

**PRESENT:**

Cllrs	Peter Bulmer (Acting Chair)	Ian Huffer
	Harry Cowley	Trevor Jones
	Pauline Cox	Krissie Myler
	Helen Cross	Andrew Pannell
	Jo Evans	John Salt
	John Griffiths	

**133. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Nigel Haslock, Keith Scargill, Sue Rigby and Martin Whiteley, from PCSO Neil Denby, and from CW&C Cllrs Keith Board and Pamela Hall. An apology for late arrival was received from Cllr Jo Evans.

**134. 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).

**135. PRESENTATION BY CASTLEOAK – PROPOSED NEW CARE HOME**

Two representatives of Castleoak gave a short presentation on their proposed 68 bed care home and 74 bed assisted living unit on the site of the former Beechmoor Garden Centre on Whitchurch Road. Although the site was within Christleton parish, they wanted to have the opportunity to discuss the proposal with neighbouring parish councils. They were hoping to receive planning approval to make a start as soon as possible and anticipated that building work would take around 12 months to complete. They had already had positive discussions with CW&C Planning Dept. Cllrs had concerns about access to and from the site and asked the clerk to check that the parish council would be included in the consultation process in due course.

**136. PCSO UPDATE**

PCSO Neil Denby had sent his apologies for non-attendance but his monthly update had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting.

### **137. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 be signed as a correct record.

### **138. ESTIMATES AND THE SETTING OF THE PRECEPT**

Cllrs discussed the final draft of estimates with a view to the setting of the precept for 2017.2018. Cllr Bulmer talked through the information that had been received via CW&C Cllr Pamela Hall regarding Special Expenses. Charges for local residents relating to a PCSO presence and city centre Christmas lights would be collected by CW&C through the council tax, as well as a separate charge for three small play areas in the parish currently maintained by CW&C. Representatives from the parish council were due to talk to CW&C about the possibility of taking over these areas from April 2018.

A precept of £56204 for 2017.18 had been suggested by the finance sub-group supported by a CW&C Council Tax Reduction Grant of £2122. This would mean a 4% increase on last year's precept of £54042.

Cllr Salt was concerned at the proposed percentage increase and felt it should be more in line with inflation. He was also critical that the precept collected was not equitably distributed between both wards of the parish, with the vast majority of it spent supporting projects in the north ward of the parish. He felt that the contribution of south ward residents should be valued and recognised.

A vote was taken and a majority of 10-1 votes were in favour of a precept of £56206 for the 2017.2018 financial year.

It was agreed that an item be placed on the February parish council agenda to discuss the progression of projects in the south ward (Boughton Heath) of the parish.

### **139. REPORTS OF ANY MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND THE CLERK**

The following attendance at meetings was reported:

**Clerk:** 5/1 – mtg to collect tools from Caldly Valley Centre; 5/1 – informal discussion re precept and estimates; 16/1 – interviews for Centre Manager VXCC

**KS:** 5/1 – informal discussion re precept and estimates;

**PB:** 5/1 – informal discussion re precept and estimates; 16/1 – interviews for Centre Manager VXCC

### **140. PLAY REVIEW - UPDATE**

The clerk reported that Cllr Evans had completed the applications for funding towards the play area improvements, and the outcomes would be known in the next few months. Cllr Evans

was still waiting to hear from CW&C Highways about the reduction of the hedgerow by Vaughans Lane play areas but had submitted all comments received from neighbours, from those in support and those who were not.

## 141. ACCOUNTS

141a The balances were reported as:

Nat West Bank	25282.97
National Savings	50172.82
Josh's Project	12136.05
VXCC	35359.26

141b The following income had been received:

Jenny Leake	50% contribution to tree work	125.00
VXCC	Income from lettings & grant	3516.38

141c The following accounts were due for payment:

Dee Valley Water	Allotment water charge	24.64
C Clark	Petty cash claim	6.42
Viro	Lanyards	15.84
Huntington Handbook	Newsletter	159.00
ChALC	Training course P Cox (5.7.17)	35.00
Caldy Valley Voices	Contribution towards Macmillan charity	50.00
Red Squirrel Tree Surgery	Work to trees Dulverton Avenue amenity area	250.00
Vicars Cross Voice	Newsletter	159.00
Bishops High School	Lettings to Feb 2017	104.00
Morrall Play	Play inspections November 2016	204.00
HMRC	Tax & NI due	1613.35
Cube Lighting	VXCC second stage payment floodlights	1078.52
Ash Waste	VXCC waste contract	92.04
C Delaney	Fixing of defib cabinet to wall of VXCC	100.00
Vicars Cross URC	VXCC Hire of rooms	50.00

141d The following had been purchased with the debit card:

Post Office	Stamps	22.80
UK2	Website and email hosting	42.84

141e The following had already been paid:

Peter Powell	Gatelocking	63.00
Jane Fortune	Gatelocking	54.00

Sarah Tyson	Gatelocking	72.00
Carol Clark	Salary & mileage	1481.35
Peter Powell	Litterpicking	62.80
Tesco Mobile	Clerk mobile	7.50
Talktalk	Phone and broadband	37.95
Just giving	Donation re Caldby Valley Voices support at Carols event	50.00
Peter Powell	VXCC open and close and admin support	235.00
Talktalk	VXCC phone and broadband	37.95
Tesco Mobile	VXCC mobile	7.50
Cube Lighting	VXCC first stage payment floodlights	1078.52
NEST	Employer pension contribution January 2017	55.21

## 142. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

142a The following Notifications of Application had been received:

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

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

RESOLVED: that no objections be raised provided that neighbours and other interested parties were included in the consultation process

142b The following applications had received approval:

16/04976 – 13 Clarence Ave – single storey side extension

16/05158 – 25 Belgrave Rd – demolition of existing single storey out rigger and construction of two storey rear extension

16/05227 – 55 Boughton Hall Drive – single storey rear extension and single storey front extension (demolition of existing rear conservatory)

16/05164 – 6 Watling Court – dropped kerb

142c The following application had been refused:

16/05034 – 1 Grange Rd – extension and conversion of former garage/workshop to form new dwelling

142d Notification had been received of a pre-planning consultation in respect of a proposed base station installation by Telefonica/Vodafone on Caldby Valley Rd.

RESOLVED: that the following submission be made:

*'The Parish Council objects to the proposed phone mast (ref CTIL 241688) for the following reasons: The equipment is located within a pedestrian footpath and cycle way beside a busy highway and will considerably reduce the width available to pedestrians and cyclists. This may cause them to step into the road in passing and will be detrimental to road safety. The cycle way is part of a wider cycle network and should remain obstruction free in order to encourage*

*use by cyclists. 'The Parish council urges that the applicant considers an alternative site that avoids these problems.'*

The clerk was asked to write separately suggesting that a more suitable site might be within the Caldy Valley Church & Centre.

### **143. CORRESPONDENCE & EMAILS RECEIVED**

ChALC – invitation to parish conference Phil Cox (Chief Executive CWLEP) to hear what the vision is for Cheshire and take the opportunity to help develop the Strategic Economic Plan. Invitation to a Planning update on 30 <sup>th</sup> January Invitation to nominate outgoing Chairman to go into draw to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace E Bulletins Note of training course running – Self Presentation & Media Skills on 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
CW&C Council – letter re parish precept request Further information on Special expenses Email re local resident’s request to lower speed limit along Vicars Cross Road *
SLCC – advice that local councils would not be subject to referendum principles in 2017.18
WHO Wilkinson – proposal for telecommunications Caldy Valley Road
Police PCSO – report and apologies for January meeting PC Malone – email re her move to Schools Engagement Officer
Request to use Thackeray Drive field and VXCC for Scruffs 2017
Request from local resident for information on accounts including VXCC
Correspondence CW&C Pamela Hall re Special Expenses

\*Cllrs discussed the request to consider a 30mph speed limit for the whole stretch between the Vicars Cross traffic lights and the bottom of Green Lane. Cllrs agreed to support the request in principle and asked the clerk to find out more about the costs involved and the potential timescale, as the parish council would have to undertake local consultation and commit to a 50% of the overall cost of the project if it was given the go ahead.

### **144. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

144a	The clerk updated councillors on the transfer of the website and imails by Cheshire East Council. All emails currently saved on the system and in folders (sent, inbox, deleted) would disappear when the final transfer was completed in the near future. Cllrs were encouraged to forward any such emails to an alternative email address whilst the transfer was completed.
144b	Cllr Myler reported that she was meeting Stuart Bateman, CW&C Highways, to discuss the congestion in Marbury Road.

144c	<p>Cllr Griffiths raised the issue of recent changes to Cheshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service resulting in only one fire tender being stationed in Chester city centre itself. There were also reductions in the number of officers manning each fire tender, from five to four. He felt these posed an increased risk to all households, to shops and businesses in the city centre and for the firefighters themselves.</p> <p>The clerk and Cllr Salt reported that the parish council was in fact consulted on the proposals in the autumn but no representation was submitted.</p> <p>Councillors asked Cllr Griffiths to suggest a form of words to be sent to Chris Matheson, Chester MP, CW&amp;C councillors Pamela Hall, Keith Board and Cllr Bob Rudd to express the parish council's concerns and to ask that the changes be reversed if more funding could be made available.</p>
144d	<p>Cllr Bulmer reported that interviews had taken place that afternoon for a new Centre Manager at VXCC. An offer had been made to one of the candidates and her decision was expected the following day.</p>
144e	<p>Cllr Bulmer reported that the defibrillator and cabinet had now been mounted on the outside wall at VXCC, and that there would be suitable training in the near future for anyone interested.</p>

**The next meeting is to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Bishops' High School, Vaughans Lane, Great Boughton, Chester, and commencing at 7.30pm.**