

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

<p>MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.15 P.M. DELAMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STATION ROAD, DELAMERE</p>

Present: Councillors J Edwards (Chairman), D Rutter (Vice-chairman), R Ackerley, T Overland, C George, D Wheeler, A Bell, A Gore, M Latham and J Powell.

Also present: Mrs J Monks, Clerk, Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather and H Deynem and two members of the public.

Public Speaking Time

Councillor J Edwards addressed the Parish Council as a member of the public with regards to the planning application for Delamere Forest. Councillor J Edwards had declared a pecuniary interest and as such would not take part in the discussion or decision with regards to this planning application. Councillor J Edwards stated that he had submitted an objection to the planning application for Delamere Forest with the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

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 C Rothwell and Y Billows sent their apologies as both were unwell and could not attend the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor J Edwards declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the planning application for Delamere Forest.

3 Briefing on Operation Shield

The clerk received an email stating that no one was available to attend however they would attend the next Parish Council meeting in November.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th July 2016 and Monday 19th September 2016 be approved as a correct record.

5 Progress Reports

Councillor T Overland reported that the speed of traffic on Stoneyford Lane in Oakmere had dramatically increased especially during rush hour. The current speed limit is 60mph and it was felt that this was particularly high and should be reduced to 50mph or even 40mph. The clerk would submit a request to the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to ask them to review the speed limit on this stretch of road.

Councillor J Powell also confirmed that this was an issue and stated that she would send the clerk photographs of the car parking issues on Stoneyford Lane for the clerk to provide these to the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council for their investigation in this matter.

Councillor D Wheeler reported more issues regarding the replacement bus service currently being run by Arriva. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that as this was a private service Cheshire West and Chester Council had no influence as it was not a subsidised service. The Rural Rider service continued to be in operation as an alternative and this would be promoted in the next edition of the newsletter. The clerk was asked to write to Arriva explaining the issues and asking their long term intention with regards to the route and to send a copy of this letter to the local MP and to Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather.

6 Correspondence

The clerk received an email dated 21st September 2016 objecting to the proposed planning application for Delamere Forest. The clerk acknowledged receipt and circulated to all the Parish Councillors for their attention.

The clerk received confirmation on 27th September 2016 that the Parish Council was now registered with the Information Commissioners Office for Data Protection purposes.

The clerk informed the Parish Council that there is a Local Government Finance Settlement Technical consultation from The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) which includes proposals regarding council tax referendum principals for local parish and town councils. The government is minded to extend referendum principals to a number of larger higher spending local councils and is prepared to consider extending referendums to all Parish Councils. The consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>. The Parish Council felt that the introduction of this would reduce flexibility and could result in issues if expenditure increased due to big 'one-off' projects. The clerk would ask advice from Cheshire Association of Local Councils in order to prepare a suitable response.

The clerk had received an email dated 7th October 2016 from a resident with regards to a speed limit review for Middlewich Road. The clerk had contacted the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council who had confirmed in an email dated 17th October 2016 that they had arranged a meeting for Friday 21st October 2016 between the Police, Highways Department and Road Safety section to discuss the current speed limit and to agree a course of action.

The clerk has received an email on 14th October 2016 requesting a grant for an additional defibrillator to be installed within the immediate vicinity of Eddisbury Hill. The Chairman of Delamere Grove Residents Association applied for a grant from the British Heart Foundation and a defibrillator was granted at the reduced price of £400.00. The defibrillator requires a secure outdoor cabinet and these cost £500.00. As this was not an agenda item the clerk was requested to defer this for consideration for the next Parish Council meeting in November and ask the Chairman of Delamere Grove Residents Association to attend. The clerk noted that funds may be available from the Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors budgets as they have funded similar schemes elsewhere.

7 Planning

The Parish Council considered all the planning applications that had been received up to 17th October 2016.

RESOLVED that;

(a) No objections were to be made to 16/04217/FUL, Replace existing conservatory to the rear of the dwelling with a sun room. 105 Station Road Delamere.

