MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ACTON EDLESTON AND HENHULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ACTON PARISH HALL ON 16 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Carol Mace
Councillor Dave Taylor
Councillor Les Hobson
Councillor Philip Percival
Councillor Paul Weaver
Councillor Claire Lewis-Jones

APOLOGIES:

IN ATTENDANCE: CE Councillor Sarah Pochin
Annie Coombs

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Philip Percival declared an interest in any matters relating to Kingsley Fields Development.

DISPENSATIONS

No Dispensation Forms were submitted.

MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 November 2019 and the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19 December 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING:

BUDGET & PRECEPT 2020-2021

AGREED: That the Budget 2020-21 be agreed and accepted by the Parish Council.

AGREED: That the Precept for 2020-2021 be set at £8300 (the same figure the last year).

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Carol Mace reported that the Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan would take place on 27 February 2020. Notices from Cheshire East would be sent out in the next week. These notices to be put on the Parish Noticeboard and the Website.

AGREED: A leaflet be produced and delivered to all constituents in the Parish before the Referendum. Carol Mace to ask Tom Evans at CE if the leaflet can be included in the notification document sent to constituents.

At the last meeting Mike Houlston asked if the Parish Council was going to withdraw the Neighbourhood Plan due to the Planning Application 19/5122N – Land South of Monks Lane and West of Chester Road, Acton (Dorfold).

The Parish Council asked for Lucy Hughes' comments (Cheshire Community Action):

Advice sought from Lucy Hughes at Cheshire Community Action regarding the question to Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council regarding withdrawal of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has never, or should never have been, solely about one development. It offers far more than that – and is not just about this one application, nor about this one period of time. The Plan has 21 policies, and will be used to help protect the environment and shape all developments in the Parish up to 2030. I really do not see how withdrawing the Neighbourhood Plan will be of any value at all – in relation to this application or for any future applications in the Parish. I think it will be the exact opposite – as having the Neighbourhood Plan will help to protect and conserve valued landscapes in the Parish, for example, provides for a green gap, will help to shape the design of any future developments, along with helping to determine where any future developer contributions may be spent.

Whilst the Parish Council in this instance are supporting an application which is contrary to some of the Neighbourhood Plan policies, I would consider it inappropriate and unnecessary to withdraw the Neighbourhood Plan. There are often circumstances where decisions do not necessarily conform to adopted policies. Planning legislation states that planning applications 'should be determined in accordance with the statutory Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise' – (see section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and if the Parish Council feels that there are appropriate material considerations to consider which outweigh the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan in this instance, they can make that argument. It does not follow that they do not support the Neighbourhood Plan, or that the Neighbourhood Plan is of no worth.

Some neighbourhood plan groups have indeed withdrawn their Neighbourhood Plans prior to referendum. You would have to check with Cheshire East on their protocol and views on this, as I think that it is the local planning authority that decides whether the NP will proceed to referendum, and that the qualifying body has a right to withdraw the neighbourhood plan proposal at any time before the local planning authority decides on the independent examiner's recommendations. Cheshire East may be of the view that they (and the parish council) have already accepted the examiner's recommendations, although as they have not officially reported this yet withdrawal may still be an option. See page 15 of this document - https://www.rics.org/globalassets/rics-website/media/upholding-professional-standards/regulation/drs/drs-services/npiers-planning-guidance-to-service-users-and-examiners-rics.pdf
Groups who have withdrawn their Neighbourhood Plans have normally chosen to do so as they didn't agree with the examiners' recommendations. This is not the case in Acton, Edleston and Henhull though. For the parish council to withdraw the Neighbourhood Plan as it does not agree with the policies contained within would beg the question as to why they agreed it appropriate to be submitted for examination. If they wish to withdraw it as it would be contrary to a decision they wish to make on one planning application would surely raise the question as to what would happen if the same situation happens after the referendum, when there would be no such option available.

AGREED: The Parish Council agreed not to withdrawn the Neighbourhood Plan and continue to go to Referendum on 27 February 2020.

DORFOLD ESTATES

Carol Mace reported on Mrs Ravenscroft's email regarding planning application 19/5122N and the Council's support of the application. (Mrs Ravenscroft's email had been forwarded to Parish Council Members). Email as follows:

"Good Evening

I understand that the PC has this evening voted in favour of the proposed development at land off Monks Lane and I would like to register my objection to this decision.

Acton PC in December 2015 objected to the development of the Star Inn for three houses in an existing building (which is in line with the Neighbourhood Plan) on the following grounds :

- "Object on the grounds that the housing element is poor, pays no attention to its surroundings and is inappropriate in a conservation area"

I would like to ask - and have an answer - as to why it is now deemed appropriate to build 55 houses of poor design, which pay no attention to their surroundings and are in a conservation area.

Regards

Debbie Ravenscroft

AGREED: Carol Mace to draft a reply to Mrs Ravenscroft's email and forward for comments to Parish Council Members.

Turnberry and Dorfold Estates had asked for a meeting to be arranged to discuss the community benefits to planning application 19/5122N proposals.

