

DAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2013
at Davenham Methodist Church Hall
Public Open Forum 7.15 p.m.
Council Meeting 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr Sellers (Chairman)
Cllr Armstrong (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Duff
Cllr Ravenscroft
Cllr Robinson
Cllr Wilson
Cllr Wood

CWAC Cllr Sinar (from 8.20 p.m.)
CWAC Cllr Watson (until 9.00 p.m.)
Mrs N Clarke (minute taker until 9.45 p.m.)
Members of the public (until the end of the public forum)

Apologies: Cllr McDonald
Mr P Sanders (Clerk of the Council)

Public Open Forum

The meeting commenced 7:15 p.m.

PCSO Kat Stock outlined recent crime information for Davenham, which consisted of 6 incidents, 4 crimes, 1 theft, 1 damage. There had been a burglary in Green Lane and a drive off at the garage. The public were encouraged to be vigilant.

A large number of concerned residents voiced their opinions about the proposed HS2 route which will impact Davenham and Whatcroft villages. People felt they had not been informed of the plans. People were concerned about the value of their properties and indeed their ability to sell their property. Some would lose their homes completely. Questions were asked from the public about who they can contact and how to voice their concerns? The Chairman encouraged residents to use the HS2 consultation process to log their views. Cllr Wood raised the question of why this new line was necessary, particularly in view of the country's current difficult financial straits. Lostock Gralam Parish Council reported that they are asking ward Councillors in affected areas to hold a public meeting and asked if Davenham Parish Council were willing to participate? This was agreed. It was noted one potential challenge to the planned location of the line might be the safety concerns about the gas cavity run by Storengy, close to the planned site.

A number of residents from Hartford Road spoke to the Council about gardens being flooded due to blocked culverts, specifically properties 43 to 57. They have had a survey done but would like the Parish Council to lobby CWAC to assist with finding the source of the problem. CWAC have made two site visits. The school and cricket clubs drainage is also going into this area. Cllr Watson said that CWAC was trying to contact the owner of the land in order to

negotiate with them. CWAC will ultimately serve notice on them but wanted to give the owners the opportunity to address the problem. The Chairman asked Cllr Watson for assistance with the matter.

The main meeting commenced at 7.55. p.m.

130225.1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr McDonald.

AP1

130225.2 Approval of Minutes

a. The minutes were approved of Part A and Part B of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 January 2013, with the amendment of 'Absent' to 'Apologies' on page 1, and were signed as a true record. AP2

b. The Clerk's report to members was circulated prior to the meeting. Points to note are as follows and where appropriate have been included in the main minutes. Other items are:

Play Areas and Playground Inspections

The Playground Inspector, Mr Davies, now has a key to the Entry Gates and will undertake the repairs to the Toddler Area gate and cut down the protruding bolts on the Jubilee Oak sign when he does his February inspection.

Simply Signs have indicated a fee of £30 plus fitting charges for the bench plaques.

Tarmacing of Laburnum Road

A meeting took place with residents who are planning to look at the option of tarmacing the road apart from the area around Bargain Booze. They are keen to progress but it is now necessary to revisit the plan to accommodate the changes.

Highways / Footpath Issues

The Clerk has chased Highways regarding the review of signage and markings at both ends of Green Lane. A response is promised.

Repairs to the footpath sign on Eaton Lane have been requested for the second time.

130225.3 Finance and Administration

a. Financial report dated 31 January 2013 was approved. Payments confirmed and cheques signed:- Clerk's expenses - £125.36; Mouton PC - share of stationery costs - £29.78; LJ Price - maintenance contract (November - January) - £375.00; PIAMS - playground inspection fees (Jan) - £72.00

It was noted that the Clerk's salary is not included as a cheque for signature

AP3

b. Cllr Armstrong gave a verbal report on the restructure of Committees and Working Groups. A discussion took place on the merits of merging some Working Groups and / or Committees and the necessity of changing the Standing Orders to accommodate revised Committees or Groups. It was resolved that Cllr Armstrong will circulate her notes to members for consideration at the next meeting. Cllr Armstrong was thanked for her work.

AP4

c. PCSO renewal contract. Cllr Armstrong reported on a meeting held with Inspector D Snedell, Winsford Police. He confirmed that there is to be a £40 million cut in policing in the area which may impact on PCSO's work load in the future. Some Town and Parish

Councils are not renewing their contracts. The Council considered the PCSO contract and expressed concern about both the lack of attendance at meetings of PCSO K Stock or provision of a written report. It was resolved that the Parish Council is willing to sign the agreement but will speak to Moulton PC to press for a joint submission to lobby the police for a better service level agreement within the contract.

AP5

130225.4 Planning and Highway Matters

a. Applications received for Consultation -

AP6

b. CWAC Planning Decisions - none. Westerleigh and the Traveller site are still pending.

c. Papers awaited - None.

d. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Cllr Wilson reported that the group has not met since the last Parish Council meeting. Cllr Wood is attending a meeting on 28 February 2013 at Wyvern House about Neighbourhood Plans. The Working Group will meet on 4 March 2013 to discuss the agenda for the public meeting being held on 18 March 2013. The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Area Application letter has been accepted by CWAC Spatial Planning. Notices have been provided by CWAC for distribution around the village. Sites agreed are Spar, Post Office, Notice Board, Primary School and Whatcroft. The Chairman also reported on the correspondence by the Parish Council objecting to Davenham being placed as being in the greater Northwich area in the CWAC Local Plan and not classed as 'rural'. The Council will ask the Ward Councillor to assist with the objection. Approved that Cllr Duff respond to the correspondence.

AP7

130225.5 Playing Fields, Pathways and Gardens

a. Cllr Robinson reported that no further action has been taken by the Laburnum Playing Field Special Projects Group. Rain had delayed surfacing under tables.

b. Cllr Wilson reported that tenders have been received for grass cutting and village maintenance but not been analysed. In order to complete the process before the end of the current contract it was resolved to delegate the decision to a sub-committee comprising of either Chairman or Vice Chairman and any two of the Committee. A vote took place. Cllr Wood abstained.

AP8

The Chairman reported on a quotation and report received for tree surgery at the Village Garden. The report includes contacting BT to disconnect wires whilst work takes place, overhead cables may need attention and CWAC to close the pavement. The Council agreed that work needs doing and that a schedule of works needs to be completed before going out to tender. It was agreed that the Committee will meet to agree a schedule. AP9

c. Cllr Armstrong and the Clerk met with the solicitor about 'Possessory Title' claims over the War Memorial and Village Garden. The solicitor has asked for a statement from the Parish Council that they have maintained the War Memorial for a period of time to provide to Land Registry. Cllr Wood agreed to assist with the statement. The Chairman reported that CWAC have registered an area on the Village Garden which includes the power point area used for Christmas lights. Further investigation is necessary as the Council have been maintaining this area for some years. The Chairman and Clerk to contact CWAC legal department in conjunction with the solicitor to ascertain ownership.

AP10

d. Butchers Stile Playing Field. A discussion took place on whether to begin to look at plans to renovate the playing field since the Laburnum site is almost complete. It was agreed to use the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 18 March 2013 as a way of canvassing the views of

the village. It was confirmed that Cllr Sinar has offered £1000 from her Ward budget to assist with the redevelopment of the area. AP11

e. A revised quotation has been received for fencing between 30e Mount Pleasant Road and Butchers Stile Playing Field with wooden panels and wooden posts (concreted in). Including labour and materials it is in the region of £500.00. The Chairman reported that the resident has to write to Weaver Vale requesting for the work before the contractor can start.

130225.6 Correspondence

1. Email received from Hartford Road residents about floods (dealt with in the public forum).

2. Email briefing on HS2 rail link. This will be put on future agendas. The Chairman to contact Stephen O'Brien MP and Graham Evans MP to ask for a meeting.

AP12

3. Email noting that Whitegate and Marston PC have applied for Neighbourhood Area application.

4. Community Pride Award pack from Cheshire Community Action.

5. Email from a resident threatening to take the PC to court was discussed.

6. Email from Davenham Football Club with their views on the Butchers Stile Playing Field

7. Report on meeting with Laburnum Road Residents' Committee representative T. Ellis about the agreed use of hard standing. The Bowling Club have requested the use for a Mid Cheshire Bowling Association County Championship on 18 & 19 May 2013 which was agreed.

130225.7 To consider any other urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.

None

130225.8 Confirmation of Date of Next Meeting - Monday 25 March 2013.

130225.9 This section of the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.



29/4/13

Signed / Dated
Chairman of the Council