**MINUTES OF THE LOSTOCK GRALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2020 AT THE CHURCH HALL, LOSTOCK GRALAM**

**Part I**

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Three members of the public + Co-opted Cllr Paul Cobley

**PUBLIC FORUM**

-P Cobley raised concerns about the poorly lit alleyway which runs from Cheshire Avenue to Stubbs Lane alongside the Community Centre perimeter fence.

*The Clerk will obtain an update from CWAC/ CDP Marshalls, as this has previously been raised.*

-Local resident raised a complaint with regards to dog fouling especially outside of the Primary School on School Lane in the twilight hours.

*The Clerk will again get in touch with the CWAC dog warden to request help in catching the offending dog owner.*

-P Cobley raised a complaint with regards to refuse collection lorries leaving litter due to not securing the recycling compartments before driving off.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

##### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

**MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2019.

**CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Mr Paul Cobley was invited to tell the Parish Council about himself and his past experience.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Paul Cobley be co-opted onto Lostock Gralam Parish Council. Cllr Cobley joined the Parish Council after making his declaration of office.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

-The Clerk read out a response from CWAC Adrian Bowden with regards to the frequency of litter bin emptying in Lostock Gralam. Cllr P Kelly disagreed with the response received and will take up the matter with Cllr M Stocks.

**-**Damaged manhole-The damaged manhole outside Premier Stores on Manchester Road (originally thought to have been on Fryer Rd) has now been repaired.

-The Clerk informed the PC that they would need to request a speed limit review assessment should they wish to extend the current 30mph zone on Manchester Road to the gyratory. The Clerk will obtain a quote for the assessment.

-The Clerk informed the PC that parish boundary signs would need to be funded by the PC and that they would need to give a plan of where the sign should be located to CWAC. The Clerk will obtain a quote for a new sign for Hall Lane and possibly a replacement sign opposite Griffiths Rd junction on Manchester Rd.

**-**Public Bench-The Clerk informed the PC that a local resident was not in support of locating a public bench near to the flower planter on Stubbs Lane. CWAC Karl Siteine also had reservations over the proposed bench location. The Clerk will meet with CWAC Karl Siteine (Salty) on Wednesday 13th January to discuss locating a public bench on the green area opposite the Community Centre. The PC had ideally wanted a bench near to the flower planter on Stubbs Lane so that those waiting for the bus could use it. Clerk to look into a bus shelter with seating as an alternative.

-HGV Outside Care home **-**There haven’t been any new reports of the yellow HGV parking outside the care home on Cheshire Avenue. The Clerk has asked that the care home staff take a photo next time it parks up for the evening to enable the clerk to make contact with the company.

-Overgrown hedge on Station Road (LG side**) –** The Clerk has reported the hedge to CWAC which is protruding onto Station Road just before the railway bridge.

-Pavements on Birches Lane-The Clerk has asked the Lach Dennis Parish Council to report the pavements towards the A556 which have become overgrown.

**HI-VIS JACKET & VESTS**

-The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase Cllr P Kelly a Padded Hi-Vis Jacket in XXXL for the sum of £26.94 (Net) with Lostock Gralam Parish Council printed on back, supplied by [www.hivis.co.uk](http://www.hivis.co.uk).

-The PC **RESOLVED** to purchase six XXL Hi-Vis vests for the sum of £4.94 each (Net) with Lostock Gralam Parish Council printed on back, supplied by [www.hivis.co.uk](http://www.hivis.co.uk).

**CLERKS HOURLY RATE OF PAY**

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept NALC’s recommended pay scale increase from 1st April 2019. The Clerk who is on pay scale SCP12 will increase from £10.953 per hour to £11.22 per hour as at 1st April 2019. The Clerk will be back paid to 1st April 2019.

**CHURCH BIN CONTRACT**

The SUEZ bin contract for the Church Yard bin will cease on 31/3/2020 with ASH Waste taking over the contract on 1/4/2020 (ASH Waste quote accepted 8th April 2019).

**POLICE**

-As requested, the PCSO will speak with owners of illegally parked vehicles on Townshend Rd.

-PCSO Suzi Wardzinski sent the following report: -

**ASB**

* No reports received.

**Theft (including shoplifting)**

* No reports recieved

**Burglary**

* 17/12/19 – Manchester Road. Door to door enquiries made, nothing seen or heard. No CCTV, no witnesses, no forensic recovery. Case finalised and closed.

**Vehicle / bicycle theft**

* 13/12/19 – Langford Road, theft from motor vehicle, currently being investigated
* 21/12/19 – Holford Avenue, theft from motor vehicle, currently being investigated
* 21/12/19 – Langford Road, theft from motor vehicle, currently being investigated

**Parking/Highway disruptions**

* 05/12/19 – Manchester Road, one vehicle RTC, no injuries
* 17/12/19 – Birches Lane, telegraph pole damaged by a vehicle. Remains of a vehicle at scene, but nothing to I.D it

**Other**

Speed enforcement done on Manchester Road on 20/12/2019 from 11.30 to 12.00, 4 vehicles captured doing 35 mph or over and 29/12/2019 from 15.53 to 16.23, 3 vehicles captured doing 35 mph or over.

Two males have attended the Co-Op with fake notes on 20/12/19 and 01/01/20. Currently under investigation and CCTV being looked at.

###### **REPORT FROM CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Mark Stocks was absent. Cllr Stocks will attend the February PC meeting.

##### PLAY AREAS AND INSPECTIONS

-PC considered CG Services quote of £210.00 (Net) to remove soil from both planters and investigate why flooding, and drill hole if necessary and add drainage layer of stone, also incorporate new compost.

The PC recommended that the Clerk contact CWAC to query the flooding issue with the planters. Cllr P Cobley will also have a look at the planters.

The PC **RESOLVED** not to accept CG Services quote at this time.

-In light of the public bench now not being located near the flower planter on Stubbs Lane, the PC **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should void cheque 300690 for £2,603.00 in payment of a public bench and two picnic benches (Chq still in Clerks possession). The PC **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should instead raise a cheque for £2,000.00 in payment of the picnic benches which are for the PC’s play area.

**FOOTBALL PITCH PROGRESS**

-Awaiting the outcome of the MUGA Planning Application and dropped kerb.

-Further information is required to complete the stage 2 Veolia grant application, the application is also dependant on receiving planning permission within January 2020 to be entered into current round of funding.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**Review of 2019**

**Links to the Community**

*Primary School*

The Parish Council has continued to strengthen links with the Lostock Gralam Primary School with a logo competition, the school choir singing at the Christmas light switch on, continued support with the flower planters, a donation towards a much needed sensory room, and Cllr Ross meeting with the school to discuss ways in which the Parish Council can support the school.

*Care Homes*

The Lostock Lodge Care Home has become a regular friendly face at the Parish Council meetings with Nina Rogers regularly attending meetings and offering to get involved in community activities. It would be nice to see other Care Home representatives from the parish at Parish Council meetings in 2020.

*Volunteer Activity*

There have been two organised community litter picks in the year which have been organised by the group Drastic on Plastic, whilst the first litter pick had encouraging numbers of volunteers the second was not well attended. Better advertising of the community litter picks for 2020 may help with volunteer numbers. Cllr P Kelly has also continued to litter pick Manchester Road.

This year a new group of volunteers did a sterling job helping to run the Christmas light switch on kitchen which the Parish Council is very grateful for.

*Community Centre*

The Community Centre continues to be a well-used facility. The Community Centre Association is in desperate need of new Committee Members to take on the role of Treasurer, Maintenance Person, Volunteers to help open and close for bookings and a Communications / Website volunteer.

*MUGA/Football Pitch*

The MUGA Planning Application is awaiting a decision from CWAC Planning. Funding for the project is still ongoing with the PC waiting to hear back from the stage two Veolia Grant Application. Realistically it isn’t possible to put an end date on the project until funding and planning is secured. Unfortuanlty it looks like the grass football pitch is going to be in an unplayable condition for another year unless the PC decide to make temporary improvements.

*Christmas Light Switch On*

The Light Switch on attendance seems to grow year on year with 2019 seeing a great attendance rate. It was nice to see the Primary School and Church Choirs come together to perform Christmas carols bolstering the community links. The event activities seem well received with something for everybody. For 2020 it would be nice to see some new companies contributing to the raffle prizes which is something the Clerk can work on next time.

*Fete*

It was nice to see the return of the Community Centre Fun Day, which was enjoyed by many. It would be nice to see more community volunteers and a bigger attendance for 2020 which I’m sure we can all work together on.

*Traffic*

Cllr Pete Kelly has continued his focus on improving road safety with Community Speed checks using a CWAC loaned speed radar gun. The 2020 focus is likely to include a review of where the 30mph starts, continued pressure for average speed cameras, red light cameras and a right-hand filter lane at the Hall Lane traffic lights. It was disappointing that the traffic refuge island area did not qualify for a crossing however this is something which can possibly be revisited at a later date.

*Crime*

Whilst Lostock Gralam has a relatively low crime late, it would be prudent to keep up PCSO visibility to deter drug use and dealing, theft and anti-social behaviour in the Parish. The Co-op has seen an unprecedented increase in theft in 2019. Reports of drug dealing along the Highfield Avenue alleyway should form part of the 2020 PCSO focus.

*Dog Fouling*

Reports of dog fouling along School Lane have been received over the Christmas break which is disappointing. The dog warden has been informed. Relocating a litter bin at the start of the footpath on Stubbs Lane which runs to the A556 seems to be well used by the dog walkers.

**Objectives for 2020**

Possible objectives to be agreed by the Parish Council are as follows;

* 1. To meet at least every 12 months with the Primary School to keep in touch and strengthen links between the Parish Council and Primary School.
  2. To establish a primary contact at all the Care Homes within the Parish and encourage representatives to attend Parish Council meetings. Clerk to write to the parishes care homes.
  3. To form a register of interested volunteers who would like to participate in community litter picks, family fun days and other community events. Clerk to set-up page on website where volunteers can register their interest.
  4. To offer support where possible to the Community Centre Association especially for community events such as the family fun day.
  5. To obtain planning permission for a MUGA and gain funding.
  6. To invite other companies within Lostock Gralam to support the Christmas light switch on event.
  7. To campaign for a filter lane at the Hall Lane traffic lights, to conduct regular speed checks using the CWAC speed radar and work with the local Police and PCSO to help improve road safety within the Parish.
  8. To increase PCSO visibility to reduce theft, anti-social behaviour and drug dealing.
  9. To meet with the CWAC dog warden to identify possible deterrents for persistent dog fouling.
  10. To monitor the condition of the Train Station which is a great asset to the parish.

The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the above objectives for 2020.

**CLERKS REPORT**

-Cllr Mark Stocks would like to contribute £250.00 to next year’s light switch on.

-The Clerk will attend the next Orsted Renescience meeting on Tuesday 11th February.

-Complaint received with regards to dog fouling along School Lane which the Clerk reported to the

CWAC dog warden.

-NALC guidance has been received with regards to Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements.

The new policy was circulated with the summons and it was **RESOLVED** to adopted the policy.

-The PC received a logo update from a local resident, the logo is still ongoing.

-The Clerk informed the PC that the original Planning Application for the Community Centre has now been located. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council submitted the planning application in 1992. Minutes from 1992 also confirmed that the Community Centre Association raised the funds to build the current Community Centre building and that their lease should be for the land only.

-PC discussed new Parish Council Facebook page and confirmed that it should be used for advertising events and sharing information. It was also agreed that the PC would not need to accept friend requests, instead those who liked the page would receive the PC’s posts. The Clerk will produce a media policy to reflect this.

-The PC considered moving the litter bin at the 30mph closer to the Business Park entrance, it was **RESOLVED** not to relocate the bin as the increased litter issue appears to be temporary problem whilst construction work is taking place on the 65 bed care home.

-Chairman T Hodges would like to be entered into a draw to attend a Royal Garden Party through

CHALC – No objections received.

-The Clerk has two tickets for Swedish Philharmonia – Mon 9th March 2020 at 7.30pm. Chairman T Hodges was the only councillor to register an interest in attending. No objection to Cllr T Hodges having the tickets was received.

**PLANNING**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APPLICATIONS | |
| 19/04387/TPO | -St Johns Church, Station Road Lostock Gralam, CW9 7PT  -Proposed tree works: - 1 & 2 Cherrie (both trees are in poor condition with poor form. Pruning would do little to improve their form) - Fell to low stumps to allow for replacement 3 Lime - Reduce to give approximately 3m lychgate clearance and 6m highway clearance 4 Group of four Limes - Crown lift to give 6m highway and churchyard clearance to satisfy highway requirements and improve the view of the church 5 Lime (too close to building causing significant damage to structures and gutters) - Fell to low stump 6 Holly - Reduce to 3.5m (approx) to reduce damage to wall and drain Remaining Limes bordering site - Crown lift to give 3 to 5m ground clearance as appropriate for amenity and access to maintain churchyard  **-No Objection** |
| 19/04460/FUL | -38 Wells Avenue Northwich CW9 7XR.  -Extension to garage to join house  -**No Objection** |
| DECISIONS | |
|  |  |

-PC discussed response received from LSEP consultants with regards to the PC’s objection to

19/04057/FUL. The PC remains concerned about traffic disruption for 18/24 months on Manchester Road and the impact of diversion routes on the Parish. The Parish Council’s decision to object to the planning application is to remain.

**FINANCE**

-The PC **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed budget for 2020/21 which would result in a 0% increase, keeping the band D charge at £33.47 which would result in a precept of £25,471.

-The PC **RESOLVED** to renew the MCRUA Membership for 2020 at a cost of £20.00.

-The current account bank balance is £13,761.631 and the deposit account balance is £40,823.45.

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

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| **Chq no.** | **Payee** | **Amount** |
| 300691 | Lyndsey Sandison | £2,322.26 |
| 300692 | CG Services Cheshire Ltd | £212.00 |
| 300693 | HMRC | £8.52 |
| 300694 | Royal Mail Group Ltd | £342.00 |
| 300695 | SUEZ Recycling & Recovery Ltd | £43.56 |
| S/O | FREEOLA | £12.56 |
| 300697 | CWAC | £2000.00 |
|  | Income |  |

**COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Cllr Mark Venables sends his apologies for the next PC meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.55pm

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3rd February 2020 in the Lostock Gralam Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.