

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 11 June 2012 beginning at 7.30 pm**

Present	Cllr. R Greatrex (in the Chair) Cllr. G Payne Cllr. A Bevington Cllr. P Boston Cllr. D Willetts Cllr. M Hughes Cllr. J Tomkinson	Cllr. S Wallis Cllr. D Watson-Jones Cllr. M Deegan Cllr. J Cook Cllr. J Wilkes-Reading Cllr. M Cowie Miss J Cooper, Clerk
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12/81	<b>Public Open Forum</b> None present 1 member of the press	
12/82	<b>To receive apologies, record absences</b>  Apologies received from Cllr T Simkin, Cllr P Alker, Cllr K Abbott	
12/83	<b>To record any declarations of interest</b>  Cllr Boston declared an interest in any discussion regarding Staffordshire Police as he is a member of the Citizens Panel and Neighbourhood Watch, also Poacher Watch and SBC Recycling Champion.	
12/84	<b>To receive and confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 14th May 2012</b>  The minutes were proposed, second and agreed as a true record.	
12/85	<b>To receive any matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012</b>  There were no matters arising.	
12/86	<b>To receive the minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 24.5.12</b>  The minutes of the Annual Assembly were received and noted.	
12/87	<b>To receive the following reports:</b>  a) Reports from County and Borough Councillors Cllr Winnington expressed his concern about the increase in rural crimes, particularly farms. He had written to the Chief Constable raising these concerns.  Cllr Winnington also confirmed he would contact Highways to chase up the outstanding action to repair roads in Moreton.  Cllr Smith, on behalf of Stafford Borough Council, thanked everyone who had been involved in the Olympic Torch relay on 30 <sup>th</sup> May.	Cllr Winnington

	<p>Cllr Smith informed Council that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Planning application regarding Hildon Barns in Moreton would probably be going to appeal,</li> <li>• The application for the slurry lagoon in Moreton is still ongoing.</li> <li>• 12% of new housing is expected to be in key service villages such as Gnosall.</li> <li>• A new policy has been approved to carry out checks to memorials in closed churchyards. SBC would fund the costs of any repairs identified.</li> </ul> <p>b) Any other reports from Councillors regarding meetings/courses attended:</p> <p>It was noted that Cllr Boston and Cllr Wilkes-Reading had continued attending meetings regarding the Partners in Action course. A full report will be given to Council in the near future.</p>	
12/88	<p><b>To receive the Clerk's report</b></p> <p>The Clerk's report, previously circulated was noted. Particular emphasis was given to:</p> <p><b>Village Green</b> Approval was sought to contact the Rights of Way Department at Staffordshire County Council to seek advice regarding the alleged Right of Way across the land used by a local farmer. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Clerk, Chairman or Chairman of Open Spaces contacts SCC for legal advice.</p> <p><b>Olympic Torch and Jubilee events</b> – the Clerk thanked everyone who had contributed to the week of successful events.</p> <p>It was noted that a successful opening of the Acres had taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> May and work would now commence on phase 2.</p> <p><b>Police meeting</b> – a verbal report was given following the meeting held with Staffordshire Police to which 12 councillors attended and raised concerns mainly about the lack of policing and a poor response to incidents. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a copy of the notes of the meeting to the Chief Constable and ask for comments on each of the issues. It was also agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Bill Cash MP to which County and Borough Councillors agreed to attend.</p>	<p>Clerk Chairman Cllr Simkin</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12/89	<p><b>To consider committee/working group issues</b></p> <p><b>Matters relating to the Planning Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May were accepted.</li> <li>• The next meeting would be held on 28 June 2012.</li> <li>• It was reported that work had begun on the erection of the telecommunication mast on Newport Road.</li> </ul> <p>No other committee meetings had been held in the past month and no issues were raised.</p> <p><i>Cllr Winnington and Cllr Smith left the meeting at 8.15pm</i></p>	

