

# OLLERTON WITH MARTHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2004 at Marthall Parish Hall, 7.30pm

**Present: Councillors Barnes, Davison, Hodkinson, Holmes, Littler, Mason, Roberts, Street & Weston.**

John Wilson, Parish Clerk, took the minutes of the meeting.

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Sayle, the chair was taken by the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mason.

### 1. Chairman's resignation/Appointments to vacant posts

Cllr Sayle, Chairman of the Council, had written tendering his resignation from the office of Chairman. This was due to his imminent move outside the parish.

**Resolved** that the Chairman's resignation be accepted.

**Resolved** that, with immediate effect, Cllr Mason be appointed Chairman and that Cllr Holmes be appointed Vice-Chairman.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Wilkinson.

### 3. Absences

Cllr Sayle was absent. The Clerk acknowledged that Cllr Sayle had not been sent a summons to the meeting because the Clerk was not in possession of Cllr Sayle's new address. Cllr Sayle had not responded to a mobile telephone message left by the Clerk asking him to make contact.

### 4. Disclosures of interest

Cllrs Littler and Weston declared an interest in agenda item 20 relating to Marthall & Little Warford Parish Hall.

### 5. To consider and approve minutes of the last meeting

The following corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on 22.9.04 were approved:

Minute item 1 - At the July meeting Cllr Davison had given an apology for a forthcoming absence from the September meeting due to holiday commitments, although this had not been recorded.

Minute item 5(g) - should read Cllr Littler, not Little.

Minute item 7 - "Councillor Wilkinson" should read "County Councillor Wilkinson".

Minute item 7 - "... but it was felt no decision would be taken until 2013." should read "... with a view to making a decision enabling completion of the works by 2013"

**Resolved** that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 22.9.04 subject to the approved corrections detailed above.

### 6. Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting (not covered by subsequent agenda items)

None.

### 7. Sub-committee reports

#### Planning

7.1.1 The Planning Applications Monitor had been circulated with the agenda and a copy issued for publication in the *Parish Post*.

- 7.1.2 Cllrs Street and Hodkinson had attended a seminar on implications of the new planning system for Cheshire run by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. Subjects covered included the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Bill 2004, Regional Space Strategies, Local Development Frameworks, Planning Policy Statements, Mineral Policy Statements, Area Action Plans, Development Plan Documents, and Statements of Community Involvement.

Certain measures affect planning application rulings as follows:

- reasons have to be given for both approvals and refusals
- appeals period cut from six to three months
- powers to refuse twin-track and repeat applications strengthened
- new temporary stop notices (sect. 52, 2004 Act)
- planning consent duration cut from five to three years
- Crown exemptions ended (unless 'national interest' proven)
- control extended to cover internal floor space
- local development order introduced

The Planning Sub-committee recommends that this Council:

- checks Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs)
- lobbies the County Council to influence strategic planning
- checks the local planning authority's Local Development Framework (LDFs) and ensures that plans affecting the parish are included
- demands community involvement from both regional and local authorities
- influences Supplementary Planning Guidance documents, i.e. have a Parish Plan adopted

**Resolved** that the recommendations of the Planning Sub-committee be adopted.

#### Parish Plan

- 7.2.1 A £250 grant towards preparation of the Parish Plan is available from Macclesfield BC subject to this being matched by an equal amount raised by this council via the precept.

**Resolved** that £250 be added to the Council's spending plans for 2005/06 to be raised via the precept for that year.

- 7.2.2 It is the council's intention to make progress with development of the Parish Plan in the second quarter of next year. Outside help may be sought to assist with production of the plan. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman intend to seek input from community leaders during the plan's preparation.

#### Village Web Site

- 7.3.1 The web site **ollertonwithmarthall.org.uk** is now live on the internet. Material for inclusion is now awaited from the Council, and it was agreed that minutes of meetings would be published after formal approval at meetings of the Council.

#### Community Pride

- 7.4.1 Results of the 2005 Community Pride Competition had been received. Of fourteen entries in its class, Ollerton with Marthall's combined entry had taken fifth place. The judges had commented on dirty seats in the Corner of Remembrance, although it was reported that these had been cleaned for Remembrance Sunday.

**Resolved** that Ollerton and Marthall would continue with a combined entry in the Community Pride Competition for 2005, and that Cllrs Holmes and Littler be members of the Community Pride Sub-committee.

## 8. **Borough of Macclesfield Audit of Open Spaces Provision**

The Council had been asked for input to the Borough Council's audit of open space provision. Points made during discussions included the following:

- local residents are thought to be happy with the playing fields and the enclosed area containing play equipment
- the playing fields are well maintained by Macclesfield BC
- one member observed that the play equipment could be maintained to a higher standard by Macclesfield BC (which also insures the equipment and users of it)
- another member thought it may be helpful to advise Macclesfield BC that the play equipment will need to be replaced at some time
- there is a huge demand for bridle ways, but local residents don't wish to see an increase in these
- the churchyard may contain some dangerous gravestones
- other open spaces in the parishes were noted as land adjacent to the village hall, the village pond and the grass triangle at the junctions of School Lane with Percivals Lane and Moss Lane in Ollerton
- it was agreed that Members would forward to the Clerk any particular information they wished him to draw to Macclesfield BC's attention

## 9. **Cheshire County Council Public Consultation on Energy from Waste Facility**

The Clerk reported that a response had been submitted to Cheshire County Council based on the majority view of Members who had returned the questionnaire to him. This agreed with Cheshire CC's preferred approach aimed at meeting landfill reduction targets and introducing mechanical biological treatment facilities to increase recycling and produce refuse-derived fuel for industrial markets.

