

# Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council

## Minutes

A meeting of Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council Meeting was held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in Warslow Village Hall.

**Present:** Chairman, Mr N Searston, Mr P Moakes, Mrs C Allsop, the clerk, Mrs S Hampson and Mr M Wardman (candidate for co-option to fill the casual vacancy).

### **Non-Confidential items**

#### **23.7.1 Attendance and apologies for absence**

The members present completed the attendance register. Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Mrs Peach and Mr Gould. Mr Gilman was also not in attendance.

#### **23.7.2 Co-option/Casual vacancy, completion of declaration of acceptance of office forms**

Mr M Wardman was duly co-opted to fill the one casual vacancy on the parish council following the elections in May 2023.

Regrettably, Mr Gilman was unable to attend the meeting due to employment commitments. Due to a period of absence in excess of 6 months, unfortunately meant that Mr Gilman could no longer hold the position of parish councillor resulting in the need to advertise another casual vacancy. The clerk had prepared the notice advertising the position.

#### **23.7.4 Declaration of interest of councillors related to the agenda**

There was no need, by any member present, to record an interest in the register.

#### **23.7.5 Minutes of the previous ordinary meeting**

The clerk had forwarded the minutes in advance of the meeting and these had been posted on the website and noticeboards.

**Resolved:** to accept the minutes as a true record of proceedings. The minutes were signed by the Chairman, Mr Searston.

#### **23.7.5 Public speaking procedures document**

This was available for any members of the public in attendance; however, there were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **23.7. 6 Public speaking**

See above.

#### **23.7.7 PCSO updates**

Mr Searston reported that he had attended a meeting at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in connection with the 20's Plenty speed campaign and had met the new Chief Inspector. The PCSO scheme is being restructured and a new PCSO will eventually be covering the parish.

The 20's Plenty topic was discussed at this point rather than under the agenda item 27.7.14 covering Highways.

Mr Searston advised that there is a cost of approximately £10,000 to create a '20 mph' zone, the necessary signs and notices which the parish council could not afford to fund without a significant impact on the precept. In addition, the 20 mph zone would not be enforceable by the police. It was reported that a nearby parish council has Speedwatch equipment but would be reluctant to loan it out for use by another parish.

**Resolved:** Mr Moakes to place an item on the parish council's website regarding Speedwatch to hopefully generate parishioner feedback on the topic for the next agenda.

### **23.7.8 Update from County Councillor, including possible new grit bin**

The County Councillor had forwarded apologies in advance of the meeting and had advised the clerk that unfortunately, she would not be able to use her access to local project funds to supply a new grit bin for the school. She had also advised that the school is on the main priority gritting route through the village. She had reported again, a pot hole at Elkstones, previously reported by the clerk (ref. 43282273). On a separate note, there has been no contact made by the new District Councillor.

**Resolved:** Mr Searston to check the status of the above highway reference number.

### **23.7.9 Archive**

Mr Moakes had not yet arranged an appointment with the Staffordshire Archivist.

### **23.7.10 Best Kept Village Competition**

Mrs Allsop advised that the judges can still visit the village until August. The village looks very smart and there has been more awareness of the competition this year. Three troughs have kindly been repaired. The lengthsman has regularly visited the village, assisting with its tidy appearance.

### **23.7.11 Review of policies**

The clerk had included new review dates.

**Resolved:** Mr Moakes to forward a few amendments to the privacy policy and to the seat policy to include additional items.

**Resolved:** to review the policies annually.

### **23.7.12 Planning, appeals, planning decisions**

New planning applications had been received in advance of the meeting for:

NP/SM/0723/0757 and 0758 at Chapel House, Leek Road for the demolition of the existing boundary wall to form domestic curtilage with associated hard and soft landscaping works and erection of a garden shed

**Resolved:** to support the above application.

Previously considered applications at Pump Farm and Hole Farm had been subject to discussion at the July Planning Committee at the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA). The proposal at Hole Farm had been refused.

### **23.7.13 Items of account, clerk, lengthsman and possible grant, wayleave, HMRC, general income and expenditure, Best Kept Village Competition**

Cq 761 S Billings	Lengthsman	£240.00
Cq 762 S M Payroll Services Ltd	6 months' payroll services	£60.00
Cq 763 S Hampson	July and August clerk's salary	£472.68
Cq 764 S Hampson	July and August premises allowance	£52.00
Cq 765 S Hampson	Reimbursement mileage & expenses	£9.60

**Resolved:** to implement the NALC pay agreement for the clerk and to back date this to 1 April 2023.

### **23.7.14 Highway issues and 20's plenty campaign**

See the reference to the 20's plenty campaign discussed under agenda item 23.7.7. There were no new pot holes to report.

### **23.7.15 Correspondence and communication**

Details had been forwarded to councillors in advance of the meeting.

A request had been received from Grindon Parish Council for Warslow and Elkstones PC members to consider sharing the cost of training and for expressions of interest. A request had also been received for information on any public wells within the parish.

**Resolved:** the clerk to advise Grindon Parish Council that, in principle, there may be interest from the councillors to join in with some training, depending upon the subject/topic.

**Resolved:** the clerk to report that there are no public wells in the parish, only troughs collecting field water.

Additional correspondence included: SPCA Bulletins, health and well-being initiatives, sustainable fashion show, code of conduct seminars, SM Community Lottery, Cllrs. Fundamentals, updates on the electoral register, PC climate change consultation, voluntary sector news for Stoke on Trent, electoral expenses return, MOD Leek training estate, parish assembly.

### **23.7.16 Items for the next agenda**

New casual vacancy, Remembrance Day and wreath, burial ground, asset register and possible disposal of assets, Best Kept Village competition, archive. Additional items to be prepared by the clerk, as required.

### **23.7.17 Date and time of next meeting**

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Confidential business**

#### **23.7.18 The burial ground**

Mr Moakes provided an update. The Land Agent working for the diocese will probably not visit the village now until August/September. Mrs Peach was not in attendance to provide information on the remaining church yard grave spaces. The clerk suggested the possibility of creating Garden of Remembrance spaces in the churchyard to prolong the use of the church yard, as there are now very few remaining spaces.

**Resolved:** to arrange a site meeting with the vicar to establish the actual number of remaining spaces and to possibly discuss a Garden of Remembrance.

**Resolved:** Mr Moakes to make contact with PDNPA.

#### **23.7.19 Disposal of assets and asset register**

Mrs Allsop had collected the parish council's old strimmer and reported that at present, this is not functional.

**Resolved:** to compile a new asset register.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.40 pm

Mrs S Hampson,  
Clerk to Warslow and Elkstones Parish Council

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023