

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

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| <p>MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.15 P.M. DELAMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STATION ROAD, DELAMERE</p> |
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Present: Councillors J Edwards (Chairman), D Rutter (Vice-chairman), R Ackerley, D Wheeler, A Gore, A Bell, Y Billows and C Rothwell and T Overland.

Also present: Mrs J Monks, Clerk, Cheshire West & Chester Ward Councillor J Leather, four members of the public and two representatives from Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association.

Public Speaking Time

Councillor R Ackerley announced the death of former Parish Councillor Alan Howarth and the funeral will be held next week.

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to the bus stop outside Fourways Quarry. There were issues as this was a request stop only and there was no sign as such the majority of drivers would not stop. Cheshire West & Chester Ward Councillor J Leather asked the member of the public to keep a record of all incidents when the bus failed to stop in order to identify the drivers concerned.

Councillor T Overland addressed the Parish Council as a member of the public regarding a letter from a resident dated 16th June 2016, the contents of which was read at the Parish Council meeting. Councillor T Overland stated that he attended the Crown Farm Liaison meeting on 24th May 2016 not in his capacity as a Parish Councillor. Councillor T Overland offered to resign from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council refused Councillor T Overland's resignation and confirmed a vote of confidence in Councillor T Overland.

A member of the Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association addressed the Parish Council with regards to the proposed car park at Oakmere Way. The proposed car park was to provide a place to park for the Oakmere Way rather than cars parking on Stoneyford Lane. There was a huge demand for circular routes for horse riders and there had been complaints from residents as cars and horseboxes had been parked on Stoneyford Lane.

The request from Mid-Cheshire Bridleways Association did detail picnic tables but these could be removed if the Parish Council wished. The Mid-Cheshire Bridleways Association had obtained quotes for barriers, picnic tables and CCTV equipment. A manual gate for the car park would require opening and closing on a daily basis. Other maintenance issues for the car park would be the collection of litter, grass trimming and future resurfacing of the car park.

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council as they live near to the proposed car park and strongly opposed the construction as it was thought that a car park at this location would create a lot of problems and issues for local residents. The member of the public stated that there was no planning permission granted for the siting of picnic tables and the member of the public felt that that issues would occur with regards to the maintenance and management of the car park if it was built.

Another member of the public addressed the Parish Council opposing the construction of a car park. There were other local car parks including the Forestry Commission's car parks available and rather than pay for parking on these, members of the public would seek to use a free car park on Stoneyford Lane. The member of the public questioned whether a grant from the Parish Council and the Parish Council taking on the responsibility for a car park was a good use of Parish Council resources and public funds.

The clerk noted that the some residents from the Crabtree Green Residents Association were strongly against the construction of a car park on Stoneyford Lane and it was thought that other residents may also be against this proposal.

Part 1, items considered in the presence of the press and public

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J Edwards welcomed councillors and the members of the public to the meeting. Councillors M Latham and C George were unable to attend as they were on holiday.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor T Overland declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to items 17 and 18 relating to the Oakmere Way as he was a member of the Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association.

Councillor D Rutter declared an interest in relation to item 7 (e) 16/02170/FUL, Change of use with alterations of the outbuilding to Barn 1 to provide a double garage and a change of use with alterations of the outbuilding to Barn 2 to provide additional living space and a double garage. Rectory Farm, Chester Road, Delamere as he had recently sold this land and lived adjacent.

3 Briefing from the PCSO on Operation Shield and purchasing a speed gun.

The PCSO was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting and as such this item was deferred.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council meeting on Monday 16th May 2016 be approved as a correct record.

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council Annual meeting on Monday 16th May 2016 be approved as correct record.

5 Progress Reports

The clerk had received an update on speed limit request from Cheshire West and Chester Council dated 13th June 2016. Cheshire West and Chester Council were still awaiting the final estimate for their contractors for the work. Once Cheshire West and Chester Council receive this estimate the costings will have to be finalised with the Road Safety Team prior to organising the works to be undertaken. At present there is no timescale for this.

The clerk had contact the Building Control Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council who had confirmed that they had contacted the owner and the agent of The Court House on Chester Road in Oakmere and they will confirm that the remedial works will be undertaken.

6 Correspondence

The clerk had received an email from the Libraries Manager of Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to a review of the current service provided by the Mobile library. A public consultation commenced on 1st June and will last for six weeks and is open for any residents or mobile users to complete. The survey can be found online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mobilelibraryconsultation. With regards to Delamere and Oakmere the proposal is to reduce the days and number of stops.

7 Planning

The Parish Council considered all the planning applications that had been received up to 20th June 2016.

RESOLVED that;

(a) No objections were to be made to 16/01814/FUL, Double garage (detached) Sans Souci Overdale Lane Oakmere.

(b) No objections were to be made to 16/02037/FUL, Demolition of conservatory and erection of side extension with gables to front and rear. Construct side gable and front dormer, replacement front porch, extension of rear dormer and render to exterior, Burrows Ledge, The Ridge Delamere.

(c) 16/01955/FUL, Remove existing garden wall, gates and hedge and replace with sandstone wall, railings and electric gates. Ridgemere 51 Station Road, Delamere. The Parish Council submitted the following objections to this planning application;

1) The pillars and proposed railings and high electric gates are out of keeping with the rural street scene on Station Road.

2) The Parish Council are concerned regarding the lack of visibility for cars which travel down Eddisbury Hill onto the main road. The height of the wall, railings and pillars may be an issue impairing drivers on a busy school run short cut and the Parish Council ask Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways department to investigate this matter accordingly.

(d) No objections were to be made to 16/02124/OUT, Detached dwelling with access, Land at Yeld Lane Farm Yeld Lane Delamere.

(e) No objections were to be made to 16/02170/FUL, Change of use with alterations of the outbuilding to Barn 1 to provide a double garage and a change of use with alterations of the outbuilding to Barn 2 to provide additional living space and a double garage. Rectory Farm, Chester Road Delamere.

8 Forestry Commission Recreation hub masterplan

Four representatives from the Parish Council had met with the Forestry Commission on 16th June 2016, however the Forestry Commission had subsequent meeting with other Parish Councils on 13th July. As such they had requested this item be adjourned until the full details were made public. The clerk was requested to defer this item until the next Parish Council meeting in July.

9 Co-option of vacant seat

The clerk had received one application for the vacant seat following the resignation of Councillor A Lewis however the resident was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting on Monday 20th June and the clerk had invited the resident to the next Parish Council meeting in July.

RESOLVED that;

To defer this item until the next Parish Council meeting in July.

10 Finance

The clerk reported that the current bank balances were as follows and bank statements showing these amounts were presented and signed by the chairman.

Bank account balance is £38,546.92 as at 31st May 2016. (£675.00 earmarked funds for the speed limit contribution as requested by Cheshire West and Chester Council resolved to spend this in November 2015 minutes). Unpaid cheques is £219.48. New Homes Bonus fund £22,457.02.

No Income received, there is one outstanding invoice of £12.00 for an advert in the Delamere & Oakmere news.

Payments due were for the room hire of the Community Centre, clerk's salary and expenses for June, pension contributions and quarterly payment for HMRC.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

| Cheque No | Payee | Particulars of payment | Amount |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|---------|
| 000839 | Delamere Community Centre | Room hire | £10.00 |
| 000840 | Clerk | Salary for June | £328.36 |
| 000841 | Clerk | Expenses for June | £43.64 |
| 000842 | Cheshire Pension Fund | Employers & employees contribution for June | £112.08 |
| 000843 | Cheshire Pension Fund | Underpayment due to change in contribution rate for April 2016 | £4.22 |
| 000844 | Cheshire Pension Fund | Underpayment due to change in contribution rate for April 2016 | £4.22 |
| 000845 | HMRC | Quarterly payment | £241.60 |

11 Annual review of Internal Financial Controls

The Parish Council has undertaken a review of the internal financial controls.

RESOLVED that;

The present arrangements for financial controls as detailed below are acceptable;

- a) Cheques are raised in accordance with the financial report which is circulated with the agenda prior to each Parish Council meeting by the clerk.
- b) The financial report is approved at each Parish Council meeting and then cheques are signed at each Parish Council meeting by two authorised signatories.
- c) The Chairman at each Parish Council meeting reconciles the bank balance on the financial report with the bank statement and signs and dates each.
- d) The financial statement which includes the bank balance and the cheques for payment for that month is entered into the minutes accordingly.

12 Pension

Further to last month's minutes regarding the employer contribution rate for Cheshire Pension Fund. Cheshire Pension Fund have now informed the Parish Council in a letter dated 31st May 2016 that the correct contribution rate is 20.3%. As such further cheques for the underpayment for April and May will need to be authorised.