12/90	<p><b>To receive a report on financial receipts for May 2012 and receive accounts for approval for April 2012</b></p> <p>The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and accepted.</p>	
12/91	<p><b>To receive Annual Return for year end 31.3.12 for approval</b></p> <p>Cllr Cowie, Chairman of Resources Committee, explained to Council that as a result of the amalgamation of bank accounts, a new finance system and the large grants received in the past year, completing the end of year accounts and Annual Return had been difficult and taken considerable time. This was noted.</p> <p>Councillors approved section 2 as required. It was noted that where there are significant variances, details had to be submitted as well as an explanation of reserves. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Annual Return be submitted as set out with the supporting documents. The Clerk and Chairman signed off the Annual Return ready for its submission.</p> <p><i>Cllr S Wallis left the meeting at 8.30pm</i></p>	Clerk
12/92	<p><b>To receive a report following the meeting with Staffordshire Police on 31 May 2012</b></p> <p>This item was dealt with under the item 12/88.</p>	
12/93	<p><b>To consider Twinning Gnosall with another town</b></p> <p>For the benefit of newer Councillors, the Clerk explained that in 2010 Council considered twinning following a request from the village of Beynes in France but it was felt that the costs of such an exercise were not viable.</p> <p>This was briefly discussed again. It was suggested that the new Head teacher may be interested as this sort of project could be beneficial to school. It was also thought that with the current demands on the precept, again this project would not be financially viable. It was proposed and seconded that this project be put on hold for a further 12 months. A vote was taken with 12 councillors voting for and one voting against.</p>	
12/94	<p><b>To report on any road and footway matters with the parish, including litter, graffiti, street lighting</b></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil on Knightley Road (possibly caused by badger set)</li> <li>• Pot holes on Bescote Lane towards Broadhill and Knightley Road</li> <li>• Illuminated road sign near to Swan Pitt not working correctly</li> <li>• Pavement breaking up in places in Far Ridding</li> <li>• Mud being left on roads by farm vehicles</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>The Clerk to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a solar panel illuminated sign on Newport Road between The Rank and Back Lane (going towards Stafford)</li> <li>• A further meeting with Highways to travel around the parish to identify problems</li> </ul> <p>Speed watch – Cllr Bevington, as Chairman of this working group explained that no speed watch exercises had been carried out as there are now only 2 qualified volunteers (and their training may well have expired). It was agreed that one further request be made on parish notice boards and in the Newsletter and if no more volunteers come forward this matter be closed.</p>	Clerk
12/95	<p><b>To consider correspondence and other communications, received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk)</b></p> <p>The list of correspondence to be forwarded to all councillors as it was omitted from papers this month.</p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to a letter received from Gnosall Charities asking GPC to consider vacancies for trustees. Councillors were asked to consider, ready for the next council meeting, nominations for a new trustee on United Charities.</p> <p>Regarding the Cartwright and Hudson Foundation, Mrs N Haycock and Mrs S Burgess were nominated to continue their terms of office. This was agreed. The Clerk to respond accordingly.</p> <p>Cllr Cowie asked whether the application to CPI for funding towards the cost of steps and a hand rail up the railway bank had been submitted. Cllr Bevington confirmed that this had been submitted and he would let the office have a copy of the application.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Bevington</p>
12/96	<p><b>To request items for the next agenda</b></p> <p>Councillors to inform the Clerk at least 10 days prior to the next meeting.</p>	
12/97	<p><b>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</b></p> <p>This would be held on 9 July at 7.30pm at the Millennium Centre in Moreton.</p> <p><b><u>To exclude members of the press/public</u></b> The press left the meeting at 9.15pm</p>	
12/98	<p><b>To discuss matters relating to the Personnel Committee</b></p> <p>The Clerk gave a verbal report following the recent Personnel Committee meeting held on 29 May and action agreed this meeting was approved. The Committee would continue to monitor employment expenses and roles of staff.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm