

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 9 June 2014 beginning at 7.30pm

Present	Cllr. R Greatrex (in the Chair)	Cllr. S Wallis
	Cllr. G Payne	Cllr. D Watson-Jones
	Cllr. M Cowie	Cllr. K Ingram
	Cllr. D Willetts	Cllr. J Cook
	Cllr. J Cook	Cllr. T Simkin
	Cllr. M Hughes	Miss J Cooper, Clerk
	Cllr. J Tomkinson	

Along with Cllr Ken Williamson and Cllr Mike Smith (Stafford Borough Council), Cllr Mark Winnington (Staffordshire county Council) and 5 members of the public

14/077	Public Open Forum Members of the public had no matters to raise.	
14/078	To receive apologies, record absences Apologies received from Cllr M Booth (family commitment), Cllr P Alker (holiday), Cllr K Abbott (holiday), Cllr Deegan (unwell) Apologies were accepted.	
14/079	To record any declarations of interest None received	
14/080	To receive and confirm the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 12th May 2014 The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.	
14/081	To welcome Jane Hewitt, Chief Inspector of Staffordshire Police to discuss the changes Gnosall PCSO's and any other policing matters Cllr Greatrex welcomed Chief Inspector, Jane Hewitt and shared the council's concerns regarding the recent PCSO's changes in the parish. He said this is the second time that a well respected PCSO, who had built up an excellent relationship within the community, had been moved on very suddenly. JH replied, she said Gnosall still has 3 PCSO's but unfortunately one is off long term sick, one has recently had an operation therefore is currently off work and she had to relocate one (PCSO Brewis) for confidential reasons that she could not expand on. She said a new PCSO, Mike Davies has been redeployed in Gnosall long term, he lives in the village and should be able to build up a good relationship with the younger residents particularly – he has already been into the local primary school and has made himself known in the village. She further explained that there are will be no extra resources to increase police personnel across the borough however with the expected growth in Stafford she would be arguing the case for more. Cllr Wallis asked JH where to obtain additional Neighbourhood Watch signs for Moreton. JH agreed to try and obtain signs.	

	<p>Cllr Payne asked about police presence and whether Eccleshall station was closing. JH said there are no plans to close Eccleshall station and explained that she has 10 officers on one shift across the whole of the Borough. PCSO's have the responsibility to be "on foot" within towns and villages – seeing a Police Officer on foot is unlikely. Sickness has an impact on visibility and as there are currently some big issues within the borough, staffing resources had been moved around.</p> <p>There were no further questions from councillors.</p> <p>Agenda item 14/085(b) The Chairman brought this item forward to enable the Chief Inspector to be part of the discussions. All Councillors including Cllr Mark Winnington as well as the Chief Inspector had received a copy of the email from a Gnosall resident regarding the traffic issues, both volume of traffic and speed of traffic including farm vehicles, on Wharf Road.</p> <p>It was acknowledged there are many residents along Wharf Road as well as shops and businesses that are extremely important to parishioners. Farm traffic has to use Wharf Road as it is the most direct route from Bescote to Gnosall. It was felt there is no easy solution. When traffic calming measures were suggested, the opinion of Jane Hewitt and many councillors were similar in that they do not always work neither do locally organised speed watch schemes – this has been tried out in the village on many occasions. It was also felt that the people who speed are local people who "know the roads".</p> <p>It was agreed that the main message to get across to all road users is to "slow down" and be respectful of other road users and pedestrians. There are congestion areas along Wharf Road, mainly by The Bakery and the bridge by The Boat pub with many vehicles parking very inconsiderately either side. The Parish Council had asked some time ago for double yellow lines to be applied near to the bridge and this request is "in the system" and could take some time for a decision to be reached.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion it was felt the most effective signage to make people aware of the speed they are travelling, is the flashing sign that records the speed and flashes accordingly. It was agreed that the parish council should look into purchasing these signs to be erected along Wharf Road. The Clerk to action.</p> <p>In addition, farms in Bescote had been contacted by the Chairman to share the details with farm employees and to request they are more careful when driving along Wharf Road and around the village in general.</p>	Clerk
14/082	<p>To receive any matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>Agenda Item 14/061 Composition of Committees. The Clerk asked for one more councillor to be a member of the Personnel Committee. Cllr Cook agreed to join this Committee.</p>	

