

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

MONDAY 24TH APRIL, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

at LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH HALL.

PRESENT - Councillors: A. Brocklehurst (Chairman), R. Robinson, H. Lewis, J. Blackburn, P. Duffy, T. Barlow.
Members of Public (27).
Mr. T. Evans - Neighbourhood Planning Manager, Cheshire East Council.
Mr. J. Drape, Miss C. Denton (Ground Control UK) & Mr. T. Jeynes (SEP Traffic Management).
Cheshire East Borough Councillor L. Smetham.
Dr. E. M. Maddock - Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Councillor P. Ryan, PCSO Julia Short.

2. **MINUTES** -

1/APM/17 Resolved a) That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 25th April, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)

3. **MACCLESFIELD LOCAL POLICING TEAM UPDATE** -

Unfortunately no-one was available to attend the meeting, however, the number of crimes within the Parish over the last twelve months had been provided:

Incident	Number	Incidents	Number	Incident	Numbers
999	7	Vehicle Crime	1	Suspicious Vehicles / Persons	8
Criminal Damage	0	Highways	3	RTC	6
Animals In the road	3	ASB	2	Traffic	9
Other	1	Burglary	3	Fraud / Scams	6
Theft	0	Animal Welfare	3	Found Property	0

An expression of thanks was recorded to the Macclesfield Rural Policing Team who regularly attend Parish Council meetings to provide updates and information on incidents within the area.

4. **BLUE DOT FESTIVAL AT JODRELL BANK** -

Mr. J. Drape introduced his company which is a specialist outdoor production company who have organised many outdoor events across Europe including concerts at Jodrell Bank. The company has won many awards for their work.

Planning for the 2017 Bluedot Festival is progressing well and feedback received following the event last year has been used to direct modifications in the management of the event. The festival will take place 7th - 9th July, 2017 and, again, is planned to provide features relating to both science and music. The planned capacity of the event will be 10,000 participants per day with the majority of these being weekend ticket holders. The site will be opened earlier this year (8am) to allow a greater spread of arrivals which, it is hoped, will reduce the impact on the highway network. The organisers continue to consult with local residents and businesses in order to address issues.

Several aspects of the festival have been modified following the 2016 event:

- Revisions to the provision of staff camping and car parking.
- Relocation of car parking for day participants. (Astle Park will not be used for parking.)
- Improved drainage on festival site.
- Revisions to traffic management including the provision of a soft road closure and a temporary pedestrian crossing.
- Re-orientation of the main stage to decrease noise impact and increased noise monitoring.
- Increased footprint of the main arena area.

The organisers have met with Cheshire East Council Highways to discuss traffic management strategies. The decrease in day ticket holders should decrease the number of vehicles arriving at the site during the festival weekend. Signage for the event will start at nearby M6 and M60 junctions to guide attendees to the site. The soft road closure should deter other traffic from using this route (a diversion will be in place using A50 and A535). A temporary speed limit of 30mph will be implemented on Holmes Chapel Road.

It is planned that donations to local charities will take place this year. Last year £10,976 was shared between four local charities.

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Residents were invited to ask questions to which the following points were clarified:

- The 30mph speed limit will also be implemented along Bomish Lane.
- Signage to warn motorists of pedestrians will be displayed along Bomish Lane.
- Landowner permission has not been granted to allow an off-road walking route from Goostrey Station to Jodrell Bank.
- Increased lighting and signage will be provided within the car parks to improve pedestrian safety.
- No parking signs will be displayed along Bate Mill Lane to deter vehicle parking.
- Bass vibration monitoring will take place during propagation tests.
- Provision of cycle parking will be increased due to demand.
- The unplanned one-way restriction on Bomish Lane last year will not be repeated this year.
- Consideration will be given to increasing the signage on roads joining Holmes Chapel Road to make drivers aware of the closure prior to reaching Lower Withington.
- Complementary tickets to the event are not common, however, extenuating circumstances have resulted in a small number being issued.
- Security for nearby properties will be provided. (The organisers will liaise with individual properties.)
- Access will be retained for school transport services.

Mr. J. Drape and his team were thanked for their attendance at the meeting following which they excused themselves from the meeting and left.

12 Members of the public left the meeting.

5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2016/17 -

Councillor A. Brocklehurst presented the Annual Report to the meeting (Appendix A) and highlighted key items. Residents were encouraged to get involved with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lower Withington which is being led by the Parish Council. It was reported that the Litter Pick taking place on Saturday 29th April, 2017 would now be meeting at the Village Green due to a cycling event at the Parish Hall.

6. UPDATE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED AT LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING -

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan** - An update had been provided within the Chairman's Report.
- b) **Public Access to Dingle Bank Quarry site** - An update had been provided within the Chairman's Report.
- c) **Signage & Garden at entrance to Lower Withington Parish Hall** - It was reported that the signs had now been replaced.
- d) **Weight restrictions within Parish** - It was reported that Lower Withington does not have a feature (e.g. a bridge) that necessitates the implementation of a weight restriction.

7. PUBLIC FORUM -

The Chairman invited residents to bring to the attention of the meeting any issues that they wished to discuss.

