appendix A) Thank you for your email to Mayor Rotheram's office.

We have received an update from Cllr Gomez-Aspron re the outstanding issues from the meeting he attended earlier this year (see Appendix B)

***This Agenda item is for information only***

**2023/148 To Resolve to accept the Update from Planning Committee**

There had been no applications, just two decisions:

P/2023/0598/FUL The Meadow, Garswood Old Road: Change of use from greenfield to outdoor recreational activities with 3no containers on land to provide changing and toilet facilities for young people accessing outdoor activity based provisions. Granted

P/2024/0033/HHFP 23 Girvan Crescent Part two storey, part single storey side extension  
Granted

***Resolved: to accept the above update***

**2023/149 Financial Matters**

Members were requested to authorise the Schedule of Accounts below for 14 March to 10 April totalling £7952.07 including one S137 payment of £45.97 (Christmas Lights for 2024)

23199	Utilities	655.59
23200	o2 - March	31.44
23201	Utilities	383.24
23202	Utilities	567.47
23203	Utilities	81.71

23204	Utilities	58.22
	Exp Reclaim – Clerk: (Norton sub, HP instant ink,	
24001	padlock, paper ,file, sundries re defib)	190.96
24002	Exp Reclaim – J Shawcross: (Christmas lights)	45.97*
24003	Contractor payment	657.84
24004	ST Helens Council - 50% PH Rates	670.01
24005	St Helens Council - 50% CH Rates	367.84
24006	LALC - 2024-25 membership	669.94
24007	Pension	223.48
24008	Utilities	164.25
24009	Clerk - April Salary	1383.12
24010	Contractor payment	186.00
24011	Utilities	78.17

**Resolved: to authorise payments listed on the above Schedule of Accounts for 14<sup>th</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 totalling £7714.05 including one S137 payment of £45.97**

#### 2023/150 Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update

The Clerk reported the planned meeting with those expressing an interest in becoming a library volunteer had been cancelled and not yet rescheduled. Cllr Pearson spoke briefly about a meeting with Holy Trinity earlier this year and of the need to identify details of requirements.

**Resolved: to note the above update**

#### 2023/151 Estates Working Group

The Clerk reported:

- a) Renewal of lease on Community Hall and Playing Fields – the process has been started: Heads of Terms (based on the current lease that is due to expire 2027) are being prepared for our agreement. These will then be passed to Legal for preparation of new lease – likely to take up to 12 months. The Heads of Terms can be used in the application for any grants to assure of our intention to retain the hall/playing field.
- b) Seneley & Garswood Juniors grant application proposals – a St Helens surveyor did not identify any problems in granting approval for the container (on field) and work (yet to be identified) to update the changing rooms. We currently await Planning Manager response to our query over the container which will facilitate the Landlord agreement needed. It was proposed to delegate decision on container to Estates Working Group. Landlord permission is able to be determined once we have Planning advice and also information from the FA on the changing rooms. This is an ongoing issue and the Working Group is kept informed.
- c) Repair/replacement work to gutters and fascias at the Parish Hall has been quoted following two quotations and recommendation by the Working Group to accept the lower quote.

**Resolved: to note the progress report on the Lease; to note the progress on Landlord agreement and delegate decision on the container to the Estates Working Group; to approve ordering of work to repair/replace gutters and fascia at the Parish Hall**

#### 2023/152 Public Transport Working Group

The Working Group had received/considered the response from LCR Mayor's office was reported in Clerk's Update (see Appendix A) . They had also received/considered the response from Cllr Gomez-Aspron was also reported in Clerk's Update (see Appendix B). He is scheduled to attend the June Parish Council meeting.

**Resolved: to note the above update**

**2023/153 Communications Working Group**

The Clerk reported initial issues with the new website are now resolved. She further reported the procedure/agreement for Parish Council's .gov.uk email. She also reported the issuing of new .gov.uk email addresses to all Members.

