

Parish Council Office, Vicars Cross Community Centre, Thackeray Drive, Vicars cross, Chester CH3 5LP

Clerk to the Council: Kath Lloyd, Parish Council Office, Vicars Cross Community Centre, Thackeray Drive, Vicars cross, Chester CH3 5LP

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT CALDY VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE, CALDY VALLEY ROAD, GREAT BOUGHTON CH3 5PR**

**PART ONE**

499	<p><b>Present:</b> Cllrs Steve Collings, Pauline Cox, Sara Evans, Ian Huffer, Amanda Miller, Krissie Myler, Sue Rigby, John Salt, Martin Whiteley (acting Chair) PCSO George joined the meeting between 8pm – 8.10pm <b>Apologies:</b> Received from Cllrs Peter Bulmer (family reasons) Jo Evans (work commitments) Mark Pearson (health reasons) Rick Nieto and Keith Scargill (family reasons) <b>In attendance:</b> CWaC Ward Cllr Keith Board and Kath Lloyd, Clerk</p>
500	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None declared</p>
501	<p><b>PCSO George Report:</b> Cllr Whiteley gave an overview of the PCSO report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked for any questions. There was a request within the report from PCSO George for funding towards purse bells which she can distribute to older and more vulnerable members of the parish. The funding was agreed subject to residents within the parish being prioritised eg attendees at the Community Cinema sessions at Vicars Cross Community Centre and similar groups at Caldly Valley Neighbourhood Centre. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to liaise with PCSO George</p>
502	<p><b>Open Forum:</b> there were two local residents present and the following issues were raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a recurring issue of rubbish accumulating at the Becketts Lane end of the footpath between Caldly Valley Road and Becketts Lane – local residents tend to clear it up but it is concerning as it is unclear what is actually in the plastic bags being left. <i>The PCSO will be alerted and ask to carry out additional checks, especially when she is working an evening shift.</i></li> <li>2. The pathway between Bishops High School and Daniell Way has an ongoing issue with flytipping/rubbish and the footpath is very overgrown. <i>The Clerk will report it as an issue to CWaC</i></li> </ol>
503	<p><b>Minutes and matters arising:</b> The minutes of the last parish council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October were approved as a true record and matters arising were addressed later in the agenda.</p>
504	<p><b>Council Sub-Groups:</b> The council approved the minutes of the following sub group meetings which had been circulated prior to the meeting and discussed and approved recommendations:</p> <p><b>28<sup>th</sup> Oct - Caldly Valley:</b> Cllr Whiteley gave a brief overview and drew attention to the newly formed Friends of Caldly Valley Meadow group who had met earlier that evening. The Clerk has details of some potential funding from government for pocket parks and will be completing an application.</p>

	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Nov - Planning Sub Group:</b> Cllr Miller gave a verbal summary of the meeting and the recommendation from the sub group changing the word “uncertainties” to “concerns” in the statement of effect regarding any applications for unconventional gas extraction.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> that the statement be amended as follows and adopted by the full council on 18th Nov :  <b>STATEMENT OF EFFECT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXTRACTION</b></p> <p>Great Boughton Parish Council recognises that sufficient legislation exists and appears to be sufficient to meet the technical needs of any applications for permission to frack in the area. However, the Council has the following concerns about the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) We note that there are <b>concerns</b> about the environmental impact of this type of extraction and would seek reassurance when considering individual schemes</li> <li>b) We further note that our parish area is largely residential and green belt and would be reluctant to allow any industrial developments in or nearby with the associated traffic and pollution.</li> </ul> <p>If and when the Council receives notice of an application to extract gas, a full public consultation will be carried out with local residents in order to ensure that their views are comprehensively represented by the Parish Council. <b>RESOLVED:</b> Proposal approved</p> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Nov -Traffic &amp; Transport:</b> Cllr Salt gave an update on the discussions at the sub group meeting and reminded Cllrs that a walk of the potential footpath between Huntington/Great Boughton/Christleton would take place on <b>Saturday 30th Nov at 10am. Cllrs are encouraged to take part in order to fully understand the issues –meet at Pets at Home on the Caldley Valley Retail Park at 10am.</b></p> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Nov - Open Spaces:</b> Cllr Rigby gave an overview of the work of the sub group and briefed councillors on the plans for Vaughans Lane play area which should be completed before the end of the year.</p> <p><b>12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Vicars Cross Community Centre:</b> Cllr Myler informed council that the community centre would be used as a polling station for the forthcoming general election on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec and that the centre would be closed for the first two weeks of January 2020 while the new heating system is installed.</p> <p><b>13<sup>th</sup> Nov - Communications &amp; Events:</b> Cllr Cox reminded councillors that the annual Carol Singalong will take place at Old Laundry Corner on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec from 6.30pm. Really Awesome Coffee are providing hot drinks and festive cakes (funded by the parish council for local residents) and councillor are encouraged to attend. There was also an update on the revised format for the Annual Meeting of the Parish in April which will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 2 – 3.30pm and local community groups and businesses will be invited to share information. The event will start with a presentation from the Canals &amp; River Trust and refreshments will be served. There was a recommendation from the sub group that the council take part in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition at Neighbourhood level <b>RESOLVED</b> unanimously.</p> <p><b>14<sup>th</sup> Nov –Finance:</b> Cllr Whiteley gave an overview of the sub group meeting and asked for questions or comments. Cllr Scargill had scrutinised and signed the latest bank statements during the sub group meeting.</p>
505	<p><b>External Audit Report:</b> council received and noted the report from PKF-Littlejohn Auditors, appointed by the Government to conduct the annual audit for parish and town councils. Cllr Whiteley observed that the Finance Sub Group had studied this in depth and felt that the two comments made, although not incorrect, were trivial recording items and did not raise any concerns.</p>
506	<p><b>Centurion Community Pub:</b> Cllr Cox provided a verbal update on a recent meeting with the Community Action Group between Cllrs Cox and Bulmer and three members of the Centurion Community</p>

