



## **Gnosall Parish Council**

**(Including the wards of Moreton & Knightley).**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of Gnosall Parish Council**

**held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm in the Grosvenor Centre.**

#### **Present**

Councillor Mills (Chair), Councillor Gregory, Councillor Alker, Councillor Greatrex, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Payne, Councillor Simkin, Councillor Holmes, Councillor Emsley, together with Clerk, Jayne Cooper and CSO Stu Ridgewell

Along with SBC Cllr P Farrington SCC Cllr M Winnington and PCSO P Wright.

#### **Public Open Forum - ten minutes maximum**

No matters were raised.

#### **22/130 To Receive Apologies and Record Absences**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor G Symons, Councillor M Booth, Councillor S Powell, Councillor J Tomkinson, Councillor K Johnstone, Councillor G Buckless and Councillor D Webb along with SBC Councillor M Smith.

#### **22/131 To Record any Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Simkin declared an interest with regard to a family member being a member of staff with responsibility for the Grosvenor Centre. Councillor Alker declared an interest with regard to a family member being responsible for the Council's website.

#### **22/132 To receive and confirm the minutes of meetings of council held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **22/133 To consider any matters arising of the meeting of Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

There were no matters arising.

#### **22/134 To welcome police representation and discuss crime, vandalism and theft in Gnosall**

PSCO Wright informed Council that there had been 46 incidents reported in Gnosall during the month of November that included 1 burglary which is under investigation. Councillors informed PCSO Wright of vandalism on the boardwalk, vandalism at a property on The High Street (two separate incidents) and speeding on the A518. PCSO Wright agreed to request a visit of the road safety cameras. Cllr Winnington reminded Council of a Community Speed Watch group established in Haughton which incorporates Gnosall.

SBC Cllr Farrington asked the PCSO whether there is factual evidence that crime rates increase when traveller sites are established in a community as residents had raised their concerns with him about the recently approved planning application in Gnosall. PCSO Wright felt there was no evidence of increased in criminal activity.

It was noted that there is a police drop-in surgery at the Coop store in Gnosall on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The PCSO was thanked for his input and left the meeting.

## **22/121 To receive the following reports:**

### **Report from the Clerk**

Council received a report which contained updates on meetings held during the previous month. The Clerk also informed Council of positive progress made regarding the reopening of the youth club. Two local residents had agreed to job share the position of Youth Leader. A few volunteers had also come forward. An informal meeting was held with SCYVS at which DBS checks were carried out for the leaders and volunteers. Necessary policies were also discussed. A committee meeting is needed to establish key roles (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), insurance would be renewed and relevant policies updated, some stock would need to be replenished and the youth club service advertised. Wednesday evening 6.30-8pm is the preferred day/time for youth club to operate.

The Clerk informed Council that at the beginning of 2023 discussions are to be held with Staffordshire County Council with regards to the library contract that expires in 2024 as well as increased utility costs. Planning permission for the building expires in June 2023 and an application requesting a variation to condition number 1 to make the siting of the building permanent, would be submitted in the new year.

It was noted that there had been over 50 bookings for Community Christmas. The parish office is assisting by taking orders and retaining any donations received.

### **Council Support Officer Report**

No report provided.

### **Reports from Parish Councillors**

Council received a written report from the Chair of the Public Rights of Way Group about improved methods of communication with SCC's Rights of Way Team and work carried out on footpath 60.

A report on the recent meeting of SPCA Executive to which Cllr Payne had attended was received. Details of that meeting had also been included in weekly SPCA bulletins.

## **Report from Borough and County Councillors**

Borough Councillor reported that ASDA would be taking over the Coop shop in Gnosall. He also acknowledged that Gnosall had responded to Stafford Borough Council's Local Plan preferred options document and he had received a copy.

SCC Cllr Winnington confirmed he was in receipt of reports of flooding at Wilbrington under the railway bridge and work would be undertaken to alleviate the flooding. When asked about repairs to road defects he said work would resume after the frosts.

Cllr Greatrex raised his concerns with Cllr Farrington about a previously discussed PAGR application for which he acknowledged that a positive response had been received from the Planning Officer as to how the application had been approved. However it is not possible for members of the public to view the application and supporting information on line and has been told that the information is not available for some types of applications including the one in question which Cllr Greatrex felt was unacceptable. Cllr Winnington, who confirmed he is aware of the application, reported that neighbours who may be affected are aware and are monitoring it. Cllr Greatrex disagreed.

Cllr Greatrex proposed that the Parish Council submit a freedom of information request to Stafford Borough Council requesting the information that is required to enable the council and residents to monitor and ensure the applicant is abiding by rules and conditions. This was seconded and unanimously approved.

## **22/136: To receive minutes and reports from committees and working groups**

### **Procedures Review Committee**

Terms of Reference for the Health and Safety Committee and Events Committee were approved.

### **Planning Committee**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November were received.
- A verbal report on the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December was received.

### **Events Committee**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December were received that included a debrief of the Christmas lights switch on event.
- Approval was granted to purchase a timer to keep batteries used for Christmas tree lights on charge at a cost of approximately £20.

### **Resources Committee**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December were received.
- It was noted that it is not possible to open additional community accounts with the Coop bank and opening accounts with other banks is also proving difficult.

- It was noted that a new internal auditor had been appointed to audit accounts for the current financial year
- A donation to Gnosall Girl Guides for £300 was approved.

#### **To consider the budget for 2023/24**

The budget has been prepared with consideration being given to the cost of living crisis as well as rising utility costs. Resources Committee had worked with the aim of keeping the precept as low as possible by reducing some budget headings and suspending some projects. The recommended balanced budget requires a 2.5% rise in precept (equates to £1.24 per year for a Band D property). The budget for 2023/24 as recommended was unanimously approved.

#### **To consider the precept for 2023/24**

The precept, calculated at £105,810 to ensure a balanced budget, was unanimously approved.

#### **22/137 To consider a request to recruit trustees on the Gnosall Voluntary Car Share Scheme**

As requested at the last Council meeting, additional information had been obtained as to what is required. It was noted that only one trustee is needed from the Parish Council and Cllr G Payne offered to join the committee as the Parish Council's representative.

#### **22/138 To receive a report on financial receipts for November and approve payments for December 2022**

Receipts for the month of November were noted. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve payments for December as presented by the Clerk.

#### **22/139 To report Highway matters**

The Clerk was asked to report

- Potholes on the junction of Brookhouse Road and Knightley Road and outside the Health Centre.
- Streetlights on Brookhouse Road that are not working (reported previously)
- Blocked grid at the bottom of the High Street

#### **22/140 To request items for the next agenda**

Councillors to inform the Clerk at least 10 days before the date of the next meeting.

#### **22/141 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm

**To exclude members of the press and public whilst confidential information is discussed**

Borough and County Councillors left the meeting.

**22/142 To receive a report following a meeting with the Council's solicitors regarding registration of council owned land.**

A verbal reported was given on the most recent meeting with Hand Morgan and Owen regarding the ongoing matter to determine ownership of the allotment track and a letter received from HMO on 12<sup>th</sup> December explaining what is required was shared and discussed.

It was agreed that the Council should instruct HMO to prepare and submit an AP1 (an application to alter the register). In the meantime the Land Registry would complete the application for registration of council owned land excluding any land that is owned by Severn Trent Water. As these sort of legal matters are complex, a Barrister is required to deal with this and details of a Barrister with experience in land matters had been obtained by HMO and shared with Council. It was agreed to appoint the Barrister recommended. The Clerk to inform HMO of Council decisions.

It was noted that the application to Severn Trent Water Community Fund had been halted as information is required from STW complete the application however, STW had not responded to several emails for assistance in completing the application which was disappointing.

**Rosebuds Nursery**

It was agreed that monthly rent payments could remain as they had been for the previous 12 months up to and including April 2023. An increase would be applied from May 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

### Gnosall Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
237 Christmas	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Christmas Trees	Greenaway Timber	S	970.00	194.00	1,164.00
238 Christmas	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Christmas expenses	The Bakery (Sidestake)	S	193.33	38.67	232.00
241 Christmas	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Chidlrens Christmas	Sally Bath	E	275.00		275.00
242 Sensory Garden	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Sensory Garden Project	EFC Fencing	S	268.50	53.70	322.20
239 Sensory Garden	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Sensory Garden Project	EFC Fencing	S	268.50	53.70	322.20
240 Christmas	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Christmas expenses	Tomkinson	E	59.50		59.50
249 Grass cutting and	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Burial ground	JWH Ground	E	690.00		690.00
250 Grass cutting and	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Groundwork	JWH Ground	E	280.00		280.00
243 Grosvenor	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Decorating Grosvenor	KRM Contractors	S	3,685.00	737.00	4,422.00
246 Grosvenor	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Grosvenor Centre lights	RWS Electrical	E	300.00		300.00
247 Grosvenor	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Grosvenor lights in main	RWS Electrical	E	250.00		250.00
244 Sensory Garden	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Sensory Garden Project	RWS Electrical	E	240.00		240.00
245 Contingencies - General	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Library exterior lights	RWS Electrical	E	130.00		130.00
248 Grosvenor	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Grosvenor	Lectri-Call Electrical	S	1,212.50	242.49	1,454.99
253 Employment Costs	12/12/2022		Co-operative		salaries/NI&PAYE/Pension	GPC	E	6,878.42		6,878.42
251 Licences - Grosvenor	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Lottery licence	SBC	E	20.00		20.00
252 Printing and stationery	12/12/2022		Co-operative		Photocopying	Ricoh	S	153.56	30.71	184.27
<b>Total</b>								<b>15,874.31</b>	<b>1,350.27</b>	<b>17,224.58</b>