

**MINUTES OF THE POTT SHRIGLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
13th May 2019**

Present Councillor	M Wray (Chair)
Councillors	Barlow-Walsh D Basford P Boulton K Chong K Greenwood
Parish Clerk	Mrs. J Burton
Public	Cllr. Wylie (CEC), six members of the parish

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Goodman

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

All matters from the last meeting had been dealt with during the year.

4. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk presented the meeting with copies of the Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet for 2018-2019 and explained the following points.

Receipts

There was an increase of £227 in the income received this year. This was due to:

The Council secured a grant from the Police Commissioner's Office to pay for a year's maintenance of the Speed Indicator Device;

There was a slight increase in the amount of interest received from the investments

However, this was balanced by the fact that no VAT could be claimed because of the lack of purchases in 2017-2018.

Expenditure

There was a significant increase in spending this year of ££2,089 much of which could not be avoided.

Problems with the SIDs meant the Council had to pay its share of the repairs so that there would be one fully functioning machine.

The Gas Lamp was desperately in need of repair and although several attempts were made to secure funding, none was available. £816 was paid out as a deposit for the repairs but an even larger invoice will need to be paid this financial year. Unfortunately, modifications had to be made to the lamp's fixings which cost a further £54.

Cllr. Basford has continued to work on improving the drainage on the Village Green and £197 has been spent on land drains and gravel to facilitate this.

This year a Civic Service was held for the first time since 2013 and cost the Council £262 to provide the refreshments for all of the guests.

Councillors' justifiable expenses cost £120 whereas none was claimed last year.

The sundries costs increased by £117 because it was necessary to replace the Clerk's Office 2003 with up to date software.

Because of these unseen costs the excess of expenditure over income was £1,208.54. It has been necessary therefore for the Council to increase the precept from £3,600 to £3,800 for the year 2019-20.

5. Chairman's Report

General

The Parish Spring Clean was held just a few weeks ago on a Saturday morning in early April. The usual amount of roadside refuse was collected and disposed of. The loan of CEC equipment has continued and is very much appreciated.

We have had two projects underway during the year regarding street lighting,

The first involves the refurbishment of the gas lamp outside the Croft. This has been a long saga; after having been turned off around two years ago when operation of the burner became troublesome. With contact information through Cllr Boulton from a member of the PACP, we managed to successfully engage with a contractor capable of undertaking the work. It has taken far longer and involved more work than we originally envisaged, with Cllr Basford doing much of the manual work in preparing and painting the stand on which the lantern sits. The cricket pavilion has been put to use over the winter months as a gas lamp paint shop. I'm pleased to report the lamp is now back in position and appears to be operating correctly. This will be monitored over the coming weeks and months as it extinguishes at dawn and has inbuilt igniter to light itself at dusk. The Council now needs to settle a rather sizeable invoice from the contractor and decide if we are to undertake an ongoing maintenance contract with the same supplying contractor.

The second is the reinstatement of an electric lamp at Brookbank, a project being led by Cllr. Greenwood. After much toing and froing, we think a way forward has been established which allows the lamp to be reinstated in a number of stages, first the pole, then a power supply and finally the light fitting.

Thanks to Cllr Boulton for continued regular attendance at the Poynton Area Community Partnership meetings during the year.

School

It is pleasing to report that our new Headteacher, Joanne Bromley, has settled in and is now nearing completion of her first year in the position. A range of additional facilities and equipment has been implemented and is now in full use. This includes the new EYFS facilities the outdoor play equipment and regulation height railings. Whilst school funding nationally is in a dire state our school is suffering more than most due to the funding calculation which is disadvantaging small rural schools. It is hoped the funding situation can be improved and the funding calculation can be rectified to distribute funding in a fairer manner.

It is hoped the school's future is now on a safe footing and the Parish Council will continue to offer all the help and support it can in securing the school for the future.

Highways and Policing

The level of road maintenance, provided by CEC Highways including pot hole repair, road gulley emptying, verge cutting and footpath sweeping continues to deteriorate, with more and more of the road gullies in a blocked or semi blocked condition. This leads to rivers running down and across the highway in heavy rainfall and ice rink like conditions in sub-zero winter weather.

The SID deployment programme is continuing as a joint activity between us, Rainow and Adlington. However, the original two units are now one because one unit had to be cannibalized to maintain one operational unit. The usefulness of the devices in both reducing vehicle speeds and the secondary use of taking accurate vehicle counts continues to raise concerns as the numbers of vehicles recorded in some cases does not appear possible.

The South Manchester Airport link road was completed and was opened in Autumn 2018. It appears to have made little difference to peak time commuter traffic levels through the south end of the Village. The Poynton Relief Road is well behind its original build schedule but will no doubt follow in the coming years. As this will undoubtedly bring long distance commuter traffic closer to Pott Shrigley, the Council will continue to press for mitigation measures based on a predicted increase in traffic.

Planning.

Comments have been made by the Parish Council to both Cheshire East and Peak Park planning authorities on a small number of planning applications, many of which are minor. However, two sites in particular, Normans Hall Farm and Moorside Lane, which both have years of recent planning history, have been the subject of a number of applications forever varying and adding to original applications, in a seemingly never-ending cycle of planning between the property owners, Planning Advisors and Cheshire East Planning dept.

A report was made by the Parish Council to Cheshire East around twelve months ago about the erection of an industrial portal framed building in Nab Quarry. No planning application had been made and the building had been erected following destruction of around two acres of mature broadleaf deciduous woodland covered by a Local Authority Tree Preservation Order made in the 1980s. Initially CEC took many weeks to acknowledge our enquiry and confirm the

above. Woodland had already been destroyed and the building had been erected without planning permission. We have received very little further information from CEC, other than confirmation that they are looking into the matter with the property owner whilst the operator continues to extend other existing industrial buildings in the quarry and development work continues on other areas of the site.

Finally, many thanks to all the Councillors for their meeting attendance and work throughout the year and to Joyce for all her hard work in the dual role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

And finally, after 23 years on the Parish Council Cllr. Keith Meecham has decided to stand down. Our thanks go to Keith for his contribution and service to the Council during this time. As a mark of our appreciation the Council would like to present Keith with a small gift of a bottle of quality whisky along with an engraved whisky glass.

6. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS

- a. Andrew Wood produced a bible and asked all of the councillors if they would put their hands on the bible and swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, to any question he might ask. The refusal was unanimous. Mr. Wood left the meeting.
- b. Gareth Winstanley proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Basford for all the hard work he has done in the village. This was supported by everybody present.
- c. Cllr. Basford thanked everybody who had been involved in the Spring Clean for their efforts.
- d. Audrey Meecham enquired about the field on Shrigley Road south of Shrigley Hall's land, which has become a dump. The Clerk told her that it had been reported to the Environment Agency who would inspect it. However, they have a long list of inspections to do because of the increase in fly tipping and as this this does not appear to be hazardous, there may be a delay.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.