

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 9th March 2015 beginning at 7.30pm

Present	Cllr R Greatrex (in the Chair)	Cllr S Green
	Cllr M Hughes	Cllr M Deegan
	Cllr G Payne	Cllr D Watson-Jones
	Cllr K Ingram	Cllr J Tomkinson
	Cllr D Willetts	Cllr T Simkin
	Cllr J Cook	Cllr D Webb
	Cllr K Abbott	Miss J Cooper, Clerk
	Cllr M Booth	

Borough Cllrs K Williamson and M Smith
Staffordshire Newsletter
5 members of the public

15/029	Public Open Forum Mrs Gardner raised concerns about the amount of litter along Knightley Road and also about the ditch/gulley opposite the new housing development on Knightley Road which is full of water and dangerous. The Clerk agreed to report both matters.	Clerk
15/030	To receive apologies, record absences Apologies received from Cllr Alker and Cllr Wallis	
15/031	To record any declarations of interest As an allotment tenant, Cllr Deegan declared an interest in agenda item 15/035(b).	
15/032	To receive and confirm the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Council held on 9th February 2015 The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
15/033	To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda There were no matters arising	
15/034	To receive the following reports: a) The Clerk's Report The Clerk updated Councillors on meetings held in the previous month and action to be taken by each of the committees and working groups. Cllrs also received an Election supplement highlighting the key dates. The deadline for nomination papers is 9 th April at 4pm and it is essential to hand deliver nomination papers not post them. The Report also gave details of the next stages of the Neighbourhood Plan since it's submission to Stafford Borough Council. The Clerk reported that the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Parish	Cllrs

	<p>Council was no more than £200, the majority of the costs being met from the grant received. This, compared to other Neighbourhood Plan costs reported (in the region of £20 - £30K) is something that should be shared at the Annual Assembly.</p> <p>The report gave an update on the planning inquiry (Staffordshire County Council planning appeal relating to 150 houses on land off Stafford Road).</p> <p>The date of the Annual Assembly had been brought forward to 6th May, the day before the election. The dates of the April and May Council meetings had also changed to 20th April and 18th May. Cllrs to note changes.</p> <p>The Clerk's report was accepted.</p> <p>b) Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended including:</p> <p>Cllr Booth had attended a Better Building Opportunities Workshop on 2nd March. Cllrs received a written report of the meeting. It was noted £25million of funding is available over 5 years some of which could be relevant to Gnosall parish. (Building stronger communities, business support to local community groups, setting up new social enterprises and support for rural and isolated communities). This could be relevant to the various groups in the village working on large projects such as the swimming pool, village hall, Grosvenor centre and should perhaps be explored further. It was suggested that the parish council invites all groups together to discuss this.</p> <p>Cllrs also received a report from Cllr Booth on the SPCA Executive Committee held on 2nd March. The main points of the meeting to note were that all parish council's should have a safeguarding children policy, especially if the parish council sets up a youth club and a Media Policy regarding the filming of parish council meetings. A draft NALC media policy had been sent to the clerk and Chair of Communications Committee to consider. It was noted that a group of people is moving across the county filming parish meetings and putting derogatory captions on You Tube.</p> <p>Cllr Payne informed Cllrs that work on the new school will commence on 16th March. School representatives had met with developers (Bellway Homes) regarding the new housing site on the opposite side of Lowfield Lane and would continue to liaise during construction of the two sites. Road widening would commence during the Easter holidays and is hoped safety barriers would be erected at the same time.</p> <p>Cllr Simkin raised her concerns about the hedge along Lowfield Lane that had been removed, particularly a section of the hedge in front of the affordable homes. Cllr Greatrex had reviewed the planning documentation and confirmed this section of the hedge was included in the new plans for removal to allow the widening of the road.</p>	Cllrs
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	<p>Centre and Memorial Village Hall. A response was requested by 9th March. Cllrs Simkin and Ingram, the Parish Council's representatives on the Village Hall Committee confirmed this had been discussed at the recent meeting however the Clerk had not received a response.</p> <p>It was therefore proposed that a parish audit is carried out on existing community facilities to determine usage, that this project be referred back to the Grosvenor Centre Committee and a refurbishment of only the Grosvenor Centre is concentrated on. This was seconded and agreed by all.</p>	Grosvenor Centre Cttee
15/037	<p>To consider reinstating a Youth Club or similar facility in Gnosall</p> <p>Council agreed this is a project that should be pursued. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted St John Ambulance premises department and made enquires about using the building in Gnosall. Should a positive reply be received, details should be included in the next parish magazine and parish council newsletter seeking volunteers. It would then be necessary to engage with local children to find out what facilities they would like.</p>	Clerk
15/038	<p>To receive an update on the work of the swimming pool/leisure facility campaign group following the meeting on 19th February 2015</p> <p>A meeting held on 19th February had been attended by several parish councillors who had confirmed the parish council's support of a new swimming pool/leisure facility in Gnosall. The Grosvenor Centre would be used by the group at no fee for 3 meetings. The scheme put forward by the swimming pool group was very good however finding suitable land was proving difficult.</p> <p>Again it was suggested that all local groups looking for funding for large village projects should join together and consider a joint funding bid such as that detailed in agenda item 15/034(b).</p>	
15/039	<p>To receive a report on financial receipts for February 2015 and to receive accounts for approval for March 2015</p> <p>The accounts were reviewed and approved for payment</p>	
15/040	<p>To report on any road and footway matters within the parish</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knightley Road – many potholes and one particularly dangerous one at Gorse Lane which could be hazardous for cyclists and another one half way along Knightley Road on a bend. • Befcote Road to the Millennium Community Centre – many potholes • Potholes in Moreton at the County Boundary • Silt/loose gravel on pavement on Wharf Road (near junction with Cowley Lane) • Hedge on the corner of Back Lane requires pruning right back to allow pedestrians to pass by without walking into the road. • Ranton Road – edge of road deteriorating • Flooded alley ways between Hollies Brook Close, Elton Way and 	Clerk

	<p>Geneshall Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditch/gulley opposite Bellway development site on Knightley Road is full of water and dangerous. • Befcote Road to Broadhill deep potholes that residents had already reported previously but no work undertaken • Speeding along Wharf Road • In relation to speeding it was agreed to contact Cllr Winnington to discuss installing average speed cameras in Gnosall. 	
15/041	<p>To consider correspondence and other communications, received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk)</p> <p>The Clerk to send the list to Cllrs. It was noted that the majority of the correspondence is now received electronically which the Clerk sends out to cllrs when received.</p>	Clerk
15/042	<p>To request items for the next agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Strategy • Youth Club update 	Cllrs
15/043	<p>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>20th April 2015 at 7.30pm</p> <p><i>The Clerk left the meeting and the minutes of the next agenda item were taken by the Chairman.</i></p>	
15/044	<p>Matters relating to the Personnel Committee</p> <p>Cllr Hughes, Vice Chair of the Personnel Committee gave a report following the Personnel Committee meeting held on 2nd March at which the role of the Clerk and a recent job review had been discussed.</p> <p>Following discussion regarding the role of the Clerk and increased workload a proposal was made to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to increase the Clerk's pay scale from 1st April 2015.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm