

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Tim Parry Community Centre

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**Chair:** P Watson  
**Councillors:** N Catlow                      D Clark                      M Hussain                      P Warburton  
                         D Price                              A King                          P Jones                          H Patel  
                         A Morley                              N Cotter

Also present: K Carter, Parish Clerk  
A Nugent, Head Gardener  
1 member of public

**1. Election of Chair.**

Cllr Peter Watson elected as Chair of the Parish Council.

***PARISH/2023/25:** Cllr Watson elected as Chair of Great Sankey Parish Council (LGA 1972 s15 (1))*

**2. To hear Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Chair.**

Cllr Watson formally accepted the office of Chair of the Parish Council and signed the declaration in the presence of the Clerk to the Council.

**3. Election of Vice Chair.**

***PARISH/2023/26:** Cllr Price elected as Vice Chair of Great Sankey Parish Council (LGA 1972 s15 (6)).*

**4. To elect Chair of Finance Committee plus five further members.**

***PARISH/2023/27:** Finance Committee: Cllr Price (Chair), plus Cllrs Watson, Clark, Jones, Morley and Hussain (LGA 1972 s102).*

**5. To elect Chair of Employment Committee plus four further members.**

***PARISH/2023/28:** Employment Committee: Cllr Watson (Chair), plus Cllrs Jones, King, Clark, Patel, Pennington (LGA 1972 s102).*

**6. To elect Chair of Community Projects Committee plus five further members.**

***PARISH/2023/29:** Community Projects Committee: Cllr Jones (Chair), plus Cllrs King, Morley, Sutcliffe, Catlow, Watson, Cotter (LGA 1972 s102).*

**7. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Parish and Knowles.

**8. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved as an accurate record.



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*PARISH/2023/30: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 as a true and accurate record.*

**9. To receive any declarations of interest.**

None.

**10. Introduction to the Head Gardener**

The Head Gardener thanked the council for the opportunity. He gave members a summary of his background and experience in horticulture and garden landscaping, including successes at Tatton Flower Show, which he hopes to bring to the council green spaces. Members were also given an update on the purchase of grounds equipment which is underway; until received, the Head Gardener cannot do any practical work but is focussing on the purchasing as well as completing risk assessments, training and work programs.

**11. PCSO reports.**

The report had been circulated and was noted. The SLA was discussed with reference to the aims set by the Parish Council. It was noted that the wording is currently very broad, and the police have indicated they are happy for the council to be more specific about the role, the reporting framework, and expectations. It was proposed that a working group is set up to consider this in detail. A suggestion which has been made previously was raised for the council to also widen this outlook and look into a Community Safety Strategy as well as youth provision and activities in the parish. It was also suggested the council reinstate a councillor as a Police Liaison.

*PARISH/2023/31: To set up a working group to consider the focus of the parish funded PCSO role, Community Safety Strategy, youth activities and Police Liaison (LGA 1972 s101).*

**12. Community Projects Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 20.4.23**

**12.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.**

Received and noted.

**12.2 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them.**

All resolutions related to Sankey Fun Day; these were noted and accepted.

*PARISH/2023/32: To accept the resolutions of the Community Projects Committee meeting held on 20 April 2023 (LGA 1972 s145)*

**13. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 2.5.23**

**13.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.**

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting; there were no questions.

**13.2 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment.**

The list of delegated expenditure was tabled at the meeting and no queries were raised. All items are listed within the Finance Committee minutes.



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## 13.3 to consider recommendations made and decide whether to accept them.

There were two decisions made under the committee's delegated authority; no questions were raised.

**PARISH/2023/33:** *To confirm earmarked reserves of £302,709 (Accounts & Audit Regs 2015, reg 3)*

**PARISH/2023/34:** *To enter a 3-year agreement with Zurich Municipal to provide insurance on all aspects of the council's business (LGA 1972 s111).*

Three recommendations were noted and accepted.

