

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14th February 2024
Tim Parry Community Centre

Chair: P Watson
Councillors: S Parish A Morley M Hussain
 T Williams D Price S Pennington
 N Catlow

Also present: M. Baker (Rise Associates)
 1 member of public
 K Carter, Parish Clerk

1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jones, Warburton, Cotter.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

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

PARISH/2024/06: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

None.

4. PCSO reports.

Received and noted. The Police & Youth Advisory Committee will meet to collate councillors' comments from the survey sent out and consider possible alternative objectives for the Parish-funded PCSO as well as the report format and KPI's. These will then be discussed with the Police.

5. To receive an update on Sankey Station from Rise Associates.

There has been good progress with the Heads of Terms with both Arch Co and Network & Northern Rail with solicitors ready to proceed with the lease agreements. The CIC has had some difficulty with their initial solicitors but will now be appointing a new one and it is hoped the agreements will be signed shortly.

There have been around 20 expressions of interest from various businesses for the food offer for the station house; the CIC will be reviewing these further.

The progress with the lease agreements means that funding opportunities are now opening up and the CIC will be applying to the Community Ownership Fund to help with the refurbishment. There is also outline support for the project from the Rail Heritage Trust for additional funding.

6. Community Projects Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 18.1.24

6.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.

6.2 to be informed of recommendations and decide whether to accept them.

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Morley (Chair of the CPC) spoke to members about a couple of the items. The Committee is trying to set up a 'Friends of Tim Parry Park' group and have pledged a budget of up to £1000 to help kick start the group. A drop-in session for interested residents has been arranged; leaflets have been produced and

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are being delivered to local households as well as through Park Road Primary School and the groups in the community centre.

The committee is also investigating whether it could link up with Culture Warrington to facilitate funding for cultural groups to organise their own events.

PARISH/2024/07: To assign up to £1000 for the 'Friends of Tim Parry Park' group to facilitate the set-up of the community café from the Community Projects Fund (Local Gov (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

7. Finance Committee: to be informed of the meeting held on 6.2.24

7.1 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting.

Received and noted.

7.2 to be informed of, and have the opportunity to question, items approved for payment under delegated authority.

Several items had been authorised by the Finance Committee under their delegated authority.

Decision 1: Necessary repairs to the drainage channels on Tim Parry Recreation Ground to alleviate flooding in the car park.

PARISH/2024/08: To carry out repairs to the drainage channels on Tim Parry Recreation Grounds (indicative costs £5,500) (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10).

Decision 2: ongoing item to address unauthorised vehicles driving up the access road to Tim Parry Community Centre. Access is allowed for emergency vehicles, disabled access and for loading/unloading. This is being increasingly ignored with some vehicles being driven at inappropriate speeds. The options proposed were to install a vehicle barrier and/or a separate path from the car park to the centre to protect pedestrians and people on the play area outside the centre.

PARISH/2024/09: To investigate options for an automated vehicle barrier at Tim Parry Recreation Ground to prevent unauthorised access to the community centre. To defer decision on a separate footpath until after the barrier installation.

Decision 3: For Little Superstars to run the 2024 summer playscheme for the Parish Council.

PARISH/2024/10: To engage Little Superstars to provide 6 weeks summer playscheme in July/August 2024 at a cost of £3,600 (LGA 1972 s145).

Decision 4: To purchase a replacement gate for Hood Lane Community Centre; gate posts may also need replacing.

PARISH/2024/11: To engage All Steel Fencing to supply a replacement gate for Hood Lane Community Centre, approx. cost £775 +VAT (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

Decision 5: Hire rate for new group.

PARISH/2024/12: To offer the business introductory rate to a guitar group for a period of 6 weeks (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 s19).

There were no questions or comments on the delegated decisions.

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7.3 to receive recommendations and decide whether to approve them.

There were four recommendations from the Finance Committee requiring approval by the full council.

Recommendation 1 & 2: related to the recruitment of the apprentice gardener. Following the discussions at the last council meeting, a sliding salary scale was proposed which reflects guidance from the Professional Gardeners Guild. It was also proposed that the recruitment process should be started by council officers with the contract to be agreed by the Employment Committee. Both recommendations were agreed.

PARISH/2024/13: *To agree an incremental salary scale for the apprentice gardener, with further uplift if permanent position offered, subject to satisfactory progress and completion of the training (Horticulture Operative, Level 2):*

	16-17 years		18+ years	
	Hrly rate, £	Annual, £	Hrly rate, £	Annual, £
Year 1	7.80	15,210	9.75	19,016
Year 2	8.70	16,965	10.88	21,208

LGA 1972, s112

PARISH/2024/14: *Council officers to proceed with recruitment of the apprentice gardener; Employment Committee to agree contract terms (LGA 1972, s112).*

Recommendation 3: The Landscape Management Plan, approved by the council in July 2023, sets out a 5-year plan for the council. It was proposed that an oversight committee be started to regularly review this strategy and consider budget requirements. It was recognized that it would be prudent to wait until after the elections to set up a new committee.

PARISH/2024/15: *To set up a Grounds Strategy Committee following the elections in May 2024, with delegated powers and budget (LGA 1972 s102).*

Recommendation 4: Expanding the grounds team by taking on an apprentice means that additional facilities are required. The purchase of a container to be placed in the current compound at Whittle Hall Community Centre was recommended and agreed.

PARISH/2024/16: *To purchase office/welfare space for the grounds team from Container Cabins Ltd (£8,600 +VAT) (LGA 1972, s111).*

8. Parish Playing Field Advisory Committee: drainage project update.

The PPF Advisory Committee recently met with the Football Foundation and WHJFC to discuss the next steps in the funding application. As required by the Football Foundation, the Committee has undertaken the tender process and provisionally appointed a contractor to carry out the works. A business plan was also produced, although the Foundation now requires the council to complete application forms instead. The Foundation confirmed that 150k has been ring-fenced for the project but there is some frustration about the time the process is taking, and that the Foundation has not fully understood the role of the Parish Council. The Committee will continue with the application process and update the council as necessary.

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9. Brentnall Boat Park

Your Housing have an agreement in principle from the directors to hand the park over to the Parish Council subject to contract. WBC have been contacted for their comment on the proposed transfer; a response from the legal department is expected. The Parish Council will await a Heads of Terms document from Your Housing and negotiations will proceed from there.

10. Policy document review.

The council's general policies, available on the website, were reviewed by officers. No legal updates on these have been received and no amendments are currently necessary.

PARISH/2024/17: To accept the review of the council's general policy documents.

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

No comments: it was noted that the application to convert the café in Lingley Mere Business Park to conference facilities has been withdrawn.

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

None.

13. To receive verbal reports from Parish Councillors and from Borough Councillors on items of note within the Parish.

Cllr Parish informed members that the planning application for the proposed pump track on Dakota Park is waiting a decision: it is hoped this will be made in March.