(b) 16/03550/FUL, Re-organisation of the existing visitor hub facility to provide a replacement visitor centre; new parking; change of use of existing cafe and bike hire building to offices; change of use of existing workshop to bike hire building; landscaping; improved internal access roads and signage/barriers; natural play areas; a bike storage compound; a bike skills area; new and improved pedestrian/bike/multi-user trails; offsite road and footpath improvements; a new health and wellbeing fitness play and interpretation trail; and the erection of 67 timber holiday cabins with associated infrastructure. Delamere Forest Ashton Road Delamere.

Councillor J Edwards handed over the role of chairman to Councillor D Rutter for this item with regards to the Delamere Forest planning application as he had declared a pecuniary interest. Councillor J Edwards did not take part in any part of the discussion relating to the planning application for Delamere Forest.

The clerk confirmed that the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council had allowed an extension on the submission of comments until 24th October 2016 with regards to this planning application.

This planning application was discussed at length and many Parish Councillors had concerns regarding the planning application.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to submit the following to the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council considered this planning application and are concerned regarding the following;

1) The Parish Council has noted that a very detailed transport assessment has been undertaken in relation to the holiday lodges, which evaluates the likely increase of traffic. However the transport assessment for re-development of the visitors centre and associated new facilities includes no such evaluation, and merely states that “The development does not promote major new attractions that would create additional traffic; rather, it replaces and expands the existing facilities at Delamere to create a better visitor experience”. The statement fails to explain why the better visitor experience, including a £250,000 investment to provide completely new facilities at Whitefield, a considerable increase in the floor area of the visitor centre, and an increase in the number of parking spaces at Linmere by almost a factor of four, will not attract more visitors and hence more traffic. The Parish Council would like to request that the transport assessment for the visitor centre be revised and expanded to include a full evaluation of the impact on visitor numbers and associated traffic, and that any necessary mitigation measures be included in the proposal.

2) There is a concern regarding the lack of toilet facilities for visitors at Whitefield car park especially as there are new facilities planned for this area. The Parish Council requests that it is made a planning condition that toilet facilities are provided in this location due to anticipated high visitor numbers the improved facilities will bring.

3) The Parish Council requests that it is made a planning condition that traffic calming measures are introduced on the Linmere access road, in particular for the safety of residents on this road.

4) The Parish Council has noted that the Forestry Commission have confirmed as part of the planning application that they will move the footpath over the railway bridge in order to improve pedestrian safety. This is a long standing hazard and it would be appreciated if this could be made a planning condition that this essential work must be undertaken prior to any re-development of the visitors centre and prior to any work commencing on the lodges.

The Parish Council would ask the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to ensure that each of the above is fully considered when making a decision in relation to this planning application and that these can be make conditions of any planning consent.

8 Cheshire West and Chester Planning Protocol

The clerk had received an email on 3rd October from Cheshire West and Chester Planning Department regarding changes to the planning protocol. The main change is that the Parish Council will not automatically be issued with paper copies of plans. Paper plans will only be provided on a case by case basis. Councillor J Edwards had downloaded a copy of the plans onto a tablet and this was passed around for examination. This could then be projected onto a wall for consideration through a projector. Councillor D Wheeler confirmed that Delamere Community centre had a projector and it was decided to trial this at the next meeting and then approve any expenditure necessary.

9 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 £35,852.92. (£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). £473.55 unpaid cheques. New Homes Bonus fund £22,457.02. September income received was £88.00 advertising income. Payments due were for the room hire of the Community Centre, additional room hire charged for September, clerk's salary and expenses for October, pension contributions for October.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

Cheque	Payee	Particulars of payment	Amount
000864	Delamere Community Centre	Room hire for October	£10.00
000865	Clerk	Salary for October	£322.50
000866	Clerk	Expenses for October	£30.90
000867	Cheshire Pension Fund	Employers & employees contribution for October	£110.05
000868	Delamere Community centre	Extra room hire charge for main hall in Sept	£14.00

10 Meeting dates for 2017

RESOLVED that;

The meeting dates of the Parish Council were agreed as detailed below and the clerk would book the community centre accordingly and circulate a list of dates to all the Parish Councillors and put a copy of the dates on the noticeboards and website.

The clerk noted that the Annual Parish meeting in April and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May dates may be subject to change and this will be discussed and confirmed at the Parish Council meeting in January 2017. .

Meeting dates in 2017 are as follows;

Monday 16 th January	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 13 th February	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 20 th March	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 24 th April	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 24 th April	Annual Parish Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 15 th May	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 15 th May	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council	7.15pm
Monday 19 th June	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 17 th July	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 18 th September	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 16 th October	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 20 th November	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm
Monday 11 th December	Monthly Parish Council Meeting	7.15pm

11 Social Media Policy

The adoption of a social media policy was discussed and the clerk had sought guidance from Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council adopt a social media policy.

The clerk was asked to circulate the above policy along with the 'Good Councillors Guide to Social Media' to all the Parish Councillors for their attention. The clerk would put the adopted policy onto the Parish Council's website.

12 Additional Parish Council noticeboard

The location of a new additional Parish Council noticeboard was discussed. Councillor T Overland will make enquiries to see if a new noticeboard could be located on private land on Hogshead Lane near to the post-box and bus stop.

13 BT phone boxes

The clerk had received an email on 6th October 2016 from Senior Localities Officer from Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to BT proposals to remove the BT phone boxes at Delamere Station and at car park at The Lounge in Oakmere. Both phone boxes were the modern design and not the red traditional style.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council agreed with the removal of the BT phone box at Delamere Station. However a decision with regards to the BT phone box at the car park at The Lounge will be deferred until the Parish Council meeting in November in order to allow Councillors to consult with local residents regarding the issue.

14 Land at Frith Avenue

A meeting of the working party had been undertaken last week and it was agreed that the land at Frith Avenue would be the main point of focus for now. The Parish Council had received a good response from residents and this will be now considered fully by the organisation of a consultation meeting with residents.

15 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that there were several consultations ongoing from Cheshire West and Chester Council. These were;

- School extension policy, which affected Cuddington Primary school
- Consultation with regards to cemetery rules
- Review of the Residents Car parking scheme
- Fracking policy was being addressed in a supplementary planning policy document.
- Gypsy site policy

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather noted that funds may be available for community groups through the Ward Members budget scheme.

Councillor D Rutter asked Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather regarding wires across certain roads. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather stated that these were traffic monitoring devices which had been placed by the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Councillor R Ackerley enquired regarding the maintenance of Cheshire Railings around the borough as some seemed in disrepair and required painting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather asked for locations and for pictures to be emailed to him in order to report to Cheshire West and Chester Council accordingly.

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor asked for volunteers for cleaning the Millennium Towers on Pale Heights.

16 Councillor's report and future agenda items

A member of the public had contacted Councillor A Bell regarding purchasing native bluebells and planting these in various areas in the Parish. Councillor T Overland would look into the cost of purchasing these for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor A Gore reported that the path on Chester Road needed clearing as it was getting narrow for pedestrians. The clerk was asked to report this to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their action.

Councillor A Gore reported an issue with regards to traffic collecting children from Delamere Academy primary school particularly around 3pm. The clerk was requested to contact the school to make them aware of the issue and to request a solution for parents and for local residents..

Councillor T Overland stated that Oakmere Parish Council had planted a tree on Hogeshead Lane for the Diamond Jubilee. It was the intention to have a plaque at the tree however this was not undertaken at the time. Councillor T Overland stated he would source and price a plaque for consideration for the next Parish Council meeting. The clerk was asked to place this as an agenda item for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting in November.

Councillor C George reported that the next edition of the newsletter was due out in November and that he had a vacancy for a delivery round in Oakmere. Councillor J Edwards agreed to deliver the newsletter in the area requested.

17 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.15pm at Delamere Community Centre.

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