

**MINUTES OF THE KEELE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.00pm at Keele Village Hall, Keele**

Attendees: Parish Cllrs Ms V Newman (Chair), Dr R Studd, Cllr Mrs Naylor, Mr G Bibby, Dr C Harrison, Mr S Gibbons, Mr J Downing, Mrs S Hughes, Mr T Snape and Cllr T Kearon  
In Attendance: Mrs Withington (Clerk)

1 member of public was present

- 16/14 **Public Open Forum**  
One member of public was present. Firstly he wished to raise the ongoing issue of the gully flooding under the railway bridge on the A525, which is a persistent issue. Clerk to log a job with Highways, but also asked for photographic evidence. The other issue related to the centenary anniversary of two residents who passed away in the first world war in August 1916 and December 1916. The clerk was asked to seek advice from the Royal British Legion with regards to the type of wreath and to discuss on the next meeting agenda. **Clerk**
- 16/15 **Apologies**  
Apologies were received from Mr J Borg **Clerk**
- 16/16 **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**  
None declared.
- 16/17 **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 January 2016**  
Dr Studd corrected the spelling of Mr Winter's name on the minutes – this was approved.  
  
The Clerk has written to Samuel Winter regarding the churchyard maintenance grant and is still awaiting a response.  
  
Ms Newman to raise the community shop at the next meeting with the University on 25<sup>th</sup> February. This should remain a standard item on the University meeting agenda. It was noted that HGVs are continuing to use Keele Drive. This is to be raised also. **VN**  
  
No further action at this stage with regards to the TPO information now received for the Hawthorns.  
  
With regards to the student accommodation issues, Cllr Kearon and Mr Borg have met with a number of individuals and these issues are being pursued through their normal forums. It is expected that the long term plans will come to light soon.  
  
The United Utilities issue has now been resolved, with regards to the effluence flooding issue on Station Road/The Village. Noted that the response from the organisation was that it was as a result of debris from previous sewer works causing 2 separate blockages, which is now cleared, as confirmed by CCTV. They did not feel that it should occur again in the future, and apologised for the inconvenience. Mr Bibby to include the information on the website. Sandbags have now also been removed. **GB**  
  
Mrs Naylor reported more fly tipping on Lymes Road, which was a regular occurrence.  
  
Mr Bibby and Mr Gibbons to discuss the results of the food waste minimisation research project with regards to the LAP funding available, and to bring back to the next agenda. **GB/SG**  
  
Mr Bibby to include the Rural Runabout scheme in the next Yew Tree. **GB**

A resident had queried the accuracy of the minutes regarding the litter cleaning carried out in the village and volunteer projects and believed that this was inaccurate as there were no known volunteer schemes and the litter collection only covered the centre of the village, not other parts of the Parish. The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting and were therefore left as written.

Clerk to chase up the reported Highways jobs in Quarry Bank regarding the overflowing drain by the junction with Pepper Street.

Clerk

**RESOLVED** that subject to the amendment to Mr Winter's name, the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

16/5

**Planning applications/permissions – to provide comments/request action:**

**1. Pepper Street (Outline Planning Permission for up to 100 residential) – 13/00970/OUT current position**

There was no further update as yet regarding the development of the site and it was agreed to continue to monitor the site.

**2. Pepper Street Planning Enforcement action update**

It was noted that enforcement action had been served on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 by hand service and posted to those who had an interest with effect on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016, unless an appeal is made against it beforehand. The notice also states that compliance to the notice is six months after it takes effect which would allow the caravan occupier on the site sufficient time to make alternative arrangements.

A response had been received from Darren Walters regarding the security of the underground fire and contaminated land. In particular the barb wire was breached, and there was a make shift shelter in situ. Mr Walters stated that he would be contacting the landowners to make good any damage to the fence and to dismantle the shelter. The Rough Sleepers team will deal with the rough sleeper. Mr Bibby to report the outcome in the next Yew Tree. Public Health England confirmed that the Borough Council have enforcement powers available to ensure the site is secure and safe.

Mrs Hughes was concerned that the recommendations from a previous report carried out for the County and Council suggested that due to the dangers a six foot high fence should be erected around the site. It was also concerning that the site was considered so dangerous that it warranted special circumstances to build on green belt, and order to urgently deal with the underground fire and contaminated land. It was agreed to invite Mr Walters to attend the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the next steps. In the meantime the Borough Councillors will raise the issues with Mr Walters.

Clerk  
TK/WN

**3. To consider action in relation to the proposed disposal of Keele Golf Course and removal of green belt status, and working jointly with Silverdale Parish Council**

It was noted that the Cabinet had decided not to be bound by the Full Council decision to dispose of the site for residential development over a number of years and in doing so take it out of the Green Belt. Therefore the site will await the Joint Local Plan and the masterplanning exercise that is being carried out, which may see a mixed use on the site of leisure, recreation and employment. As there are 3 large sites already for disposal, it was felt that this might undermine those sites. It was agreed to forge links with Silverdale Parish Council to ensure this is an asset of community value.

It was noted that bore hole drilling had taken place on the site, it was not clear if this was for the Stoke on Trent City Council's deep heat geothermal assessments or ground

conditions. The Clerk has asked the Borough Council for information. **Clerk**

**4. To consider a response regarding the Housing Land Supply Statement**

It was agreed that the Chair and other representatives would work with Whitmore Parish Council and Silverdale Parish Council to look over the spreadsheet for accuracy. **VN**

16/7 **Reports**

**1. Chairman's report**

Ms Newman reported that she had been invited to attend the Fiona Wolfe lecture.

**2. County & Borough Councillors Cllr Kearon, Cllr D Huckfield, Cllr Naylor**

Cllr Naylor phoned 101 to report cars parked on Lymes Road in front of farm gates. Mr Bibby to write an article regarding this in the Yew Tree, as it was stated that the police will respond within 30 minutes. **GB**

It was noted that the Hawthorns Section 106 education commuted sum would be paid to the Madeley High School only. Ms Newman to raise this with the University. **VN**

Cllr Naylor reported that the hedge had now been cut on the University site by Station Road and the inaccessible pavement had been swept by Mr Hough.

A Highway survey had been completed in November 2015 for Station Road, which found the majority of vehicles were under the speed limit with an average 37mph (in the 40mph section). It was agreed that the speedwatch should be reconsidered. Ms Newman to raise the issue of support for 30mph with Keele University. **VN**

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the County to find out about broadband installation in the Village. Cllr Kearon reported that there had been an increase in burglaries, which was down to a known offender. Mr Bibby to include it in the Yew Tree and also to promote the community safety packs for the elderly. Clerk to also ask First Responders to provide this information to any vulnerable patients. **Clerk**  
**GB**  
**Clerk**

**3. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association**

Mr Bibby and the Clerk attended the Land Management training on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

**4. Borough Standards Committee Cllr Naylor**

Nothing to report.

**5. Betley Keele and Madeley Locality Action Partnership**

Nothing to report.

16/8 **Amenities**

**1. Rural Runabout update**

An update was provided by Mrs A Studd following the meeting held earlier in the day. Ms Newman to put a leaflet in the noticeboards to encourage use in the Parish and Mr Bibby to promote in the Yew Tree. **VN**  
**GB**

**2. Village Hall Management Committee**

New tables and a trolley have now been purchased. The sign outside is on hold for the time being due to planning permission. The floor will be resealed and polished.

**3. Hawthorns application for listed building update on application**

No further action.

**4. To consider projects through the Lengthsman Scheme (£29 remaining inc Quarry Bank Rd siding to bridge)**

Clerk to include the costs of the litter bags in the grant claim. **Clerk**

16/9 **Grants**

**To consider applications for Community Chest (current balance is £566.84) Deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

- **Keele Conservation Group – installation of fingerposts for footpaths**  
Cllr Naylor declared an interest and abstained from voting. It was agreed to support this for the full amount in light of the update on the First Responders application.

- **Update on the First Responders application**  
The Borough Council would not reconsider the application. Dr Harrison was extremely disappointed that the funding would not be allowed even though it was for a parish specific function which is a vital lifesaving service. Clerk to ask that in future cross boundaries are considered or a majority percentage of parish based work is acceptable, and it is taken on a case by case basis. It was noted that the First Responders have decided to seek a small grant for their new uniforms. **Clerk**

16/10 **Other matters for consideration:**

**1. Neighbourhood Planning – Mr G Bibby**

Mr Bibby suggested that this is revisited now that the Hawthorns has been resolved. It was agreed to hold a public meeting w/c 25<sup>th</sup> April to discuss if there is public support to develop one or not, and if it should be in partnership. Silverdale Parish Council to be invited to attend. **GB**

**2. EU Referendum Debate on Keele Campus – Mr T Snape**

This is to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, Chancellors Building. Tickets can be purchased from the Students Union.

**3. Progress with Highways Schemes eg residential parking zone (to consider legal advice) and 30mph Station Road update (Cllr Naylor)**

This has been discussed earlier. However the Clerk and Mr Bibby reported that there is the potential for the Parish Council to consider making an order for parking restrictions, potentially on the Highway. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk seeks a legal opinion from the County on this, at a charge of approx. £75. **Clerk**

**4. Haying Wood management plan update (if available) – Cllr Naylor**

Nothing further to report.

**5. To consider the maintenance contract for the War Memorial Grounds**

**RESOLVED** that this be approved for this year with Stuart Abbots Garden Services, with the renewal considered at the August meeting. **Clerk**

**6. To consider renewing the maintenance contract for the Yew Tree irrigation service (at a cost of £325 net)**

**RESOLVED** to renew this contract. **Clerk**

16/11 **Correspondence**

There were no further items to discuss.

16/12 **Financial Statement and Clerks update**

**1. To approve payments/orders, receipts and transfers**

This was approved for payment as per the attached schedule.

**2. To note the budget position statement**

This was noted.

16/13 **Any Other Business for future agendas**

Noted that there is a working party planned for the Churchyard on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Trees are to be planted at the Cemetery with schools and others at a future date to be arranged.

Ms Newman was asked to raise the issue of cars blocking Springpool on the campus due to a new arrangement with the University.

Mrs Hughes asked that action is taken regarding the roof tiles that are being stripped at Pepper Street. Clerk to report the issue to PC Moore, due to the bats. **Clerk**

Dates of future meetings:

Weds 16th March 2016 – Keele Village Hall

Weds 20th April 2016 – Keele Village Hall (incs Annual Parish Meeting)

Weds 18th May 2016 – Keele Village Hall (incs Annual Statutory Meeting)

Weds 15th June 2016 – Keele Village Hall

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 – Keele Village Hall

**Approved Payments/orders Schedule - 20 January 2016**

<b>BACS &amp; Cheque No.</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
bacs 49	C Withington	Feb Salary	229.29
bacs 49a	C Withington	Feb expenses (in post charges NBC/Pub Health)	18.45
bacs 50	HMRC	Tax and NI Feb	57.40
bacs 51	Mr Czwartynski	Feb Litter	125.60
bacs 52a	Mr Czwartynski	Reimbursement for plastic litter bags	73.14
bacs 53	Mr Hough	Lengthsman (spraying and siding Pepper Street)	400.00
bacs 53a	Mr Hough	Lengthsman (clearing gutters of leaves The Village)	40.00
bacs 54	Access Irrigation	Yew Tree irrigation x 2 2016	390.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,333.88</b>

Transfer required of £1330 from deposit to current account **(approved)**