



MINUTES OF THE GREAT BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND JANUARY 2018 AT CALDY VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, BOUGHTON HEATH.

Present:

Cllrs	Keith Scargill (Chair)	Harry Cowley
	Krissie Myler	John Salt
	Andrew Pannell	Jo Evans
	Martin Whiteley	Sue Rigby
	Ian Huffer	Andy Bayliss

In attendance:

Parish Clerk	Kath Lloyd
PCSO	Neil Denby
CWaC Ward Councillor	Keith Board

PART ONE

282. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Councillors Cllrs Peter Bulmer, Pauline Cox and Nigel Haslock (away), Trevor Jones (illness) and CWaC Ward Councillor Pam Hall (family bereavement).

283. Declarations of Interest

None declared at this stage of the meeting.

284. PCSO Denby Report

PCSO Denby gave a summary of his report which had previously been shared with Councillors. He drew Council's notice to a recent break-in on Queens Road but stated that it had otherwise been a peaceful period over Christmas. There was a brief discussion about the 20 mph speed limit as Council has noted a number of new signs have been erected. PCSO Denby and colleagues are targeting specific areas to reinforce the new speed limits and Councillors are encouraged to let the Clerk know of any roads that they would like targeted.



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285. Vicars Cross Road Speed Limit

The Council have previously agreed in theory to support the implementation of a 30 mph speed limit on Vicars Cross Road between the Shell Grage and the A41 junction traffic lights. However, Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council have requested a £1000 contribution towards the cost of the public consultation and new signage. Cllr Salt asked why the contribution was necessary when un-parished areas are not asked to contribute in this way and observed that the request appears to penalise the parished areas. There was also concern that this might set a precedent for future similar schemes. After a debate, it was agreed that more investigation needed to take place. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk ask CWaC for a breakdown of the costs to be covered and an explanation of the different approaches taken to parished and unparished areas.

286. Open Forum

Ward Councillor Keith Broad wished the Parish Council a happy new year and there were no other members of the public present.

287. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were approved as accurate:

Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th December 2017

Finance Sub Group on 18th December 2017

Planning Sub Group on 11th January 2018

288. Matters arising and action points from the minutes above:

The matters arising and action points from the following meetings were deferred from the Council meeting on 11th December and were presented by the Clerk for approval:

Parish Council meeting on Monday 20th November

Finance Sub Group on 27th Nov and 4th Dec

Vicars Cross Community Centre Sub Group on 27th Nov

Caldy Valley Sub Group on 27th Nov

Planning Sub Group on 30th Nov

Centurion Sub Group on 7th Dec

All were approved.



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The matters arising and action points from the Parish Council meeting on 11th December were approved; however, Cllr Salt raised a point of order that the proposals presented by Mr John Tacon should have been recorded as requests or suggestions. Only a Parish Councillor can make a formal proposal to Council. Cllr Salt's comments were noted and the Clerk will amend the records.

The minutes of the Finance Sub Group on 18th December were approved and the Clerk presented a draft Terms of Reference for the newly formed Open Spaces Sub Group. Cllr Salt requested that the Sub Group be tasked with maintaining and managing the Parish Council's boundaries. He expressed a concern that in some instances, residents had extended their gardens onto land owned by the Parish Council without permission. **RESOLVED:** The Clerk will amend the draft Terms of Reference to reflect Cllr Salt's request. There were no other matters arising.

The minutes of the Planning Sub Group on 11th January were agreed as accurate and Cllr Pannell (Chair of Planning) gave an overview of the meeting, including the proposal to Council to approve a Statement of GBPC's approach to Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking). The Council voted unanimously to adopt the following Statement:

STATEMENT OF EFFECT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR UNCONVENTIONAL GAS EXTRACTION

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:

- a) We note that there are uncertainties about the environmental impact of this type of extraction and would seek reassurance when considering individual schemes**
- 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.**
- c) 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.**



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289. Setting of the Precept for 2018.19

Cllr Martin Whiteley from the Finance Sub Group reminded the Council of the key points within the Precept Report that was distributed to Council in December and briefed Council of the detail within the Part Two, Additional Finance Meeting held on 16th January 2018. He drew Council's attention to the Quarterly Finance Report that had been distributed before the meeting and noted that the figures within the report can be relied upon as accurate and reflective of the Council's current financial position. He further noted that for a number of years, the Council did not raise its precept but relied on New Homes S106 funding to meet the shortfall. This funding has however; declined over time and the Council Tax Support funding from CWaC has also reduced and will cease to exist altogether by 2019. The Finance Sub Group therefore propose to Council that the precept for 2018.19 be set at £64,000, meaning an average rise of £1.75 pa per Band D household (based on 3236 households) and a total charge per year to Band D households of £19.77. The Finance Sub Group further proposed that the Council adopt a similar increase over the next two years to enable the Council to build a contingency fund.

Cllr Salt noted that he is still uncertain of the equality of spending by the Council across the South Ward (Boughton Heath) and would like Council to pledge more transparency of spending in each part of the Parish. He stated his intention of abstaining from a vote on the increased precept on this basis. Cllr Whiteley stressed to the meeting that the proposed precept would only meet operational costs and would not allow for any development or project work to be planned, including improvements to play areas or green spaces, without additional funding sources being sourced. Cllr Whiteley also observed that the accounting tools now being used to monitor and report the budget were more sophisticated and accurate than ever before and therefore, greater transparency would be possible in the future. The Finance Sub Group also proposed to raise Allotment fees by 10% as it had done the year before, although the allotments would continue to operate at a cost to the Council.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Parish Council's precept for 2018.19 be set at £64,000 – carried (9 in agreement and one abstention).
- ii. That the Parish Council agree to maintain a consistent and realistic rise in the precept for the next two years – carried (9 in agreement and one abstention).



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290. Clerk's Report (Appendix A)

The Clerk presented her report which had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked for feedback on the weekly Highlight Report.

291. Great Boughton Parish Council Boundary Review

Cllr Keith Scargill introduced a report on the Parish Council Boundary Review that had been circulated to Council before the meeting and there was a discussion about the unparished areas of Cawdor Drive/Kirkwood Close and the larger Boughton area where some residents had expressed dissatisfaction as part of the earlier public consultation on the Ward Boundary Review. It was agreed that a working party of Councillors would be needed to take forward the soft marketing and public relations work needed as the first stage of the public consultation (CWaC will complete the statutory consultation). After a discussion, it was agreed that the two proposals should be voted on as one item: **RESOLUTION:** that Great Boughton Parish Council resolves to carry out public consultation in partnership with CWAC with a view to adopt the unparished area of Cawdor Drive and Kirkwood Close and the unparished area of Boughton should the Ward Boundaries be changed to include this area in Great Boughton Ward. Carried unanimously.

292. Planning Applications

Copies of recent planning applications were available and Council's responses to each are now being recorded on the Planning Sub Group minutes so that impact can be measured.

293. Information exchange

Cllr Scargill reminded Council that the latest CWaC Asset Review has been released and includes Great Boughton Library on Green Lane. Cllr Scargill and Bulmer have received reassurances from Jane Makin (CWaC) that Great Boughton Library is not under threat and is one of the most used libraries in the area. However, there will be a public consultation meeting at the library on Monday 5th February between 10am – 1pm and Cllrs are encouraged to attend to find out more.

http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations/draft_community_assets_framework_consultation for more details.

Cllr Salt observed that although he understand that local residents are unhappy at the new traffic lights at Saughton, he believes that the staggering of the traffic while



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building work is taking place has been very effective and is keen to know why the planned traffic lights at the top of Gorse Road have not yet been installed. The Clerk will investigate further and report back to Cllr Salt.

Cllr Salt also asked why there is still no enforcement taking place on heavy goods vehicles using Caldly Valley Road. The Clerk will investigate further and report back to Cllr Salt.

The next meeting is to be held on Monday 19th February 2018 at United Reform Church, Oldfield Drive commencing at 7.30pm.