**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY** **1st FEBRUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM VIDEO CALL**

**Part I**

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors T Hodges, M Litton, T Smith, A Ross, P Cobley, P Walker, K Hodgkinson, P Kelly, L Kelly and M Venables.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L Sandison, Clerk.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sarah Morgan from Mid Cheshire Rail.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Sarah a Mid Cheshire Community Rail Officer, introduced herself to the PC and explained that she is new to the role which had been vacant for the past two years. Sarah talked about her role and opportunities for projects to enhance the Lostock Gralam train station and passenger experience.

Cllr T Smith commented that the train station is a real asset and that it would be great to improve it. He went on to say that vandalism has occurred and queried if the CCTV is used. Cllr T Smith also highlighted that wild flowers had been sown at the train station although they hadn’t taken.

Cllr M Venables briefly spoke about HS2 and asked if they are liaising with Mid Cheshire Rail. Sarah was unaware of HS2 specific link ups but did inform the PC about a current Cheshire East consultation with regards to a campaign to link up Middlewich and a possible link up from Knutsford to Manchester Airport. <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/local_transport_plan/local_transport_plan.aspx>

Cllr A Ross welcomed Sarah’s appointment and reaffirmed that it would be good to improve the station.

Cllr P Kelly raised the following concerns:

* Waste Strategy Consultation – A three-week bin collection would result in increased fly tipping and would not solve climate emergency. Cllr P Kelly asked the PC to support a two-week bin collection in the consultation. Cllrs **RESOLVED** to support a two-week bin collection.
* Dog fouling complaint on Inovyn land from Lach Dennis Cllr- how do they know its Lostock Gralam residents? Cllr P Kelly felt the complaint was unfair on Lostock Gralam residents as the area is used by many who travel to the area to walk dogs.

Cllr P Walker asked who the Police Officer is who works with the PCSO.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr M Stocks.

##### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

-Chairman T Hodges also sits on the Lostock Gralam Community Centre Association Committee.

**MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th January 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th January 2021.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

-United Utilities have sent an engineer to inspect the rocking manholes further.

-Salty Siteine from CWAC has contacted the Operations Team to ask for hiab to move the planter.

-Andy Murphey from Inovyn has confirmed that they have taken action to clear the drain and will continue to work on the issue.

-Cllr Who’s Who poster now on the Noticeboard.

**PRECEPT BUDGET REVIEW 2021/2022**

**-**The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the 2021/2022 proposed precept budget resulting in a 0% increase on last year. The Clerk will arrange a precept request of £25,441.

-The current payroll service provider is due to cease service from next quarter. The Clerk is in the process of trying to negotiate a new contract with Disability Positive for quarterly payroll.

-The Clerk asked the Cllrs to consider planting a live Christmas tree to save on costs for future years. The Clerk will investigate the matter further and report back at a later date.

**POLICE**

**Police Update**

**Parish Council meeting.**

**PCSO FLANAGAN January Monthly Update**

**COVID-19**

With regards to COVID-19, Cheshire Constabularies policy has remained very similar to recent months. The policing response to the COVID pandemic has focussed on the 4 E's with Enforcement being seen as a position of last resort. We are advised to **engage** with the public and **explain** the COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. We are then advised to **encourage** the public to abide by said rules. Then, at a last resort, where a blatant COVID breach has been identified we must **enforce** with a fixed penalty notice. This month in particular we have however, seen an influx fixed penalty notices being issued in the county.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

LOSTOCK GRALAM- 4 incidents

Reports of a possible COVID breach at a house party. Officers attended and did not identify any breaches of COVID-19 restrictions.

Reports of a possible COVID breach at a children’s birthday party. All parties were in a support bubble and no breached of restrictions were identified.

Reports of males entering stores on Cheshire Avenue, demanding free sandwiches and just being general nuisances. They have not been advised accordingly.

Reports of COVID breach, 4/5 off road vehicles parked up by the woods towards Knutsford. Report has been sent to our COVID team to deal with.

Reports of scrambler bikes on Birches Lane, observations were passed over the radio, however search made no trace.

**Suspicious Activity**

LOSTOCK GRALAM- 4 incidents

Vehicle driving, looking at all houses. Passengers got out of car and looked down passageways and then looked at caller’s son’s car. Caller hasn’t seen these people since.

Report of males seen pulling the car door handle. No further reports.

Reports of a suspicious hand print found on the outside of an upstairs window. No crimes were identified and advice given.

Suspicious vehicle parked outside of address for 15 minutes, driver walks down caller’s driveway, then drives off the estate very slowly. Search made no trace for the vehicle. 3x reports came in for this.

**PCSO Update**

A lot of my time this month has unfortunately been occupied dealing with road related issues such as flooding. Especially within Northwich town centre.

In February, I will continue to increase my patrols around the antisocial behaviour hotspots to deter future incidents. However, with the current lockdown restrictions that are in place, I have noticed a large decrease in youth ASB. I will also continue with speed monitoring and enforcement on the key speeding roads. Further to this, I will focus on parking issues in the local area due to complaints that have been made to myself recently.

**Weekly PCSO surgeries** with the current guidelines regarding COVID-19, I have been advised to hold my PCSO surgeries online. These will be held on the following dates:

Thursday 4th February 15:00 – 16:00

Wednesday 10th February 11:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 17th February 15:00 – 16:00

Thursday 25th February 15:00 – 16:00

**PCSO Chris Flanagan**

**Shakerley Police Beat Team**

**MARK STOCKS**

Cllr Stocks has raised the flooding reports across the ward with the Highway team, which are being investigated

**FLOODING**

The Clerk reported the drain opposite the Griffiths Road junction and opposite Premier Stores to Cllr Stocks.

It was also noted that Griffith road flooded near to Jack Richards.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

-Latest Covid Stats: 18/01/2021 to 24/01/2021 = 10 cases / 198.88 per 100,000 in Shakerley

27/01/2021 to 27/01/2021 = 13 cases / 258.55 per 100,000 in Shakerley

-The Clerk has posted COVID-19 social media messages on the Lostock Gralam Community Together page and Parish Council Facebook page and Parish Council website along with printing a poster for the Parish Council Notice Board.

**PAYROLL PROVIDER**

The Parish Councillors considered three quotes and the recommendation that the Clerks salary be processed monthly to HMRC to ensure that the Clerk would qualify for things like furlough or any variant in the future.

1. Diane Malley M.A.A.T (monthly) £10.00
2. Highland Payroll Service (monthly) £12.00
3. Disability Positive (monthly) £18.50

It was **RESOLVED** to accept Diane Malley’s quote of £10 per month for monthly payroll.

Cllr M Litton proposed that the Clerk be paid monthly inline with the monthly payroll.

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the clerks pay frequency to monthly from April 2021 when Diane

Malley will take over the payroll service from Changing Lives Together who are ceasing to provide a payroll

service from March 2021.

**PLAY AREA**

-The bongo drum lid is on order with Schoolscapes.

**FOOTBALL PITCH:**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

-The Chairman spoke positively about three Zoom virtual training sessions he attended through CHALC.

-The Chairman welcomed comments from Cllrs in their key area, Cllr K Hodgkinson advised that she is looking into the practicalities of planting a wild flower meadow.

-Cllr P Kelly raised the following concerns:

* Lorries parking at the Cheshire Business Park entrance on double yellow lines / bumping up onto the curb.
* Footpath needs sweeping from opposite Gibbon Drive round to Subway.
* Cllr M Stocks is awaiting a response regarding the litter picking.
* No Serious Accidents seem to have occurred at the Sandiway lights after talking to longstanding local business owner at the Sandiway lights.
* Lands End 64 bed retirement block comments include:

-Site security/protective fence along Manchester Road has now been removed however the wooden fence posts have been cut above ground level leaving a trip hazard.

-Unsecure manhole cover before the overflow carpark entrance on Cheshire Avenue.

-The building does not appear to be a mirror image as shown in the original plans.

-Insulation and hardboard have been left and need removing.

-Removed trees need reinstating now that the site is completed.

**CLERKS REPORT**

-The PC’s current payroll provider (Cheshire Community Development Trust) has written to advise that they will be ceasing to provide a payroll service from March 2021. They currently charge £70 pa for quarterly payroll. Disability Positive is another charity which provides payroll services at a cost of £18.50 per month, the Clerk has asked whether they can provide quarterly payroll for a reduced fee.

-The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 April 2020. The Clerk is currently on pay scale SCP 12. The PC considered and **RESOLVED** toback pay the Clerk to 1st April 2020 an increase from £11.22ph to £11.53ph.

-The Clerk met with the Community Centre Association on 21/12/2020 to discuss the Community Centre lease quotes. A McEllin (AM) advised that she hopes to relocate to the Lake District within the next 12 months, meaning that there are a couple of options for the Community Centre Association going forward. One option is take on new volunteers at the AGM in February, another option would be to hand over the Community Centre to the PC, AM will speak with the Charity Commission to see how viable this is. In light of this, it seems prudent to hold off writing a new lease. The PC **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should obtain a quote to make two lease amendments as per AM’s recommendation to protect both the PC and the Community Centre Association when the MUGA is built.

-Suggestion box, the Clerk and Cllr P Cobley have been looking at the possibility of installing a weather proof suggestion box at the Parish Council Noticeboard. The PC was positive towards the idea, however further research is required and investigation as to whether the defib location may be a good location. The Clerk and Cllr Cobley will conduct further investigations and report back to the PC.

-The defib has been dispatched twice in the past two months. The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase a set of pads with a puck which gives CPR feedback. The cost of the pad will be £90.00 from Zoll Medical.

-The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the Northwich Town Council quote of £240.00 to twice yearly plant the two planters with bedding plants, this includes replacing the compost and removing existing plants. The PC confirmed that they would be happy to pay a further £120 should the school planter be relocated to the Hall Lane traffic lights.

-The latest Shakerley Covid cases from 11th December to 30th December is 19 cases / 377.88 per 100K.

-The Winter Wonderland Walk was another well organised community event organised by volunteers. The weather added complications to the event although the team worked hard to deliver an enjoyable time for all.

**PLANNING**

The Council considered the following planning applications and **RESOLVED** to respond as below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APPLICATIONS | |
| 20/04578/FUL | **-**280 Manchester Road Lostock Gralam.  -Change of use, part demolition and conversion of existing building to 6 apartments.  -Comments by 25th January  *The Clerk will seek an extension to allow this planning application to be discussed at the next PC meeting on 1st February to allow for further investigation and to receive a response to matters discussed in the Public Forum.*  *Cllr M Venables raised concern about the carpark not having a turning circle and whether this would result in cars reversing onto Manchester Road.* |
| DECISIONS | |
|  |  |

**FINANCE**

-The current account bank balance is £8,882.59, the deposit account balance is £60,045.14 as at 04/01/2021.

-It was **RESOLVED** to accept payment of the following accounts.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chq no.** | **Payee** | **Amount** |
| Lyndsey Sandison | Salary + Expenses October to December | £2449.47 |
| HMRC | NI & TAX | £5.79 |
| Northwich Town Council | Christmas Tree | £2970.00 |
| ASH Waste | Bin Hire & Collection | £98.82 |
| CHALC | Training Course x 3 | £75.00 |
| Royal Mail | PO BOX Renewal | £360.00 |
| Freeola | Website fees | £12.56 |
| Schoolscapes | Bongo Drum lid | £93.00 |
| Mr Simon Roberts | Cllr Poster Printing | £10.50 |
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**COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Sarah Morgan from Mid Cheshire Rail will be joining the next PC meeting to introduce herself to the PC.

The meeting finished at 8.47pm

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 7.30 p.m via Zoom.

