

PRESENT:

Cllrs	Keith Scargill (Chair)	Trevor Jones
	Peter Bulmer	Krissie Myler
	Harry Cowley	Andrew Pannell
	Pauline Cox	Sue Rigby
	Jo Evans	John Salt
	John Griffiths	Martin Whiteley
	Ian Huffer	

PART ONE

145. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Nigel Haslock, and from CW&C Cllrs Keith Board and Pamela Hall.

146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were made by Peter Bulmer (local resident & CW&C employee), Trevor Jones (Centurion Action Group), and by John Griffiths and John Salt (Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service).

147. PCSO UPDATE

PCSO Neil Denby attended the meeting and highlighted aspects of his monthly report. There had been a number of burglaries and thefts as well as several domestic incidents and reports of suspicious persons.

The PCSO was involved in national initiative, Operation Shield which distributed marking kits for local residents to help recover their property after a burglary. He hoped that the parish council might be prepared to put some funding aside to support the initiative and asked that this be considered at the April meeting.

It was also reminded that the meeting regarding parking in the parish still had to be arranged. There had been staffing changes to the beat management team for Chester South. Sgt Andy Davies would be taking over from Sgt Jackson and PC Tony Carmon was taking over from PC Malone.

Further discussion took place around hgvs using Caldly Valley Road to stop off at Sainsburys for refreshments. The PCSO had brought along details of the City of Chester Prohibition of Commercial Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes Order from 2002 which he felt, indicated that such vehicles were allowed to stop off.

Councillors questioned the interpretation of the Order and asked the clerk to write to the Chief Constable and Chris Matheson MP to voice concern and to request that steps be taken to change the Order if necessary.

148. OPEN FORUM

A local resident advised that work had started on the new housing development at Foxwood on Caldly Valley Road, and that Belgrave Rd residents had been invited to attend the Castleoak public exhibition in Christleton relating to the proposed care home on the site of the former Beechmoor Garden Centre.

149. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the following sets of minutes be signed as correct records:

Parish Council meeting held on 16th January 2017, the VXCC and Finance sub-group meetings held on 23rd January 2017, and the Comms & Events sub-group meeting held on 26th January 2017.

RESOLVED: that any recommendations from the sub-group meetings be approved.

150. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION POINTS

150a	142d	<p>A full planning application had been submitted in respect of the proposed phone mast on Caldly Valley Road, which had not taken into account any of the objections or suggestions put forward by the parish council during the pre-planning consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Pannell explained that the cabinet needed no formal planning approval as it was a permitted development, but that permission was required for the mast itself.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to write to the CW&C ward councillors to seek their support that any financial gain from the mast should come to the parish council rather than the local authority.</p>
150b	144c	<p>Cllr Griffiths referred to a discussion at the January parish council meeting about the reduction in the level of service from the Fire Service. He had suggested a form of words for the parish council to use to say they did not support the changes, but councillors felt that the comments were more of a personal nature and not appropriate for the parish council as a whole to submit.</p> <p>Cllr Salt suggested that rather than complain about the reduction in the level of service, the parish council should be asking the Chief Officer how he intended to protect the local community, as well as to preserve the heritage of Chester city centre, going forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Chairman send a letter to Bob Rudd along the lines suggested by Cllr Salt, and that individual councillors were welcome to send in</p>

		their own personal comments to the Chief Officer.
150c	VXCC	<p>Cllr Bulmer reported that the floodlights at VXCC had now been upgraded with LED lights, and they were used by user group Rabble.</p> <p>The car parks were very busy, especially at the weekend and VXCC were working with Cestrian Scouts and the Dynamos to try to manage the issues.</p> <p>A new Centre Manager had been appointed and hoped to get things moving again.</p> <p>A defibrillator had been installed on the side of the VXCC building and training was to be organised in the very near future.</p>
150d	Comms	<p>Cllr Bulmer reported that the next newsletter had a deadline of 21st March and that John Tacon had agreed to take the lead on it. Councillors were asked to submit relevant articles as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Annual Assembly meeting would be held on Monday 24th April at the Caldy Valley Centre and would focus on local planning. Cllr Jones would be giving a short presentation on the success of The Centurion.</p>

151. SOUTH WARD PROJECTS

This agenda item had been suggested to try to introduce new projects in the south ward of the parish. Cllr Salt felt frustrated that the majority of the precept was spent in the north ward, and felt south ward residents needed to be able to see where their contribution was being spent and for the benefit of their own community.

Councillors had been asked to submit any suitable projects last autumn so that the finance sub-group could take these into account when proposing the precept. That figure had already been submitted to CW&C Council but it was hoped there would be flexibility within the 2017.2018 budget to accommodate new smaller projects.

Cllr Salt suggested the redundant phone box on Caldy Valley Rd could be used to accommodate a defibrillator and also proposed a new line of trees similar to those recently planted in Huntington parish, along Caldy Valley Rd.