14/083	<p>To receive the Clerk's report</p> <p>Clerk's Report The Clerk's report, previously circulated, included details of all committee, working group meetings and the Annual Assembly all held in the past month.</p> <p>Affordable Housing Site, Lowfield Lane – following a meeting earlier that day the Clerk reported that 2 sales of shared ownership properties had been completed and there are 7 reservations. Four remain empty and it is hoped all will be sold in the next 2 months. A further meeting had been arranged on 8th September.</p> <p>The report gave an update on recent highway matters reported and action taken. The Neighbourhood Highway team would be in Gnosall for 5 days from 21st to 25th July. Cllrs were asked to provide the Clerk with a list of jobs.</p> <p>The Clerk, along with Cllr Payne would be attending the 75th Anniversary of SPCA on 11th June.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded councillors that GPC had reserved a stand at the Carnival on 21st June and she would be contacting councillors in the week for help manning the stand.</p> <p>b) Any reports from Borough and County Councillors Cllr Smith reported on Boundary Commission with a recommendation to reduce the number of Councillors to 40 - this would be considered at a Borough Council meeting on 19th June. It is also hoped that the Local Plan would be considered for approval at this meeting or the July meeting as the Inspectors Final Report is imminent.</p> <p>c) Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended Cllr Simkin reminded council that Gnosall Youth Club meetings need parish council support bearing in mind the uncertain future. The next meeting would be held on 26th June.</p>	<p>Cllrs</p> <p>Cllr Payne Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Cllrs</p>
14/084	<p>To consider committee/working group issues</p> <p>Matters relating to the Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May were accepted. • It was noted that the application for an anemometer mast, that the Parish Council had objected to, had been approved by the Borough Council. <p>Matters relating to Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meetings held on 19.5.14 and 4.6.14 were accepted. • Feedback from a meeting with the Environment Agency and Staffordshire County Council regarding flooding at Plardiwick Farm and unauthorised dredging of the brook was shared. • The Committee had agreed to write a management brief for all open space areas (Acres, Village Green, The Wold and Chippy Jumps) • Arrangements for the fun weekend were confirmed and publicity for this weekend would be distributed around the parish and 	

	<p>surrounding areas from mid June. A further meeting for the fun weekend had been planned for 1st July to which all councillors were invited.</p> <p>Matters relating to the Grosvenor Centre Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the meeting held on 3.6.14 were accepted • The maintenance programme had significantly reduced with many jobs/projects completed. • The annual review of the DPS would take place within the next month. • Following comments made at the Annual Assembly and from other councillors, the long term future of the centre was briefly discussed taking into consideration changes within the village (potential loss of youth club, library, new houses as well as information coming from the neighbourhood plan questionnaires). This will be further discussed at a meeting on 23rd June, arranged to discuss a “wish list” for projects that could benefit from S106 funding. <p>Matters relating to the Communications Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meetings held on 20.5.14 and 3.6.14 were accepted. • Changes had been implemented to the new website following feedback and comments received. • The next edition of GMK would be distributed at the end of June. Cllrs would be asked to help write small reports for inclusion. <p>Matters relating to the Procedures Review Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the recommendation from the meeting held on 8.5.14 to make changes to the Financial Regulations, items 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.6 and 11(i) (as detailed in the minutes). It was proposed and seconded that all recommendations be accepted. A vote was taken with all councillors voting in favour of accepting the changes to the Financial Regulations as detailed in the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May. Clerk to action. 	<p>Cllrs</p> <p>Cllr Abbott Clerk</p> <p>All Cllrs</p> <p>Cllrs</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14/085	<p>To receive a report on financial receipts for May 2014 and receive accounts for approval for June 2014</p> <p>The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and accepted.</p>	
14/086	<p>To report on any road and footway matters within the parish, including:</p> <p>a) Update of any previous matters reported: The Clerk to action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Highways for an update following the inspection of the road surface at Old Barn Close • Raised Severn Trent Water man hole between Glendower Close and Willey Lane not rectified despite numerous calls. <p>b) new reports including correspondence from resident regarding volume of tractors/cars along Wharf Road</p> <p>The Clerk to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A518 hedges blocking footpath near to entrance with Back Lane. • Country boundary between Moreton and the A41 – grass verges not cut and persistent flooding when it rains. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken and hanging branch on Acres opposite Norbury Close • Flooding across Lowfield Lane where new building is proposed. <p>Correspondence regarding Wharf Road had been dealt with earlier in meeting.</p>	
14/087	<p>To consider correspondence and other communications, received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk)</p> <p>Cllrs noted the list of correspondence received.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that since the list was circulated she had received the long awaited lease from St John Ambulance via Hand Morgan and Owen. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Clerk signs the lease.</p>	Clerk
14/088	<p>To request items for the next agenda</p> <p>Cllrs to contact the Clerk 10 days prior to the next meeting with agenda items.</p>	
14/089	<p>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>This would be held on 14th July at 7.30pm in the Brearley Room.</p>	
14/090	<p><i>To exclude the press and public whilst confidential items are discussed</i></p> <p>The remaining members of the public left the meeting</p> <p>To receive the notes of the Personnel Meeting held on 9.6.14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verbal report was given. Minutes would be circulated at a later date. • It was noted that the national minimum wage would increase on 1st October 2014 and this would apply to the salaries of two members of staff. This was accepted. • It was also noted that the Clerk had accepted the position as Clerk at Norbury Parish Council – a very small Parish Council in comparison with Gnosall that would involve 10 one hour meetings per year with notes being typed up from the Clerk's home on Friday's. This was accepted. 	

The meeting closed at 9.15pm