

SNELSON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Shareen Worthington Email: council@snelsonpc.org.uk

Chairman: Cliff Walsingham Vice-Chairman: David Clarke

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at Snelson House

Present: Cliff Walsingham (Chair), Janet Winrow, Hazel Ardern, David Clarke, Ward Councillor Marc Asquith and the Parish Clerk

Members of Public: None

21.26 Receive apologies for absence

Cllr Lloyd-Jones sent his apologies

21.27 Receive questions from members of the public

There were no questions from the public

21.28 Receive declarations of members' interest in any agenda items

No interests were declared

21.29 Approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th May 2021

The Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record. Minutes from all remote meetings from the past year were also signed.

21.30 Receive an update on policing matters

Cllr Clarke reported on the thefts of dogs and a caravan in a neighbouring parish. A new Police and Crime Commissioner has been appointed as well as a new Chief Constable. The police surgeries and Speed Watch programmes have resumed.

21.31 Receive an update on The Common

Flooding – See item 10a

Japanese Knotweed – Several plants have been spotted. As a licence is required for a specialist spray, it was agreed a strong weedkiller should be used. Cllr Clarke to carry out the spraying.

Action: Cllr Clarke

Tree felling – It was decided that two trees with ash dieback should be felled. A quote for £350 has been received. Cllr Ardern and the Chair agreed to meet the cost and would take possession of the logs.

Action: Chair and Cllr Ardern

21.32 Note the following updates from the previous meeting

a. Item 21.18 - Ward Councillor meeting attendance

The Chair expressed the Council's concern over the Ward Councillor's lack of attendance at parish council meetings. Cllr Asquith said he was struggling to cope with Zoom meetings but, now that physical meetings have resumed, he would attend more regularly.

b. Item 21.23 – Cheshire East Highways - Road signs

The Chair requested funding for road safety signs from Cheshire East Council but was informed none was available. Cllr Asquith suggested there was a small budget available and the Chair agreed to complete the necessary application forms.

Action: Chair

c. Item 21.23 – The Common – Reinstatement of footpath

A request for a Land Registry map, to determine the share of ownership of The Common, from the Astle estate was denied. Cllr Winrow confirmed she would be able to obtain a copy. The Chair agreed to write to the agents, Fisher German, requesting a share of the expense.

Action: Cllr Winrow and Chair

It was unclear if the Council has Public Liability insurance. The Clerk to send the insurance policy to the Chair and Cllr Asquith.

Action: Clerk

21.33 Community Governance Review

CE Council proposes a possible merger between Snelson and Over Peover Parish Councils. The Council needs to consider its view on the merger before deciding whether to circulate leaflets to residents. Members may meet before the next scheduled meeting to discuss further.

Action: All

21.34 Finance

a. Approve the Receipts and Payments Report

The Receipts and Payments report was reviewed and duly approved.

21.35 Highways

a. Receive an update on the drainage/flooding issues on Common Lane and Common Farm Lane

Mr John Firth submitted the following update:

1. Flooding problem between Heath Cottage and Highfield Farm - Following the progress in April, reported at our May Meeting, it is very disappointing to have to report now that Highways, despite several reminders, were not able to accomplish the agreed final step of deciding the responsibility for, and implementing of, repair of the damaged/blocked final section of piping from the "collecting manhole" to the Common across Massey's field.

They had committed, on April 16th 2021, to writing officially to Simon Massey, with their decision, as soon as possible. Unfortunately, apparently due to depletion in personnel etc,

the letter was not issued until June 10th, the day that the LHO(Local Highways Officer) concerned with the project left the organisation and was, obviously, composed by someone with no knowledge of the subject, was threatening in tone and served only to alienate Mr/Mrs Massey.

Yet another inept performance by Highways, who, when they were informed of this stupidity, immediately had a senior representative speak to the Masseys and apologise profusely. We now require a new letter, following a meeting on site with this same senior representative, and this has been agreed for later this month. Currently, with their depleted resources, and the recent heavy rains, they have to concentrate on major flooding problems in their area.

2. Flooding near the two ponds on to Common Lane and start of Common Farm Lane - Apart from fixing the problem in itself, this is also essential to ensure that the water from item 1. is free to flow after crossing the field.

3. Potholes - Pothole repairs are proceeding, albeit at a slow pace, and we will continue to expedite. Also, the damaged drain near Heath Cottage was, during the month, fully repaired with a new brick structure, metal support housing and drain cover after being totally blocked for a year or more.

It was reported Mr Massey had cleared all the ditches but two ponds need excavating due to large amounts of silt. Permission has been sought for the pond situated on Astle land. The Chair to obtain costs from a dredging company and will write to the Astle estate asking them to share the cost. A drainage consultant has agreed to carry out a survey of the area next time it rains heavily.

Action: Chair

b. Discuss the proposals by CE Highways to introduce ‘top-up’ charges

It was felt the proposals are a double taxation and the Council has decided to object. The Chair has written to the Chairs of neighbouring parishes asking for their views.

Action: Chair

21.36 Planning

a. Receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair has asked CEC if the NHP format can be adapted. The Chair to send the new format to Tom Evans. Detailed census information is required and Cllr Winrow offered to obtain this.

Action: Chair and Cllr Winrow

The Clerk needed further information from the Chair on proposed IT costs before submitting the grant application.

Action: Clerk

b. Holly Tree House – planning application for a retirement village

It was noted that the decision date for the Holly Tree House application has been postponed again and is now scheduled for 18th August. The Chair asked Cllr Asquith if he could make enquiries on why it has been delayed again.

Action: Cllr Asquith

21.37 Housekeeping and Maintenance

a. Update the Councillor Roles and Responsibilities list

It was decided that Cllr Lloyd-Jones would be appointed to review the Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct, and the Chair would join the Personnel Committee. The Clerk to issue the updated list.

Action: Clerk

b. Discuss engaging the services of a web designer

The Clerk reported that due to recent website accessibility regulations, a web designer is needed to update the website. Cllr Ardern to ask Jo Whitby if she can assist the Council.

Action: Cllr Ardern

c. Review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Cllr Winrow agreed to review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations before the September meeting.

Action: Cllr Winrow

d. Review the Risk Assessment

The Clerk to ask Cllr Lloyd-Jones to review the Risk Assessment before the September meeting.

Action: Cllr Lloyd-Jones

21.38 Note items for inclusion on the next agenda

Review Code of Conduct

Tender documents for any work - before the budget

Personnel Meeting

Meeting concluded at 8.40 p.m.

The date of the next PC meeting is Tuesday 7th September 2021