

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 12 December 2011 beginning at 7.30 pm

Present	Cllr. R Greatrex (in the Chair) Cllr. D Willetts Cllr. G Payne Cllr. J Cook Cllr. P Boston Cllr. P Alker Cllr. K Abbott Cllr. M Cowie	Cllr. T Simkin Cllr. J Tomkinson Cllr. M Deegan Cllr. M Hughes Miss J Cooper, Clerk 4 members of the public (inc. 1 Borough Cllr and 1 County Cllr
---------	--	--

11/170	Public Open Forum Mr Tony Innamorati asked about whether the finger posts in Moreton were being replaced. The Clerk responded that details were advertised in the parish and many positive comments received therefore funds had been allocated in the budget for 2012/13 to carry out this project.	
11/171	To receive apologies, record absences Received from Cllr Bevington, Cllr Wilkes-Mellor, Cllr Watson-Jones, Cllr Wallis, SBC Cllrs M Smith, A Kelly	
11/172	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2011 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November were proposed, seconded and approved as true record.	
11/173	To receive any declarations of interest Cllr Boston declared an interest in discussion regarding Stafford and Rural Homes as he has voluntary roles within this organisation. Cllr Boston also declared an interest in agenda item 11/178 as he is a member of the Royal British Legion.	
11/174	To receive any matters arising from the minutes of the council meeting held on 7 November not elsewhere on the agenda 11/146 the vacancy for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Training – it was confirmed that Cllr Wilkes-Mellor had filled this vacancy.	
11/175	To receive the Clerk's report The Clerk's report had been previously been received and the contents noted. The Clerk had also included an overview of 2011 detailing what Council and each committee and working group had achieved during the year. Councillors also received a copy of the meeting schedule for 2012. The Clerk was thanked for her report.	
11/176	To Consider Committee issues Matters relating to the Open Spaces Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council were informed that following a presentation to the Community Council of Staffordshire in November the full 	

	<p>application for funding for the Acres Project had been endorsed. £45K had been awarded from LEADER funds and match funding of £35K from the Environment Agency. Phase 1 of the project would commence in the next week starting with tree felling to be carried out by GPC's contractor JWH Ground Maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 December were accepted. • It was noted that the water pipe project at the allotment site was nearing completion. Cllr Greatrex was thanked for overseeing this project. • A satisfactory ROSPA report had been received following the redesign of the Chippy Jumps • The next Open Spaces meeting would be held on 7 February 2012 and the working group for the Acres Project would meet as and when required as the project continues. <p>Matters relating to the Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 November were accepted. • The application for Hildon Barn in Moreton had been discussed and objections lodged with SBC. Communications had been received regarding this application and the initial objection had been confirmed with SBC. • It was noted that a second application for a telecommunication mast had been lodged and a copy received by GPC for consideration. It was noted that this application had been called in. Cllr Winnington suggested that a member of GPC contact the fire service regarding this as it is believed that the mast on top of the fire tower is remaining in place. Clerk to arrange. • Plans for the development of affordable homes in Monks Walk had also been received and would be considered at the next meeting in January. All Councillors were invited to attend to view the plans. <p>Matters relating to the Resource Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes of the meeting held on 29 November were received. Clerk to make one amendment as Cllr Payne abstained from the vote to accept the budget proposals. • HMRC query about the PAYE/NI overpayment in 2008/09 had been resolved and details sent to HMRC. Cllr Abbott was thanked for assisting with this. • The draft budget for 2012/13 was received. The Chair of Resources explained how figures had been reached. Funds reserved in the Stafford Railway Building Society had been earmarked for projects. Expenditure had been closely reviewed and as utility expenditure is expected to increase significantly other budget headings had been reduced. • The Clerk expressed her concern about expenditure and said that very close monitoring is required at all times during the year to make sure funds are spent wisely. She added that she had spoken to staff about expenditure and the need to be aware of budget restraints. • Cllr Cowie asked for clarification regarding the £10K earmarked in the budget for the last few years for the burial ground extension. It was explained that at previous meetings it had been agreed that GPC would set aside funds for the church to apply for a donation for the extension which is needed by 2013. If GPC purchase the land it would become the Burial Authority, this 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All Cllrs</p> <p>Clerk</p>
--	--	--