	Action Group The committee and management of the community pub in Vicars Cross has changed since discussions last took place in 2017 and the financial situation appears more stable. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that members of the CCAG be invited to give a presentation at the January 2020 parish council meeting. There was a request that the presentation be circulated before the meeting if possible so that councillors feel informed and prepared.
507	<b>Operation London Bridge:</b> the Clerk gave a brief verbal report on Operation London Bridge that she and Cllr Bulmer have received briefing on (death of a monarch) and referred to the power point handout circulated prior to the meeting. There are plans to create a London Bridge Box which will hold suitable and appropriate items for councillors if/when needed.
508	<b>General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011):</b> The council considered the Briefing Paper provided. <b>Resolved:</b> the Parish Council meets the GPoC criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Electoral mandate – minimum two thirds of the Council elected.</li> <li>ii. That the Clerk holds a nationally recognised qualification.</li> </ul>
509	<b>Parish Council response to CWaC Consultation on Enforcement Services:</b> council received and noted the council's response to the CWaC Consultation on Enforcement Services, which ended on 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
510	<b>Report from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors:</b> CWaC Cllrs Collings and Board reported that they had been made aware of fly tipping in Boughton, although this was not within the current parish geographical boundaries. Cllr Collings has attended Dementia Friendly training and has passed on details of the trainer to the VXCC Manager to consider running similar sessions there. There was also a discussion on the use of Caldley Valley Road by HGVs and Cllr Collings promised to follow this issue up.
511	<b>Clerk's report:</b> circulated prior to the meeting, received and noted.
512	<b>Planning Applications:</b> Recorded in the Clerk's report (Appendix A) and paper copies were available for scrutiny.
513	<b>Information exchange:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllr Sara Evans offered to post headlines of the meeting on social media to raise local awareness of the work carried out by the council and it was agreed that the Clerk would send her 3 or 4 items for this.</li> <li>2. One of the local residents asked for dates of future meetings and the Clerk agreed to email details.</li> </ul>

Signed.....CHAIR

Date.....

# Clerk's Report

15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## 1. Summary of Actions from Parish Council meeting 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2019

Item no.	Action	Progress made
494	<b>Councillor Allowances: RESOLVED:</b> that the draft policy be approved subject to an amendment in point 2 to include <i>all</i> councillors	Completed and Chair has signed off. Payments will be made in December. Please let the Clerk know if you do not wish payment to be made.

## 2. Finance Report

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## 3. Planning Applications

To be considered by the Planning Sub group on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec meeting:

19/04002/FUL31 Tudor Way - Single storey side and rear extension  
19/03977/FUL Vicars cross Dental Practice, Green Lane – first floor extension  
19/03980/FUL 36 Marian Drive – Single storey rear extension

#### **4. Planning Decisions**

None received

#### **5. Communications**

- The Traffic & Transport Sub Group sent a letter to Marbury Road residents asking for views on local speeding and parking issues, following concerns raised by local residents. The Clerk has received 8 email responses and one phone call and these will be feedback to the next Traffic & Transport Sub Group for consideration.
- A resident complained about flytipping on Shed lane – reported to CWaC no 4881802. This issue has now been dealt with and the rubbish cleared.
- A resident complained about overgrown weeds and nettles along Shed Lane – reported to CWaC no 4881803. Outstanding
- The Clerk received an email complaining about the number of fireworks being set off around Vicars Cross. A response was sent explaining the limitations of the council and police, given the legal framework.
- The Clerk has received a complaint from a resident about the way that the trees on Vicars Cross Rd have been trimmed at the side but not on the tops. Report no. 4885608 and photos sent.

#### **6. Operational Information**

- The annual Carol singing will take place at Old Laundry Corner on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6.30pm – all councillors are invited and reminded to bring torches.
- Cllrs Collings & Bulmer attended the “Meet the Team – Streetscene and Highways” delivered by CWaC on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Cheshire View.
- A number of councillors attended the Huntington Parish Remembrance Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov and Cllr Scargill laid a wreath on behalf of Great Boughton Parish.
- Cllr Pearson has cleared the overgrown ivy and weeds at the side of the community centre in Vicars Cross.
- A group of councillors met on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov to plant bulbs donated by CWaC & Parish Cllr Collings at the top of Pearl Lane, near the new crossing.
- Cllr Scargill and the Clerk attended the CHaLC AGM and heard a very interesting debate about the CWaC Consultation into the Delivery of Enforcement Services.
- Cllrs Scargill and Myler and the Clerk attended the CHaLC Wellbeing Session on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, which was both informative and entertaining.
- Cllr Miller’s son has been doing some voluntary work in Vicars Cross Community Centre, to support his Duke of Edinburgh Award
- The Clerk attended the Brightlife Conference at Hoole Hall, which gave an interim project report. The funding for the Brightlife Project across the country is due to end in March 2020 and the

team are gathering the learning from across the different schemes that have been run. The Community Cinema at Vicars Cross Community Centre is being used as one of its success stories as it has been successfully sustained without continued funding.