## 10. **Bus shelter**

Possibilities exist to either replace the existing shelter or refurbish it. Replacement of the existing shelter, probably with an all glass type, could attract 'Midman' external funding support. The feeling of the meeting generally was that efforts should be made to retain the existing shelter with possible adaptations to the existing kerb to meet current standards for disabled users. It was thought that replacement timber and felt to repair the roof may be available from a local source free of charge.

**Resolved** that both replacement and repair options be investigated further for report at the next meeting.

## 11. **Seven Sisters Lane noisy road surface**

It was thought that this problem had been resolved and that no further action need be taken.

## 12. **Traffic calming**

The possibility of 'red boxes' at key junctions was discussed, although the regulations relating to siting needed to be explored. Noise resulting from such measure may need to be considered. Accident black spot information will be provided to the Clerk by one of the Members.

**Resolved** that the Clerk is to write to the Joint Highways Department asking what traffic calming measure options are available for Ollerton cross-roads.

## 13. **Parish web site**

See 7.3.1 above.

## 14. **M6 Expressway**

The Council has written to the Road Policy Unit of the Department of Transport reserving judgement pending further information on the options presented in the Department's consultation proposal of July 2004. However, the Council has stated clearly that any measures introduced to increase the

capacity of the M6 should include an extension through to Manchester and a direct connection with the M56.

**Resolved** that the Council keeps M6 Expressway developments under review.

#### **15. Cheshire New Local Transport Plan**

It was noted that Cheshire County Council's questionnaire invited responses to a broad range of desirable objectives without providing information on any measures deemed necessary to achieve them. Accordingly, no-one was likely to oppose them and the consultation was not a purposeful exercise.

Local issues were noted as follows:

- traffic congestion associated with local car boot sales
- lack of parking and 'park and ride' facilities in Knutsford
- desirability of easier transport links with Manchester Airport

#### **16. Age Concern Village Links Project**

Age Concern is seeking to recruit a local volunteer to provide a village link with their services.

**Resolved** that an advertisement for the position be submitted for inclusion in the *Parish Post*.

#### **17. Auditor's report 2003/04 and requirement for risk assessment**

The auditor's have submitted a clean report for 2003/04 except for the lack of a risk assessment. They have advised that this matter must be addressed in the current year if a more detailed and costly audit is to be avoided.

**Resolved** that a risk assessment be prepared as soon as possible and prior to the end of March 2005.

#### **18. Quality Parish Council status**

It was agreed that this is a complex subject which will require consideration and planning separate from business conducted at the normal two-monthly parish council meetings.

**Resolved** that a meeting be called in January prior to the next parish council meeting to develop a strategy for achieving Quality Parish Council status.

#### **19. Community Pride Competition**

See 7.4.1 above.

#### **20. Marthall & Little Warford Parish Hall**

Councillors Littler and Weston had declared an interest in this item earlier in the meeting. It was agreed that they need not leave the room provided they did not participate in the debate.

The Council had received a request for financial assistance towards ongoing upkeep of the parish hall from Cllr Weston in his capacity as member of its management committee, such support to be funded via the precept.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had established that financial support for the village hall lies within the powers of the Council under Sects 137/139 of the Local Government Act 1972, subject to such spending falling within 'free resource' spending limits and it being utilised for purposes the Council considers to be of general benefit to the parishes.

The Council felt that it needed additional information before a decision could be reached.

**Resolved** that the Clerk is to write to the Parish Hall Management Committee asking for further details including a statement of affairs.

At this point it was agreed that the meeting be extended by half an hour.

**21. Macclesfield BC Standards Committee**

A vacancy has arisen on the Standards Committee. Local councils have been invited to nominate one member interested in taking up the position.

**Resolved** that Councillor Holmes be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Macclesfield BC Standards Committee.

**22. Consultation on Licensing Regulations**

Not discussed. Deadline for consultation response already passed.

**23. Budget and Precept 2005/06**

The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget for 2005/06 with the recommendation that the precept for the year continues at the level of the current year.

Under the terms of the resolution recorded under item 7.2.1 above, an additional £250 is to be added to the Clerk's draft budget, this to be applied to development of the Parish Plan.

**Resolved** that the draft budget be accepted with an addition of £250 for development of the Parish Plan, and that the precept for 2005/06 be set at £5,650.

**24. Parish Plan**

See item 7.2 above.

**25. Authorisation of payments**

**Resolved** that all payments on the schedule circulated with the agenda be authorised for payment.

**26. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported receipt of a questionnaire from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils about lengthsman.

**Resolved** that the Clerk completes the questionnaire in consultation with Cllr Davison.

**27. Other comments, questions and reports**

None.

**28. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 24.1.05 at Marthall Village Hall.

Meeting closed.

**Certified as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to any approved corrections recorded in the minutes of the next meeting**