The clerk has completed all the necessary correspondence for Cheshire West and Chester Pension Fund. The Employer Pension Discretions policy statement was to be circulated by the clerk and this item would be considered under a part two at the next Parish Council meeting in July.

13 Ash-worth Time bank

The clerk had received a request for a donation for Ash-worth Time bank from the Chairman of Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council dated 17th May 2016. It was noted that there were no local activities in Delamere and Oakmere that received help or assistance from Ash-worth Time bank.

RESOLVED that;

As Ash-worth time bank funded no activities in Delamere and Oakmere no request for a donation could be considered.

14 The removal of the bus stop at Fourways Quarry

RESOLVED that;

The clerk would contact Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the issue of the removal of the bus stop at Fourways Quarry asking for them to consider the installation of a bus stop sign.

15 Neighbourhood Plan

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.

16 Land at Frith Avenue and playground at Little Wood

Councillor J Edwards had circulated a proposed questionnaire to be sent to all residents regarding the proposed plans for the land at Frith Avenue and for the playground at Little Wood.

An amended questionnaire would be circulated before distribution to residents. It was hoped that a copy of the questionnaire could be included in the next edition of the Delamere and Oakmere news, however a separate questionnaire would be hand delivered to residents in the Frith Avenue area. These responses would then be collated and considered by the Parish Council.

Councillor D Rutter raised concerns as there was no access to Frith Avenue playground by car and residents may be concerned regarding additional cars parking in and around Frith Avenue. Councillor J Edwards informed the Parish Council that the working party were aware of these concerns and that any development would have to be low impact and designed for pedestrian access rather than access by car.

17 Proposal from Cheshire West and Chester Council to divert Public Footpath No 5 (part)

The clerk has received a letter dated 1st June 2016 from Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the Parish Council comments regarding the proposal to divert part of the public footpath No 5 in the parish of Delamere and Oakmere. The clerk has put the notification on the noticeboard page of the website. The closing date for comments is Friday 15th July 2016. Councillor A Bell had posted this item on Facebook and had not received any negative responses.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council had no objections to the proposal to divert Public footpath no 5, and the clerk was asked to inform the Public Rights of Way Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council accordingly of this. It was noted that the new footpath would benefit from a signpost to redirect members of the public and the clerk was asked to request this accordingly.

18 Proposed car park, horse unloading and picnic area for Oakmere Way

The clerk had received a letter dated 7th June 2016 from the Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association. The letter asked for the Parish Council to consider taking a lease for the area from Tarmac and for a grant of £5,000 from the Parish Council. The letter also asked for a separate meeting to be arranged with representatives from the Parish Council, Mid Cheshire Bridleways and Tarmac.

The clerk has received a letter and an email dated 16th June 2016 from a resident asking the Parish Council to consider several points with regards to the proposed car park for Oakmere Way. The clerk has circulated the letter dated 16th June 2016 and the chairman of the Parish Council will respond accordingly to this. The separate email regarding various points with regards to the proposed car park for the Oakmere Way has been circulated to all the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration.

RESOLVED that;

To defer this item until the next Parish Council meeting in July in order to allow time to gather further information and documentation from Mid-Cheshire Bridleway Association regarding their proposal and for the clerk to send a letter to ask residents their opinion on this matter.

19 Training and Events

None attended.

20 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that there was a proposal for rural parking and Parish Councillors would be invited to a meeting in Tarvin and Kelsall regarding this. The following consultations were ongoing with Cheshire West and Chester Council;

Children's centres, use of body cameras, use of A-Boards in Chester, draft play strategy, mobile library consultation, disability consultation and vulnerable and old people's consultation.

21 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor D Rutter reported that discussions were ongoing with regards to Mr Fergusson's plans for the Fourways Quarry as the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council required further information and documentation in support of the planning application.

Councillor A Bell reported that litter was becoming an increasing problem in and around Delamere Station and that he had been in contact with the Community Rail Officer regarding this. The clerk was requested to put this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

22 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 18th July 2016 at 7.15pm at Delamere Community Centre.

Part 2; contained confidential information and only Councillors and reporting officers were present.

23 National Salary Award

The clerk had received a letter dated May 2016 regarding the National Joint Council for Local Government Services new pay scales for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. This represents a 1% pay increase for 2016/2017 and a further 1% pay increase for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council accepts the new pay scales as nationally agreed and the clerk was requested to amend the payroll accordingly.

Chairman's
signature.....Dated.....