- A resident complained about the poor state of repair of the white railings opposite to The Highway Garage, Holmes Chapel Road and asked whether repairs are planned and, if not, whether the Parish Council will fund the repairs. Councillor A. Brocklehurst reported that, at present, neither the landowner nor Cheshire East Council are willing to repair the railings. The Parish Council could consider whether to repair the railings, however, permission from the landowner would be required. A resident noted that the railings could be considered hazardous to highway users and that the owners should be made aware of this.
- A resident asked whether the application to register The Black Swan as an asset of community value had been successful. Borough Councillor L. Smetham reported that this matter was due to be considered by Cheshire East Council shortly.
- A resident asked whether any update was available regarding the date by which sand extraction will cease at Dingle Bank quarry. Councillor A. Brocklehurst advised that, at present, extraction should cease in 2018 with the following restoration completed by 2020.
- A resident asked what enforcement action is being taken in respect of the closure of the permissive path at Lapwing Hall Lake. Councillor A. Brocklehurst reported that the matter had been referred to Cheshire East Council who are currently investigating. Residents were encouraged to contact Mrs. Judith Cosgrove at Cheshire East Council direct to raise concerns. Councillor R. Robinson reported that many users of the site had been bird watchers, however, at present, it appeared that selective access was being allowed through locked gates.
- A resident asked whether any update was available regarding the vehicles overtaking near the 50mph / 30mph boundary on Holmes Chapel Road. No update was available.

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- A resident asked whether the community speed watch was likely to be implemented again in the near future. Councillor A. Brocklehurst reported that the volunteers were currently being re-registered and that training was planned to take place in the near future. Speed watch had not taken place recently due to the change in speed limit within the Parish. Councillor T. Barlow stated that he had observed police undertaking speed monitoring within the Parish on several occasions recently.
- A resident reported a pothole at Dicklow cob near to the junction with Trap Street. The Clerk was asked to report this defect to Cheshire East Council.
- A resident reported that a road sign was currently obstructed near to Fox Wood Farm, Salters Lane.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9:00p.m.

Signed: ...  Approval Date - 22nd May, 2017

APPENDIX A

Lower Withington Parish Council Annual Report for the Year to 31st March 2017

The Parish Council of Lower Withington presents the following annual report.

Parish Council

The elected members of the Parish Council as of May 2017 are Cllr. Alan Brocklehurst, Cllr. Rachel Robinson, Cllr. Jackie Blackburn, Cllr. Tim Barlow and Cllr. Paul Duffy. In addition, we have been fortunate to gain the additional members of Cllr. Paul Ryan and Cllr. Hywel Lewis who were co-opted during the year. We also continue to have the support of Councillor Lesley Smetham from Cheshire East Council representing the Gawsworth Ward. We were very fortunate to secure the services of Dr Elizabeth Maddock as our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Dr Maddock is a very experienced clerk and holds such posts on several other local parish councils.

Your Council endeavours to be the voice of our community on issues that matter such as planning, roads and village safety, the sand quarry and local events. We are also there to provide the link to the wider community (Cheshire Association of Local Councils) and the governing local authority Cheshire East Council.

Sand Quarry

Permission for extraction of sand by Sibelco is currently due to end by 2018 with all restoration complete by the end of 2020. The Council continues to send representatives to the twice yearly quarry liaison committee. As the quarry end date comes closer focus on the potential end use for the site becomes more important with the ownership of the site changing hands the council continues to keep abreast of developments including the footpath at Lapwing Hall which has been closed. The footpath is subject to a legal section 106 agreement and is being dealt with by Judith Cosgrove (Section 106 Monitoring Officer) at Cheshire East Council.

Speed Limits

The council is pleased to report that the 30mph speed limit in the village is now in place and also at Gleadsmoss. Speedwatch will resume soon now that SIDs have been set correctly.

Police and Community

This year we have had the benefit of PC Garry Charnock and PCSO Julia Short who look after our area and attend PC meetings to report on incidents in the locale and takes away any relevant concerns we have. Thank you to them both.

Macclesfield Policing Unit and Cheshire Constabulary have several initiatives to protect and support rural communities like Lower Withington. Schemes like OPERATION SHIELD using technologically advanced DNA marking system protecting homes and businesses (there are opportunities to take advantage of this for all the community in Lower Withington – watch out for more communication). There is also RURAL WATCH (like Home Watch) for rural businesses, farms, dairies and dwellings aiming to reduce crime and prevent future crime across all of Cheshire including Lower Withington. The parish council is following these schemes and participating where we can bring benefit to our community.

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Neighbourhood Plan

Following the announcement last spring that the Parish Council was considering producing a neighbourhood plan, we have recently spoken to representatives from Cheshire East Council about the process. The Parish Council has now applied for the parish to be a 'designated area' which sets the boundaries of the parish within the neighbourhood plan process. The Parish Council is to form a steering group to develop the plan.

www.lowerwithington.com

The Lower Withington Parish website continues to flourish with news and information relevant for our community. It even carries the new logo as a symbol of our village identity. Please visit the site and tell us what you think and what you might like to see there and any other suggestions you have.

Finance

A brief financial report for the 2016/2017 year is given below.

Details	Actual 2016/17 £.
Receipts	
Precept	6,000.00
Investment Interest	1.18
Grants, Donations & Refunds	17.00
VAT refund	573.97
Total Receipts	6,592.15

Details	Actual 2016/17 £.
Payments	
Salary (Clerk)	4,107.08
Insurance	305.59
Donations - Sect. 137	150.00
Website	36.00
Subscriptions / Affiliation Fees	217.75
Tree Carving	600.00
Room Hire	170.00
Allowances (Clerk)	200.00
Administration	92.62
VAT	52.28
Total Payments	5,931.32

Cllr. Alan Brocklehurst, Chairman, Lower Withington Parish Council.