**PARISH/2023/35:** *To agree in principle to a battery-operated ride-on mower on a lease basis, subject to further details being obtained. Final decision to be made by the Finance Committee via email (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10).*

*To confirm Finance Committee decision via email for purchases of storage container (SJones Containers), various grounds tools (Terrier Tools); trailer to be decided via email.*

**PARISH/2023/36:** *To fund an online apprenticeship training and assessor course for the Head Gardener. Head Gardener undertakes to reimburse the council in full should he cease employment within 2-years of his start date (3 April 2023) (LGA 1972 s112).*

**PARISH/2023/37:** *To investigate options for a defibrillator at Whittle Hall Community Centre, preferably outside the gates for full public access, depending upon provision of power to the unit (Public Health Act 1936, s234).*

## 14. Sankey Station project: to receive and consider

### – Project update for April 2023.

An update had been received from Rise Associates which Cllr Price summarized.

### – Draft Heads of Terms from Arch Co.

Proposed and agreed to move this item to Part 2 of the meeting because of the commercial sensitivity of the business.

## 15. To consider whether to allow memorial trees on parish council sites and, if approved, to review the proposed draft policy.

A draft policy had been produced and circulated. The policy specifies the type and number of trees that may be planted, time of planting, plaque requirements, restrictions and an at cost charge for the purchase of tree and plaque at the time of order. It was queried whether an additional charge should be made for the Head Gardener's time. On discussion it was agreed that there are unlikely to be many requests, and this could make the purchase of a tree and plaque prohibitively expensive for some people. The requests will be monitored, and this decision reviewed if necessary. The policy was then approved.

**PARISH/2023/38:** *To approve the policy for memorial trees/plaques on GSPC grounds.*

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**16. Report from Borough Councillors on items of note within the Parish of Great Sankey.**

Cllr Warburton reported that the project for the pump track on Dakota Park is moving onwards; the next phase will be a formal public consultation.

Cllr King noted that there had been some damage to the Boat Park in Hood Manor which has been reported to Your Housing. She also requested information from the office for quotes for tarmac the car park on Crosfields Recreation Ground and for benches similar to those installed on Tim Parry Recreation Ground to forward to WBC.

**17. To consider planning applications received by the Council and decide if any objections are to be raised.**

No comments were raised.

**18. To consider correspondence received by the Council and decide if any action is required.**

None.

**19. To receive verbal reports from Councillors.**

Cllr Clark gave an update on the solar panels installed at Whittle Hall and Bewsey Barn Community Centres which are now working fully and generating electricity. This will be used to offset energy costs for the centres and to power the electric vans and battery-operated grounds equipment.

Cllr Catlow reported that the plans for the dog show are well underway; the same members of public have volunteered again this year to help with the running of the show and the judging.

Cllr Morley informed members that Stitch Station has put up bunting on the frontage of Vicarage Community Park. This will be left over the summer to celebrate Warrington Pride on 23 June.

Cllr Patel thanked everyone involved with Whittle Hall Environment Day – The Land Trust, Barrow Hall Primary School, Warrington Borough Council and GSPC. Continued efforts will be made to educate residents about the geese to try and reduce the over-feeding.

**20. Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature and commercial sensitivity of the business to be transacted, the public and Press leave the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items.**

The member of public present left before discussion of the following item.

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## Part 2

### 21. **Sankey Station Project: draft Heads of Terms from Arch Co.**

The draft Heads of Terms from Arch Co for the house adjacent to the main station building were discussed in full. Queries were raised on several points; these will be forwarded to Arch Co through the Steering Committee. The document will be reviewed by a legal representative (to be engaged) and the final document to be reconsidered by full council. If necessary because of time constraints an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be convened for this purpose.

***PARISH/2023/39: To authorise the Steering Committee to continue negotiations with Arch Co. for the house at Sankey Station. Draft to be reviewed by a legal representative and any issues addressed before final decision/agreement by full Council (LGA 1972 s101).***