**Resolved: to note the above update**

**2023/154 Events Working Group**

The Clerk reported the planned meeting (to discuss the proposed Carnical) for 4<sup>th</sup> April was cancelled and not yet rescheduled. Cllr Pearson proposed for the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Murphy over a new date

**Resolved: for the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Murphy over a new date.**

**2023/155 Vacancy in the Office of Councillor of the Parish Council**

The proposed notice inviting expressions of interest in the vacant post (deadline 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024) was presented for Members' approval

**Resolved: to agree the proposed notice and for this to be publicised on noticeboards and social media (with a view to co-opting at next meeting.**

**2023/156 Expected Sick Leave Absence Cover**

The Clerk reported she is scheduled to have surgery (hopefully in July 2024) and as a result will be on sick leave for 8-12 week. Members were requested to agree on action needed to cover this period of time. The Chair proposed a working group be set up to look at this in more detail and for their recommendations to be considered at next meeting.

**Resolved: for a working group to be set up to consider the above, present recommendations at next meeting for agreement by full Council.**

**Please note: The Public Session held just prior to the meeting plus Agenda Item 4 are for information only. issues that require further discussion will appear on the Agenda of a future meeting.**

**APPENDIX A**

*Response from LCR Mayor's Office*

*"We are sorry to read that the Seneley Green Parish Council is concerned regarding the future of Garswood Station. The announcement of a new station at Carr Mill was one of Mayor Rotheram's election pledges for his election campaign, made as a candidate, and as such is not Combined Authority policy at this moment in time. We are therefore unable to comment on this at present. As you can imagine, Mayor Rotheram's diary is currently extremely pressured and will not be able to meet with the Parish Council. However, with regard to your concerns for accessibility at Garswood Station, if you provide some further information we would be happy to raise this with officers and provide you with a full response"*

**APPENDIX B**

Update from Cllr Gomez Aspron – he is scheduled to attend the June meeting:

*"Both outstanding issues roll into one, so I'll explain below: Network Rail funding is awarded in 5 year windows. This summer is the start of a new 5 year "control period" as they're known when government award them the next 5 year of money. However, the government still haven't done this and it's been delayed. The same as the access for all bid, which was supposed to come back in Autumn 2023, but still hasn't. Last week, we got a reply from Network Rail about the bridge. They said that the temporary fence is to prevent people from dangling over to reach the electric overhead wires. However, the next bit is interesting, as they've also said that the whole bridge at Garswood Road needs to be replaced as it's deteriorated they're hoping to get funding in the next 5 year window (the window I referred to above). So at the end of last week, Cllr Murphy, Conor McGinn MP and I have wrote to the transport minister Mark Harper to ask for an update. And to seize the opportunity, we've asked to see whether access to platform 2 can be considered as part of the big structural works for a new bridge, it's a once in 100 year opportunity*

*and I want to seize it. So we've asked if they can explore all the options we discussed, plus the new bridge and access option down that side, so fingers crossed we will get a reply soo"!*

## **APPENDIX C**

### **PUBLIC SESSION\***

1. Statement (if any) from Merseyside Police – there was no crime report
2. The public may speak of any matters of concern:

Friends of Seneley Green reported that over 100 children (and their responsible adults) attended their Good Friday event. All the children received a free egg and had the opportunity to take part in completely free activities. They also reported all planters had now been made and they are now in place throughout the area. They have all been filled with seasonal bulbs and other seeding/planting is planned. Plaques for the planters are currently being made and these will detail the partnership with the Parish Council and individual sponsors.

It was commented that maybe Parish Council could encourage car crime or attempted crime to be reported to police so it can be formally logged (to give a true picture of this type of crime in our area). It was agreed to put notices on Parish Council's social media and to ask the police to also publicise.

It was queried why Seneley Green still have the old pebbledashed bins when other areas appear to have newer bins. It was agreed to submit a query to St Helens.

Police surgeries were queried; the Clerk reported that the continuation of the surgeries is expected

Work to local roads/potholes was queried and whether there is a schedule detailing where work will be done. The Clerk reported in recent months a proposed schedule had been publicised (pending award of contract for the work). It was agreed to request an update.

**Residents are reminded that the Parish Council may not make any lawful decision during the public session. The public cannot take part at any other time in the meeting.**