AGREED: A meeting be arranged for Thursday 13 February 2020.

Carol Mace asked all members to let her have any comments to add to the list of proposals from the Parish Council.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Copies of the Community Governance Review had been emailed to Members.

AGREED: The Parish Council's comments be added to the Survey and Carol Mace to submit with the following:

Section 2:

Question 5: (a) reflects local identities and interests? Agreed – Tend to agree.
(b) provides an effective and convenient local government? Agreed – Tend to disagree

Reasons: Lack of Cheshire East to respond. Ability of project (Sids) hampered by lack of engagement with the Local Authority.

Question 6: Response Agreed: Bus shelter. Flytipping.

Section 3:

Question 7: Response Agreed: Change

Reasons: The two large housing estates – Kingsbourne Development and Malbank Waters – naturally fit in with Nantwich area. A reasonable way forward.

AGREED: The Clerk to find out the new electorate figures for the Parish and request copies of the Electoral Registers.

TRAFFIC CALMING

This item to be deferred to the next meeting on 26 March 2020. Carol Mace to contact Judith Cosgrove at Cheshire East to clarify the timescale regarding the 106 monies from Kingsbourne Development.

SIDs – Chester Road Acton – Dave Taylor reported that he had been in touch with the supplier but they would not give a price for the fixed SIDs until Cheshire East Highways had agreed a suitable sighting for them. The Clerk had emailed Highways on several occasions but had not had a reply. Councillor Sarah Pochin to take this up with Highways. She suggested that mobile SIDs may be a better solution and said that Burland Parish Council had mobile SIDs and they were very successful. She suggested the Clerk contact the Clerk of Burland for more information.

Dave Taylor agreed to look into both options – fixed and mobile SIDs and would report back but he needed comments from CE Highways before he could get prices.

VILLAGE HALL WIFI

Dave Taylor reported that this could be a Project that the Parish Council could fund as it would be a benefit to the whole community. Chair to contact Acton Parish Hall Trustees with the suggestion. Also to ask the Trustees about the possibility of having a Parish Office in the Parish Hall.

ALLOTMENTS

Dave Taylor had looked into the regulations regarding Allotments. He reported that Nantwich Town Council were going to increase the Allotments in Welshman's Lane. The Parish Council can reserve Allotment sites for the Parish and it was **AGREED** that 6 bespoke allotments should be reserved for residents of the parish. Carol Mace to action.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Sarah Pochin attended the meeting. Sarah reported on the new "Green Caddy" Bins that were being sent out to Residents in the Borough who have a Garden Waste bin. Waste from the caddy to be put into the Garden Waste bin to compost. She reported about the new Recycling Plant at Leighton and suggested that a Tour of the Plant could be beneficial to all the Parish Councils that she covers. Sarah to action this and let the Parish Council know of possible dates.

Sarah reported that the Planning Application 19/5122N would go to Southern Planning Committee and she would find out the probable date and report back. Someone from the Parish Council should attend and speak on the application.

The Planning Application 19/5015N – not had decision as yet.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk issued correspondence received.

ACCOUNTS:

The following were approved for payment from the Parish Council Account:-

(a)	Acton Parish Hall – 28.11.19	£ 13.10
(b)	Acton Parish Hall – 19.12.19	£ 13.10
(c)	Acton Parish Hall - 16.01.20	£ 13.10
(d)	Acton Parish Hall – 14.12.19	£ 17.70
(e)	Clerks Salary for Dec 2019 and Jan 2020 (due to change of bank Account and Standing Order closed)	£278.00
(f)	Shires Payroll – 4th Quarter	£ 34.50
(g)	Cheshire Community Action – Work on Neighbourhood Plan	£210.00
(h)	RHL Print – Printing for Consultation Event	£180.00
(i)	Steve Jones – Verge Cutting Wilbraham Road to Canal Footpath	£450.00
(j)	Dave Taylor – keys cut for Barrier to Car Park	£ 20.00

AGREED: That 10 copies of the Neighbourhood Plan be requested from RHL Print.

PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Claire Lewis-Jones asked about training for new Parish Councillors. **AGREED:** That the Clerk contact CHALC for training dates and also the Clerk to email Claire with a copy of the Parish Council's Standing Orders.

Paul Weaver reported that the cost for the Dog Bins for Malbank Waters had gone up slightly and was now £386 each. **AGREED:** The bins be purchased and Paul Weaver or Les Hobson be reimbursed the cost.

Paul asked about the Grass verges at the end of Wilbraham road – could trees be possibly planted on the verges. Carol Mace reported that this was within the Traffic Calming Project that would be funded from the S106 monies from Kingsbourne Development. It was reported that the Traffic cones that had been put on the verges by Residents of Wilbraham Road had now been removed after residents receiving letters from Cheshire East Highways to that effect.

It was suggested that an Annual Newsletter from the Parish Council be created. This item to be put on the next agenda – 26 March 2020.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Meeting finished at 9.20pm

The next meeting will be on **THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM**