

Mawsley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th March 2018 7pm

Present: Cllr R Barnwell (Chair), Cllr T Sanders, Cllr H Esler, Cllr P Richards, Cllr K Wilson

Also present: Juliet Lewis (Clerk)

- 18.03.01** To receive **Apologies of Absence:** Cllr White sent his apologies ahead of the meeting. Borough Councillors J Hakewill and C Moreton also sent apologies.
- 18.03.02** To receive **Members' Declarations of Interest:** None
- 18.03.03** To receive **Members' requests for Dispensations:** None
- 18.03.04** **To approve Minutes of the Meeting 19th February 2018.** It was then resolved to accept the minutes of Monday 19th February 2018 as a true and accurate record. All agreed.
- 18.03.05** **To discuss Matters arising from these minutes only:** Note: those which are not covered in the agenda items below:

Cllr Barnwell advised that he had looked into making Bob Littler the first Freeman of Mawsley. It appears that this is not possible but he could become 'honourary Freeman of Mawsley. This involves scheduling a separate meeting. It was agreed that this would take place on the date of the next monthly meeting at 6:45pm.

- 18.03.06** **Allotments – progress update:** No progress has been made since the last meeting. Dave Lane, KBC, has not been able to provide an update ahead of the meeting. Cllr Barnwell stated that this will now be his priority until the situation is resolved.

- 18.03.07** **Public Time (15 min):** A resident stated that her son had nearly been run over crossing the road to get to school, there is no safe place to cross so children end up crossing between parked cars. We shouldn't have to wait for adoption. There is a lot of talk but we don't get anywhere! It's only a matter of time before there is a serious incident.

Cllr Barnwell commented that this issue had been looked into in great detail several years before. The school, parents and governors lobbied Cllr Hakewill and it was concluded that it was not possible. Do to the road layout there was no 'safe' place to site one. This is one for the MP, suggest that parents lobby the MP individually as it will have more impact.

Cllr Sanders stated that he believes that there needs to be an urgent assessment of the situation. There have been too many near misses. He asked if there is anything that the police can do?

PC Devlin stated that it was not something they can get involved in, they can provide statistics of incidents reported and can provide support in discussions if required. Highways agents would need to be contacted.

Cllr Sanders stated that it is really urgent now, we need action ASAP. PC Devlin stated that we can't say what we can / can't do, maybe we can visit on particular times / dates. If you require a police visit then please contact us.

Cllr Wilson stated that the school children approach in different directions so if we were to fund one crossing where would it be sited? It is the parking that needs to be sorted not putting a crossing in. Cllr Esler commented that there was no safe place for a crossing as the road was too bendy.

Public commented that we can't leave children to walk to school alone as it is just too dangerous. The biggest issue is the parking, it's inconsiderate and dangerous and it's the same vehicles. If you put a crossing in you'd probably get people parking on it! In 7 years we have had one visit from the community officer.

Cllr Richards asked if the outcome of the investigation had concluded that there was not a safe place for a crossing and to provide one outside of the regulations would cost approx. £15k, then we need to look for another effective solution. Maybe consider slowing the traffic to 20? Flashing 'children crossing' lights & 20 mph signs. Cllr Sanders commented that you can't put a price on road safety.

Cllr Barnwell commented that public pressure is powerful, parents should lobby the local MP, what is the answer we are looking for? Do we need to alter the road? Change the speed limit? I know the school did their best last time but to no avail, the only option left is to contact your MP.

Cllr Sanders asked what can we do tomorrow? Police presence? Revisit the previous decision / appeal? Appeal now in writing to Jim Hakewill and ask for a full review of the previous decision. The number of vehicles in the village has increased. The crossing should have been a condition of the planning permission.

Cllr Barnwell stated that we're not waiting for a fatality. You need to go above Jim Hakewill, you need to canvass your MP. It is the only permanent solution.

