

# SNELSON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Liz McGrath  
Telephone: 01565 722762

Chairman: Nigel Musson  
Vice Chairman: Eddie Hopkinson

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## **Minutes of a meeting of Snelson Parish Council held in Snelson Chapel Vestry on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 8.00pm.**

**Present** were N Musson, G Phillips, E Hopkinson, J Firth, L Stanier, G Walton and the Clerk.

**12.41 Apologies** None.

**12.42 Declarations of Interest** – None

**12.43 Public Question time** – None

**12.44 Approve Minutes.** The minutes of the last two meetings were agreed and signed off.

**12.45 Matters arising from the minutes** - PCSO Lindsey Whitehead has been advised that speed monitoring cannot be done on the surrounding roads as it is too dangerous to do so.

**12.46 Code of conduct and declaration of Interests** – The Code of conduct was formally adopted by the meeting and paper copies of the document would be delivered to Cllrs Musson, Stanier and Phillips.

**12.47 Broadband** – The letter to residents would be posted this week. The money has been agreed for the scheme by the EU. Connecting Cheshire now need to update councils on how the process will proceed.

**12.48 Common** – work done in 2010 to improve the common has worked were it was done; however the area not done has just become more over grown and unusable. Advice given to Cllr Musson suggests that management of the woodland is needed and work to thin out trees, clear out debris and so allow better growth of shrubs and make the area usable for all. Cllr Musson proposed that a local Peover based firm could carry out the work. A map of the area will need to be divided to create plots so work can be done in rotation. A clear plan drawn up of specific work to be done in order of priority and then clear forward and financial planning can be done.

The meeting expressed concern that part of the common land was owned by Astle Estate and as such could the parish council take responsibility for this area? Also if the council were to take on this responsibility would it be opening itself up to possible liability issues?

**12.48.01 meeting resolved for the clerk to research these issues with the Cheshire East legal department.**

**12.49 Cheshire Railings** – Cllr Hopkinson has been to see Mr Williamson but is struggling to get someone who is willing to take on the work to repair the fencing. Cllr Hopkinson suggested that the council pay for a post and rail fence instead. The clerk pointed out that to replace the Cheshire fencing like for like, the council could pay as it would be preserving a fence that was put in place for road safety by the then county council. However to replace with a post and rail would not be permissible as it would serve as a stock fence then and so not a responsibility of the parish council.

**12.49.01 the meeting resolved to ask Adam Evens to give a cost of repair and if he is not interested the proposal was accepted that the scheme be abandoned and the money put towards the common.**

**12.50 Cheshire East** – the money available for highways has been increased and will hopefully bring about improvements.

**12.51 Highways** – Flooding on the local roads seems to be caused by soil blocking drains. This is a big issue across the area and one that Andy Wilson from Cheshire East is aware of. Gully emptying is being done.

Cllr Firth has spoken to Simon Davies regarding the flooding on common lane near Heath Cottage and also the water lying on mill lane. Both are very dangerous especially in freezing conditions.

The parish council are concerned that the road repairs and patching that is being done by Cheshire east is not enough, the roads are getting worse and no sign of the situation improving.

The parish council are also concerned that land drains are not coping with the wet weather and this is just exacerbating the flooding on the roads.

The issue of heavy lorries using mill lane and common lane was discussed by the council. The conclusion was that there was very little more that could be done as there is little influence the businesses involved can have on the delivery and collection depot drivers.

A reducing of the speed limit on Pepper Street and Mill Lane was put forward to the Lap highways group but it is unlikely that the area will meet the criteria set out for the reduction.

### **12.52 Finance –**

- To approve receipts and invoices for payment – LS/NM
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| Snelson Methodist Church – Room Hire 2012/2013      | £50 |
| Guy Marsden – spraying Japanese Knot Weed on Common | £50 |

The Code of Conduct adopted earlier in the meeting does not include the special dispensations allowed under section 33 of the local government act of 1972.

**12.52.01 Therefore the parish council have resolved the following general dispensations for a period of four years to all its members and co-opted members to allow them to participate in any discussion and vote in the following cases:**

- Setting the council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (or any subsequent legislation) or special expenses;
- School meals or school transport or travelling expenses where they are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education or a parent governor unless the matter relates specifically to the school which the child attends;
- An allowance, payment or indemnity given to members;
- Any ceremonial honour given to members.

The parish council also noted that Section 33 permits a local council to grant a dispensation to a member or co-opted member to allow him/her to participate in a discussion or to vote on a matter in which he/she has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

Requests from individual members should be made in writing to the council's proper officer (the Clerk) and may be granted by the full council, or this function can be delegated to a committee or officer.

A local council may grant a dispensation if, having had regard to all relevant circumstances, it considers that;-

- a) Without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business, or
- b) Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the council's area, or
- c) It is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

A dispensation when granted must specify the period for which it has effect and the period specified may not exceed 4 years.

After reviewing and approving the Budget for 2013/14 Cllr Hopkinson proposed a percept of £1500, seconded by Cllr Stanier it was agreed and carried.

**12.53 Planning** – No comments received for Rose Cottage.

**12.54 Correspondence**

- Highways satisfaction survey
- Letter from George Osborne re Broadband
- Cheshire East Parish Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> November
- New Pension regulations
- Boundary commission final proposals
- Police commissioner election papers and notices
- Contact procedure reminder for highways
- ChALC Newsletter
- Manchester Airport Community Links report
- Notification of changes to PAYE
- Bank forms for changing mandate

Next meeting is to be 4<sup>h</sup> March 2013 at 8pm.

Chairman declared the meeting closed 21.20.