Cllr Pannell felt the Parish Plan was a good starting point and should form the basis of budgeting; he felt the Action Plan should be apportioned out to sub-groups to progress.

RESOLVED: that, initially, the finance sub-group review the Parish Action Plan with a view to it being updated and progressed through the various sub-group meetings.

152. FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

The clerk had circulated an updated FRA Action Plan to all councillors in advance of the meeting. She had worked through the Plan and updated anything of relevance.

RESOLVED: that each of the sub-groups take time to study each of the specific areas of risk in their February meetings with a view to approving the Action Plan at the March parish council meeting.

153. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT FOR 30MPH SPEED LIMIT ALONG WHOLE OF VICARS CROSS ROAD

The clerk reported the advice given by CW&C Highways regarding the possible costs to the parish council to match fund a consultation and resulting changes, if the whole of Vicars Cross Road were made a 30mph speed limit instead of the current part 30/part 40mph. They considered it to be in the region of £1000 with the parish council having to undertake the initial consultation themselves.

Councillors were divided in their views in case any change had a knock on effect on traffic in the immediate area, and whether there was any point unless the new speed limit was to be enforced.

RESOLVED that:

The clerk find out if there were any legal reasons why a 20mph speed limit, proposed for certain areas of Chester, had to lead from a 30mph zone

An agenda item be placed for the March parish council meeting to discuss this further, as well as traffic issues relating to the Vicars Cross lights and Vicars Cross roundabout.

154. PLAY REVIEW

Cllr Evans updated councillors on her submissions for funding from both WREN and Veolia to support the play area review and the proposed improvements. The three bids had taken longer to put together than she first anticipated but all were now in the system with outcomes known by May at the latest. She had come across some problems trying to nominate CW&C as the project manager in the WREN bid as they had already been third party funders to other projects, but was prepared to do this herself if funding was not granted for that particular element.

She had met a Highways representative on site to discuss the hedge at Vaughans Lane. They felt the hedge should not be removed but could be layed if the parish council could support the cost and the local community supported the initiative.

Improvements to the play area at the Caldly Valley Centre were to be put on hold until the results of the bids were known, but money was still set aside in the budget for some work to be carried out.

Cllr Salt proposed that the parish council consider taking out a loan of up to £20,000 with the Public Works Loan Board if there was any suggestion the proposed improvements at Thackeray Drive, Queens Rd and Vaughans Lane play areas might not go ahead due to lack of funding for project management or other elements of the bids.

It was reported that the new wooden train was to be installed at the Old Laundry Corner the following Monday.

RESOLVED: Councillors unanimously supported the possibility of a loan which could be discussed in more detail in the forthcoming finance meeting.

155. REPORTS OF ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND THE CLERK

The following attendance at meetings was reported:

Clerk: 23/1 – VXCC sub-group mtg; 23/1 – Finance sub-group mtg; 26/1 – Comms sub-group mtg; 1/2 - mtg M Bate re litterpicking; 2/2 – mtg D McMahon re opening and closing VXCC; 9/2 – mtg work experience D of E student re litter picking; 13/2 – mtg with PB; 20/2 – mtg new VXCC Centre Manager

PB: 18/1 - ChALC Health & Safety course; 23/1 – VXCC sub-group mtg; 23/1 – Finance sub-group mtg; 26/1 – Comms sub-group mtg; 1/2 – mtg M Bate re litterpicking; 1/2 - CW&C Council – boundary reform proposals; 2/2 – mtg D McMahon re opening and closing VXCC; 8/2 – ChALC Executive mtg; 9/2 – mtg work experience D of E student re litter picking; 13/2 – mtg with clerk; 20/2 – mtg new VXCC Centre Manager

JE: 13/2 - mtg James Orme re hedge Vaughans Lane; 26/1 – Comms sub-group mtg

IH: 1/2 - CW&C Council – boundary reform proposals

TJ: 23/1 – VXCC sub-group mtg

KM: 23/1 – VXCC sub-group mtg

AP: 23/1 – Finance sub-group mtg

SR: 26/1 – Comms sub-group mtg

KS: 18/1 – ChALC Health & Safety course; 18/1 – PCC meeting for parish councils; 23/1 – VXCC sub-group mtg; 23/1 – Finance sub-group mtg; 30/1 – ChALC course on Planning; 1/2 - mtg with clerk and PB; 1/2 - CW&C Council – boundary reform proposals

156. ACCOUNTS

156a Balances

Nat West Bank	21925.48
National Savings	50474.27
Josh's Project	12136.16
VXCC	35043.87

156b The following income had been received:

National Savings	Annual interest	301.45
CW&C Council	Members budget grant noticeboards	3075.00
Nat West	Interest	0.11
Age UK	VXCC – historical invoices due	516.00
Various	VXCC – income from lettings	3578.98

156c The following accounts were due for payment:

Morrall Play	December play inspections	204.00
ChALC	Health & safety training – KS & PB	70.00
Gordon Emery	Repairs to play equipment	462.44
John Carswell	Play area new signage and posts	936.00
CW&C Council	Replacing Gt Boughton sign on canal	139.59
Little Village Group	Play area repairs	3180.00
Little Village Group	Supply & installation train at OLC	1620.00
Andrew Pannell	Mileage claim	16.00
T&J Windows	VXCC repair to front door	72.00
Nirvana	VXCC cleaning contract	545.24
Ash Waste	VXCC Waste removal contract	75.36
Talktalk	VXCC Phone and broadband	56.34
PRS for Music	VXCC PRS annual licence	1083.72
Viro Branding	VXCC Lanyard	6.84

156d The following had been purchased with the debit card:

Printerland	Toner cartridge	198.00
Tesco	Chairmans budget	24.00
Rightway	Gloves and bags for litterpickers	7.99
Tesco	VXCC printer inks/cash box	26.00
Waitrose	VXCC	16.00
Waitrose	VXCC coffee and cleaning fluid	7.38
Pioneer	VXCC keys	10.00
Argos	VXCC keyboard	7.49

156e The following had already been paid:

Cube Lighting	VXCC Weatherproof isolator floodlights	240.00
TV Licenses	VXCC TV licence renewal	145.50
Peter Powell	VXCC open and close/admin support	280.00
D McMahon	VXCC open and close	30.00
A Clark+	VXCC admin support	190.00
Peter Powell	Gatelocking	30.00
Peter Powell	Litterpicking	62.80
Jane Fortune	Gatelocking	45.00
Sarah Tyson	Gatelocking	72.00
M Bate	Litterpicking	23.55
Carol Clark	Salary & mileage	1481.35
Carol Clark	Petty cash	8.41

157. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

157a The following Notifications of Application had been received:

16/05307 – Tarvin Lock Cottage – enlargement of basement windows agreed under earlier consent

17/00120 – 65 Belgrave Rd – single storey side and rear extension

17/00266 – Land on Caldly Valley Rd – installation of single stack pole base station

16/05693 – 48 Boughton Hall Drive – first floor side extension over existing garage

These applications had already been dealt with in the planning sub-group meeting and were not objected to.

157b The following applications had received approval:

16/05417 – 47 Queens Rd – single storey side extension

16/05577 – 42 Shaftesbury Ave – 2-storey side extension and single storey extension to the rear

16/00239 – Tarvin Lock Cottage - Enlargement of two basement window agreed under earlier consent

157c The following application had been refused:

16/05210 – land at Willoway Rd – one new dwelling

157d Cllr Pannell reported that there was a planning application for a new school on greenbelt land in Huntington parish, although it was not known what the plans were for the site of the current school. The clerk suggested she write to the Huntington clerk to seek clarification.

158. CORRESPONDENCE & EMAILS RECEIVED

Caldly Valley Centre – JMC agenda and minutes of November meeting
Details of public consultation at Huntington in respect of new care home planned on site of former car showroom – 23 rd January
Vicars Cross Dynamos – confirmation of approval of TENS licence for fund-raising evening at VXCC
ChALC – notification of a memorial service for Roger Parkin, a serving councillor with Mickle Trafford parish council Notes from parish conference Details of LEP event Crewe Hall
Request for support to achieve Duke of Edinburgh bronze award
Cheshire East – support for transfer of website and email accounts
NW Ambulance Service – advice on siting of new defibrillator and cabinet
CW&C Council – invitation to purchase tickets for the Lord Mayor's Banquet Confirmation of receipt of precept request Notification of temporary road closure Pearl Lane for Dee Valley Water Notice of temporary road closure Barkhill Rd
Comments received on the Facebook page regarding the difficulty crossing Caldly Valley Rd for

pedestrians
Keith Scargill – notes from Planning meeting 30.1.17
Request from Scruffs to hold dog show on Thackeray Drive field on 11.6.17
J Tacon – request re signalling issues at The Holkham, and subsequent replies from CW&C Council
J Tacon – request to consider the provision of free 'poop' bags for dog walkers
National Allotment Society – newsletter

159. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

159a	Cllr Whiteley reported that he had one or two pieces of correspondence from Chris Matheson regarding the Sainsburys junction to share with councillors and that he would pass them to the clerk for circulation.
159b	<p>Cllrs discussed the proposed new access to the canal towpath at the A41 Pearl Lane. CW&C Council had indicated that the money set aside from CEG (Saighton Camp developers) for a new toucan crossing close to that point on the A41 could be redirected towards the alternative project, but no progress seemed to have been made as yet. Cllrs felt the canal towpath through the parish was badly in need of attention and considered whether the parish council should offer to financially support its renovation.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to write to CW&C to establish the progress on the underpass and for more information on the financial situation, and to write to the Canal & River Trust about repairs to the towpath from Boughton Hall/A41 bridge with possible financial support from CW&C, if money were left in their budget from CEG, and the parish council.</p>

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 20th March 2017 at the United Reformed Church, Oldfield Drive, Vicars Cross, Chester, and commencing at 7.30pm.