Cllr Esler stated that the nursery use a lollipop person which is effective. There was also a walking bus which was trialed by the school but it was not effective. Trish has details of how it was organised if we wanted to trial it again.

Cllr Barnwell commented that it needs someone to organise it, someone to be responsible for it. Who would like to take this on? Cllr Sanders commented that there were 32 comments on Facebook but only one person turned up to the meeting. Cllr Barnwell commented that the best option is to contact the MP.

Public asked if there had been any consideration to making the roads one way. Trisha stated that Scholar Row was considered but the residents didn't want it. Public said, surely one crossing is better than one? Cllr Barnwell stated we will do our utmost. Safety is such an important issue. Everyone can contact their MP.

PC Devlin stated that the things that have been effective in the past have been volunteer crossing persons, walking busses (but you need enough volunteers and a safe place to drop off), teachers have been involved in the past but there needs to be enough parking at the drop off. Rope to hold on is a great idea. School involvement is vital. They are very successful if properly managed. Trisha stated that even the village parents drive.

18.03.08

Police issues: Cllr Sanders stated that there had been numerous incidents over the summer which had led to significant discussion on Facebook such as arson (hay bales), assault on a young child, vandalism, parking on roads, road safety and anti-social behaviour. There have been several reports to Neighbourhood Watch but it appears that not one has been recorded by the police. They are not on the website which shows the police stats. Why does knife carrying being reported not appearing on the website?

PC Devlin replied that they can only investigate what is reported and that the most important message to residents is that you need to report crime.

Cllr Barnwell queried what Cllr Sanders had meant, did he mean that the crimes were being reported to the police but not being recorded in the stats? PC Devlin assured him that this was not the case. Although they no longer supply statistics they are available on Police.uk. He stated that they don't supply stats directly any more as they are filtered before they appear on police.uk. A case may be withdrawn or reclassified. The clerk commented that the results are often months behind. PC Devlin confirmed that this is because the filtering takes time.

Cllr Sanders asked the question again regarding stats. PC Devlin reiterated that if it is not reported it cannot be investigated. They do not have the opportunity to check every Facebook page. He asked if people were worried / felt threatened about reporting it. Cllr Esler advised they were not, in majority of cases they were sorted by the community / minor incidents.

PC Devlin wanted to remind people that they can call 101 if they wish to report crime that is not an emergency but they can also now report online. Clerk to share this information once details are provided by PC Devlin.

Cllr Barnwell thanked PC Devlin for his attendance and he left the meeting.

18.03.09 Planning:(a) No new planning applications to consider.

18.03.10 Finance: (a) To approve monthly Receipts & Payments: The following payments were presented and approved for payment:

Payee	Details	Budget Heading	££
J Lewis	Salary & Travel	Clerk Salary	£477.93
TCAM	INV 2920 / 3604	Room Hire	£28.50
Drain Doctor	INV 58-7054	TCAM Maintenance	£196.80
Northants Groundwork	Bus Shelter fitting	Bus Shelter Project	£655.00
Littlethorpe	Bus Shelter Supply	Bus Shelter Project	£6264.00
Mr V Cope	Bus Shelter plaque	Bus Shelter Project	£149.75
			£7771.98

It was Resolved that the payments be made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 and subsequent amendments.

Bank account total on 01/03/18 was £103,636.76 which includes £40k TCAM Major Repairs Contingency Fund.

18.03.11 Bus Shelter Project – progress update: The Bus Shelter has been installed. Cllr Sanders stated the Littlethorpe were amazing and he would highly recommend them. It all went like clockwork. Payment has been made today. The insurance company have been informed and it has been added to the asset register. Litter bin will be installed shortly, it has been requested from environmental services. This is the last Bus Shelter update. Cllr Barnwell thanked Cllr Sanders for all that he has done to make this happen. Everyone agreed. Cllr Barnwell suggested that an official opening of the shelter is organised and that a local resident is chosen to do the ceremony. Cllr Sanders advised that a resident who volunteers in Northampton had been chosen and he is organising it.

18.03.12 Proposal to build a more permanent brick Peace Memorial at the The Green: This has been proposed by resident Vic Cope. He suggests that the current timber memorial could be replaced by something more permanent, maybe built by volunteers however materials would need to be funded. He suggested that it is built 'around' the flag and could be

completed to co-inside with the end of WW1 commemorations. Estimated costs £2,000. A 'peace' memorial is non-religious.

Cllr Richards stated that we definitely needed to replace the current wooden memorial but not sure that such a 'grand affair' as Mr Cope has planned is required.

Cllr Barnwell commented that it might be that there are people in the village that need a memorial, somewhere to reflect, we need to consider currently serving officers and we should ensure it is multi-faith, relevant to today. He commented that he would be surprised if it could be ready for November. We need to involve the village, see what people think.

Cllr Richards stated that we will tidy up the memorial for the 11th November. Cllr Wilson asked if the current memorial was a Parish Council asset, it was confirmed that it is. Cllr Barnwell advised that Cransley had spent £32k on rebuilding their memorial. He questioned who takes this forward? The suggestion has come from a resident but would need to be taken forward by the Parish Council. It was agreed that we need to ascertain what the residents think. Cllr Sanders and Cllr Richards will take it forward.

18.03.13

Bad weather contingency measures / Review of Village Emergency Contingency Plan and Support to Community 'Helping Hand' Initiative: Cllr Sanders stated that we did not deal well with the bad weather. He has the following concerns:

- Communications between Parish Councillors and with the residents
- Struggling residents, no list of them, no plan to help them.

Cllr Barnwell stated that he respects the fact that Cllr Sanders wants to help everyone but he didn't feel that the Parish Council had a role to play. Residents should prepare themselves for cold weather, the older generation tend to be prepared for this type of situation and younger people should learn how to. Non lagged pipes are not the concern of the Parish Council, this is an individual householders responsibility. He continued that contingency plans are not and should not be kept by the Parish Council. He suggested that we inform residents on how to prepare for cold weather in the next newsletter and suggest that they should take responsibility for themselves.

Cllr Sanders stated that the residents were working on a 'helping hands' scheme / being a good neighbor. A member of the public stated that this sort of initiative is vital as social services budgets are being cut. Cllr Sanders suggested that we support the initiatives. Cllr Barnwell stated that we do support these initiatives but we need to understand the implications.

Cllr Richards agreed that it is good neighbours that are required in this situation, everyone should check on a few neighbours each side. The community centre is also here if residents need warmth / replenishments. Cllr Barnwell agreed but reiterated the need for residents to take responsibility for themselves. Cllr Sanders advised that TCAM had not sufficiently salted around the building. He stated that the car parked was iced up, he has raised this before and nothing has been done. Who should be responsible. Barnwell Court was well treated why can TCAM not be the same? Why doesn't the Parish Council pay the Barnwell Court contractor to salt the smaller roads and around TCAM? Cllr Barnwell stated that we are not highways. If we take on this responsibility for salting then we will be asked to take on more and more.

Cllr Richards asked if we can ensure the grit bins that we do have in the village are filled and ready to be used.

18.03.14

Village Maintenance

- Pond: quotes have been received for the removal of the small deck and replacement of the larger deck on a slightly smaller scale as suggested in the last meeting. It was agreed to await further information and recommendation from Cllr White who has been dealing with the contractors who have quoted. Next agenda.