	<p><i>paragraph 6.4, shall be signed by three people, two of whom must be members of the Council, one of whom <u>shall be</u> the Clerk/RFO” was approved.</i></p> <p>The Clerk to amend Standing Orders and Financial Regulations accordingly.</p> <p>Matters relating to the Christmas Lights event 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event held on 26 November was a huge success and very well attended. A de-brief meeting was planned for 5th January 2012. Next year’s event would be held on 24 November 2012. 	Clerk
11/177	<p>To receive the following reports:</p> <p>a) Reports from County and Borough Councillors Cllr Williamson reported that SBC had concluded its budget for next year taking into account a 20% reduction in Government funds. He said SBC has two main principals, to maintain services as they are and not to increase council tax. Grants to parish councils would be reduced therefore parish councils should be looking at ways to save money.</p> <p>Cllr Winnington explained that SCC had a £14million gap to fill which has been achieved. Council tax would not increase for the next 3 years. Cllr Winnington reported that further discussions are being held with the police and fire services regarding the A518 and expressed his sadness regarding the recent fatality. Cllr Boston thanked SCC for funding the next phase of the cycle route on the Millennium way.</p> <p>The Borough and County Councillors left the meeting.</p> <p>b) Any other reports from Councillors regarding meetings/courses attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPCA meeting attended by Cllr Boston - notes of the main items of discussion would be circulated to all councillors. Stafford and Rural Homes meeting - the Clerk informed council that following a meeting with SRH, funds are available for projects to benefit the community which she said, should be explored in more detail early next year. SRH are interested in the Acres Project and indicated that funds could be available for parts of this project. Cllr Deegan to note. 	GPC
11/178	<p>To receive a report on financial receipts November 2011 and receive accounts for approval for December 2011</p> <p>The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and accepted.</p> <p>The Clerk informed Council that a letter had been received from The Royal British Legion asking for a donation for GPC’s poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that £25 be awarded. Clerk to action.</p>	Clerk
11/179	<p>To report on any road and footway matters within the parish, including litter, graffiti, street lighting and the visit of NHT in November</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Deegan asked the Clerk to determine if Highways Department follow set criteria when making repairs to pavements in parishes. • Cllrs Boston, Willetts and Bevington met with the Environment Officer regarding dog fouling in Gnosall. New notices to be displayed explaining that the officer would be making random visits to the village. Details to be sent to SBC of specific areas highlighted during the visit. Information is awaited how parish councils can enforce fines • The Clerk reported that she had asked the police about inconsiderate parking along Lowfield Lane. Blocking a pavement is illegal and fines can be imposed however the Clerk reported that many of the offenders are users of the swimming pool who had been asked to park on the verges to avoid blocking the lane. It was suggested that the police visit the pool when lessons are taking place to advise on the correct places to park. Clerk to action. • Cllr Payne had reported to the Clerk that bollards had been erected along a section of Mill Lane on land that had previously been given to Highways to use as a passing place. The Clerk had been asked to report this to the County Councillor to investigate. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11/180	<p>To consider correspondence and other communications received</p> <p>The correspondence list had previously been received by all councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the planning committee would respond to the letter received from SBC regarding the review of conservation areas. • The Clerk would ask SPCA to include Localism and Neighbourhood Planning as part of the SPCA training being delivered to GPC on 23 January. 	<p>Planning Cttee</p> <p>Clerk</p>
11/181	<p>To request items for the next agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
11/182	<p>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>The next Council meeting would be held on Monday 9th January at 7.30pm. The Chairman requested leave of absence from 26 January to 28 February 2012. This was accepted.</p>	
11/183	<p><i>To exclude the press and public whilst confidential items are discussed.</i></p> <p>To receive recommendations to accept quotations for the installation of a boardwalk and wetland works (phase 1 of the Acres Project)</p> <p>A recommendation to award contracts to Foxley Earthworks for the wetland project and to Fletchers for the supply and installation of the Boardwalk were approved.</p>	
11/184	<p>To receive a recommendation to accept the quotation from Accolade for new chairs</p> <p>A recommendation to purchase 150 banqueting chairs from Accolade for the Grosvenor Centre was approved.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.58pm