- Street lights: as quickly as lights are being replaced others are going out. Plea to residents to report them as soon as they notice them out. Cllr Richards, with Cllr White, will do another late night-walk about soon. Cllr Sanders commented that David Wilson homes have had reports of maintenance issues but fail to respond or rectify the issue, Cllr Esler advised that they had cut the grass already.
- Bike shed and Vic's bits: The bike shed has gone, the bits will be removed shortly. Cllr Richards asked if it was just rubbish left to be removed? Cllr Barnwell stated they were unsure until it has been sorted through.
- Fence to replace above: Cllr Richards to speak to Steve Thorpe re funding and design.
- TW update on actions from November walkabout with Roy Fox: Cllr Richards stated that all the actions on the list have been completed and they had done a really good job.
- Litter Pick: To be rescheduled as it had to be postponed. New date TBC.
- Flooring: Survey was carried out as agreed in the last meeting - it was established that there were no dwells as was expected however the floor does slope towards the right hand side of the hall. It rises by 22mm left to right with a peak of 25mm in the centre. There was no suggestion as to what is required to rectify the issue. Cllr Barnwell asked is only bowls that is affected? He suggested that we need to speak to Mr Cope for his opinion as it was he that raised the issue and assisted in the review.

18.03.15 **Village Entrance Stones:** The response to the Facebook post / poll was really positive although there was some questioning about the size of them. There was a general feeling that they need to be big enough to make an impact. Cllr Barnwell asked Cllr Richards if he could obtain quotes for larger stones. Cllr Richards also asked the Councillors to confirm if they wanted the lettering to be painted. The Parish Council confirmed that the decision was made to not have the letters painted but to leave it as 'natural' as possible.

18.03.16 **Councillor vacancy applications:** Closing date 30th March. Cllr White, Esler and Wilson to interview applicants. Clerk to arrange.

18.03.17 **Village Youth Action:** Start date will be confirmed once DBS checked have been carried out on those who have volunteered to help out. It is planned that it will run on a Thursday evening between 7 & 10pm which will be reviewed after 6 weeks of running. A total of £980 is required but some funding can be obtained from other organisations. £250 for a playstation can be obtained from MVA. Cllr Esler to submit a formal application.

Cllr Sanders asked how many people have shown an interest. Cllr Esler replied that 40+ said they were interested.

Cllr Barnwell proposed that the remaining £630 be taken from the community fund if required. All agreed. He commented that KBC also have a community fund which could be accessed. Cllr Barnwell to make the necessary enquires and application if required.

The entrance fee will be £1 a week initially. This may raise to £2 a week dependent on take up.

9:01 the councillors confirmed they were happy to continue past 2 hours.

18.03.18 **MPC/Councillors Facebook interface and responses:** Cllr Sanders stated that one resident had posted on the Facebook page Mawsley For All with a 'FAO The Parish Clerk' question. One councillor had replied. Cllr Sanders stated that he didn't think individual councillors should respond on Facebook especially as this particular councillor gave the incorrect advice. Cllr Barnwell stated that Parish Council business should not be discussed, especially on social media, between meetings. The clerk commented that the councillor concerned had merely

given the resident some history of the subject and that his advice had been given as another resident and that he had not mentioned the Parish Council in his response.

Cllr Barnwell further commented that requests for a non parish councillor to attend a meeting should come through the Clerk and agreed at a meeting. Individual councillors should not go ahead and invite people.

Cllr Richards commented that he does suggest that members of the public attend our meetings is that ok? Cllr Barnwell commented that this is fine, the meeting is where the public should be able to interact with the Parish Council.

Cllr Sanders stated that people do contact the Parish Council on the Facebook pages, what should we do? Cllr Barnwell suggested that we direct people to attending the meetings or contacting the clerk who will do the same. The problem is that the public, as a general rule, do not understand what are powers are and what we can / cannot do. Unreasonable expectations are created when we make 'promises' to deal with situations we have no power to do.

18.03.19 **Correspondence received by the clerk not covered above:** There are several initiative around the commemorations of 11th November this year. Silent Solider and beacon lighting. Is that something we would like to get involved in? Cllr Barnwell suggested that we get some more information and review later.

Meeting closed at 21:20

Next Meeting – Monday 19th March 2018 7pm