

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TARVIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE EDNA ROSE ROOM, TARVIN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 19TH AUGUST 2019

PRESENT:

Councillor E Lush (Chairman)
Councillor R Ford (Vice Chairman)
Councillor D H Cotgreave
Councillor B Dean
Councillor S Dutton
Councillor H Flynn
Councillor M Pochin
Councillor P Ryan
Councillor S Wiley

IN ATTENDANCE:

12 members of the public
Cheshire West and Chester Council – Councillor J Leather
Parish Council Clerk – Mr M Hassall

APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J Norrie (holiday), Councillor P Twigg (work commitment)
Cheshire West and Chester Council – Councillor H Tonge

19/093 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND DISPENSATIONS

19/093.1 New Written Requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests.

19/093.2 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any item of business on the agenda and, if necessary, leave the meeting prior to discussion of that item.

No such declarations were made.

19/094 OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be adjourned for the Open Forum.

19/095 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be reconvened.

19/096 REPORT ON OPEN FORUM (This minute was not reported to Council in the formal meeting. It is a record of the items raised in the Open Forum)

19/096.1 An update on Parking on the Ridgeway had been requested. PCSO Sue Keers had been in attendance and she had indicated that she had been monitoring Lower High Street around the Ridgeway and not noticed any issues. Parking partly on the road and partly on the pavement was acceptable due to the way the road had been built provided there was sufficient room for a push chair to get passed on the footpath. Councillor Lush had circulated eighteen photographs that had been taken at different times since the previous meeting none of which had indicated any particular problem.

Following further concerns that were raised PCSO Keers had agreed to continue to monitor the Ridgeway especially at the top of the rise.

19/096.2 A resident living along Church Street had objected to the project to house a car park on Garden Field. In her opinion Church Street was already used as a “park and ride” which she was comfortable with and High Street was not congested so there was no need for the car park. She was also concerned about a car park spoiling the view and attracting young people in an evening.

19/096.3 An update on the gate between the Ridgeway and Forge Way had been requested.

19/096.4 Council had been reminded that the anomaly of the status of Platts Lane down to the Roman Bridges from its junction with the track from Hockenhull Lane still needed to be sorted. It's current status on the definitive map had been in question for some time. It had been suggested that a restricted Byway would be the ideal status to achieve which would bring the track in line with the status on the track on the Cotton Edmunds side of the bridges.

19/096.5 A resident had spoken about the proposed Tarvin to Chester road scheme. He had stated that whilst he remained open minded about the scheme, he wished to highlight his main concerns prior to seeing details. The points raised were:

1. Unless traffic flow approaching the roundabout at the A55 junction at Littleton was substantially improved the scheme would just move queueing traffic nearer to Littleton with no improvement in journey time and therefore no economic benefit. Peak time traffic was likely to continue to queue back to Tarvin.

2. The proposal delivered more road capacity, but traffic was forecast to continue to grow in Cheshire so how long would it be before everything is back to square one.

3. Allowing traffic from the Tarvin A51 Bypass to merge, rather than give way to A54 Holme Street traffic could have a negative impact on the A54 approaching Tarvin roundabout and result in more queues back to and beyond High Street. This could make it more difficult to leave the village by bus or car and could bring pollution from idling traffic nearer to the village.

4. As Cheshire West and Chester Council had declared a Climate Emergency it should call the scheme in for further scrutiny.

19/096.6. A resident from one of the five properties in the new Top Farm development (now 34 to 42 The Ridgeway) had read an e-mail that she had sent to the Clerk on 17th August expressing her disappointment that the report published with the agenda of the meeting failed to say that there was no public right of way through what was a privately owned drive / courtyard.

19/096.7 Borough Councillor Leather had confirmed that the Local Plan Part two had been adopted and that work was underway producing a Traveller Development Plan as a separate document.

19/097 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY 2019

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2019 be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a correct record.

19/098 REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 22ND JULY 2019 NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA

Parking Bay for Disabled (Previous Minute 19/087)

The response from Highways to comments forwarded by the Clerk was as follows: “Any blue badge holder can use the bay. It is not within our current policy to have disabled bays for sole use of a specific badge holder. The resident of 123 High Street was made aware of this by occupational therapists. Social services will notify us if circumstances change and we can look to remove the bay.”

19/099 PLANNING MATTERS

19/099.1 Planning Applications

RESOLVED: that the following comments be made on the planning applications submitted:

19/02749/FUL - Single storey rear extension with balcony above and removal of flat roof and replacement to pitched roof structure above existing utility/garage - 22 Broom Crescent Tarvin

Comment: No Objection subject to details of a solid screen to run along the west side of the balcony being conditioned to be submitted of approval. The reason is to protect the amenity and privacy of the neighbouring property (to limit overlooking of neighbours garden space adjacent to the rear living rooms of that dwelling, when stood on the balcony).

19/02571/S73 - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on planning application 19/01438/S73 - to make use of void over garage with an additional bedroom - Oak Tree Cottage, Ryecroft Lane, Bruen Stapleford

Comment: No Objections

19/099.2 Notices

19/02186/FUL - Single storey rear extensions, single storey front infill extension / open porch, addition of roof lights to front / rear elevations, replacement windows and other external alterations - amendment to application 19/00221/FUL – Hollytrees, Cross Lanes, Oscroft - **PERMISSION**

19/099.3 Other

19/00617/FUL - Single storey extension to rear – 11 The Pryors, Tarvin.

The June 2019 meeting had noted that the Clerk had written to the Planning Officer asking why Council had not been given the opportunity to comment on the above amended application as promised.

The following had been received from the Planning Officer who took over the work when his colleague left his employment with Cheshire West and Chester Council:

“I apologise for the miscommunication, David left the authority after a period of illness and to continue his studies. His cases were passed onto other officers, who used their discretion regarding re-consultation.

In this instance, it was decided that a full reconsultation period was not necessary as the scheme would be reduced from 8m down to 5m. This is fairly common for scheme where the proposal is being reduced-with no additional material harm.

As an explanation, when an application is amended it is up to the local authority to determine whether further consultation is necessary in the interest of fairness. Rather than immediately deciding the scheme, we took into account that the adjoining neighbour had provided in depth comments, therefore I came out on site to meet the objector and held discussions with councillor leather, In which it was decided to allow an short 7 day period for them to provide further comments. Following the receipt of the additional comments it was denoted by management that there were no planning reasons to refuse the scheme, subsequently a decision was issued.

I apologise if you feel aggrieved by the process or previous discussions with officers. Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to provide assistance.”
The response from the Officer was noted.

19/100 KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

19/100.1 Wooden Gates (bottom of the field by Meadow Close)

RESOLVED: that the following quotation from County Landscapes NW Ltd be approved: Cut off existing timber structure below ground and patch with repair concrete. Supply and install 2 x galvanised metal hoop pedestrian barriers set in concrete. These to be off set to create a chicane but not prevent wheelchair access £596.00 plus VAT.

19/100.2 Wooden Gate (between the field and the Community Centre)

RESOLVED: that the damaged gate be replaced at a cost of £95.00 plus £19.00 VAT with the order being placed and paid for by Council but reimbursed in full by Tarvin Community Centre.

The meeting noted that a 10% deposit was payable at the time of ordering of both the above items.

19/100.3 Defibrillator

Quotations for a defibrillator to meet the needs of users of the playing field along with quotes for both a locked and unlocked cabinet had been forwarded to Councillors.

All three organisations based on the field had indicated that they would be happy for the cabinet to be placed immediately outside their properties. The Tennis Club had indicated that their preference would be for it to be housed on the Scout Hut. The Scout Group had indicated that they would be happy to check the defibrillator on a weekly basis.

The George Heath Foundation had offered to purchase the defibrillator and cabinet and donate it to the community. Should the offer be accepted they would like a small plaque beside the defibrillator.

RESOLVED: (19/100.3.1) that the generous offer from the George Heath Foundation be accepted.

RESOLVED: (19/100.3.2) that Council meet the cost of installation of the equipment.

RESOLVED: (19/100.3.3) that Council arrange and meet the cost of appropriate training to use the defibrillator starting with the Football Club, Bowling Club, Scout Group, and Tennis Club followed by other users of the field.

19/101 LOCKED GATE AT TOP FARM

Councillors Lush, Ford, Norrie, Ryan, and the Clerk had met with four of the five households on 8th August. The fifth household was unable to be present. The residents had stated that the area of what was Top Farm was owned by them with the communal areas being shared equally between all properties. The ownership included outer walls, fencing, and gate. Reasons given for the need to have a locked gate included “Litter, dog fouling, late night revellers, a gang of boys on bikes, knocking on windows, and drive stones thrown into a garden”. Some of the residents strongly supported having a locked gate, others strongly objected to the locked gate. The residents had been asked to consider a compromise and the suggestion from Councillors had been to keep the gate unlocked either permanently or for a trial period of say three months. The households had agreed to go away, consider the matter, have their own meeting, and then inform the Clerk of their conclusions. Their response was awaited.

The Chairman added that he considered that the comment sent out with the agenda which included “The residents had stated that the area of what was Top Farm was owned by them with the communal areas being shared equally between all properties. The

ownership included outer walls, fencing, and gate.” more than adequately covered the concern raised in the Open Forum.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk send a reminder out to the five households if they have not responded within the coming two weeks.

19/102 FOOTPATHS

19/102.1 Councillor Ryan reported that he had spoken with Borough Councillor Tonge who was in the process of arranging a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer.

19/102.2 RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the landowner of the hedge between Small Holdings and St Andrews Church asking hm to arrange for the hedge to be cut.

19/102.3 RESOLVED: that the Clerk ask a local contractor to cut back the hedge side verge growing over the footpath from Brown Heath Farm towards the A51 road.

The cost of the work to be taken from the Services Assimilation budget.

19/103 BENCH AT JUNCTION OF TARPORLEY ROAD/HOCKENHULL AVENUE

The gate, installed by Sanctuary Housing, had been badly damaged. The matter had been reported to Sanctuary on 17th June and a reminder sent on 25th July. A neighbourhood Service Manager based in Chester had since confirmed that she was asking their Housing Dept. to try to repair the bench.

19/104 SIGNAGE - OSCROFT AND KELSALL ROAD TARVIN

19/104.1 Unnamed road opposite Weetwood Grange

Councillor Pochin reported that the residents had decided that they wanted the road to remain unnamed.

19/104.2 Kelsall Road, Tarvin

The Kelsall Road, Tarvin Sands resident who reported the issue with the fire brigade had asked for signage to be installed along the A54 as the residents on Kelsall Road sometimes had problems with companies delivering items to their properties. At the moment the only signage on the A54 stated Bye Pass Road so the minimum requirement would be for a street name sign outside either the properties “The Cedars” or “Pool Bank”.

RESOLVED: that Cheshire West and Chester Council be asked to install signage.

19/105 RIGHTS OF WAY

19/105.1 The meeting noted that all public rights of way in existence were supposed to be shown on the definitive map. The Government had set a deadline of 1st January 2026 for applications to change the definitive map. Subject to some minor exceptions 31st December 2025 would be the last day unrecorded paths can be used by right.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Ryan be given the task of reviewing the position in Tarvin Parish.

19/105.2 Tarvin Civic Trust, and a resident in the Open Forum, had indicated that the length of Platts Lane from its junction with the bridleway and the middle "Roman Bridge" over the River Gowy, did not have a public right of way status according to the Definitive Map.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Ryan include this in his work.

19/106 ASSIMILATION BUDGET/GUTTERS

Several complaints had been received regarding the poor state of gutters around Tarvin many of which were overgrown with weeds.

Immediately before the meeting the Clerk had received a copy of the following e-mail sent by the Principle StreetCare Officer to Borough Councillor Leather:

“Thank you for your email regarding weeds in Tarvin.

Unfortunately we have had very limited success with weed control ops this year due to exceptionally warm and wet weather conditions.

To remedy this starting at the end of this week/early next week (weather depending) we will be treating Tarvin, this will be inclusive of gutters, footpaths and back edges.

We will then allow time for the weeds to die off (approx. 2/3 weeks) and will subsequently mechanically cleanse the area.

The mechanical sweepers will have wire weed rippers attached to them rather than the usual brushes to remove and dispose of any remaining detritus.

I will of course keep you updated with progress we are able to make.”

RESOLVED: that the Clerk ask StreetCare to include the Island at the junction of Tarporley Road and the A51.

19/107 VILLAGE QUIZ 2020

RESOLVED: that the Council enter a team in the Annual Village Quiz scheduled to take place on the 10th and 17th January 2020.

19/108 LIST OF OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The list was noted.

19/109 CLERK’S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

19/109.1 The following e-mail correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors.

Councillors were provided with an opportunity to comment on them.

a. Cheshire Association of Local Councils E Bulletins

b. Cheshire Association of Local Councils - Introduction to Local Councils’ training session - Wednesday 16th October – Tarvin

Places had been booked for Councillors H Flynn and S Dutton

c. Cheshire West and Chester Council - Notice and Plans for Guy Lane/Ryecroft Lane, Foulk Stapleford and Bruen Stapleford (50MPH Speed Limit) Order 2019 to be advertised on Thursday 25th July 2019.

d. Cheshire West and Chester Council – Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies – adopted on 18th July 2019.

e. Healthwatch Cheshire – Long Term Plan Report and Annual Report 2018/19

f. PCSO Sue Keers – Monthly Report

g. Information Commissioner – Newsletter August 2019

h. Tarvin to Chester Improvement Scheme. Drop-in events. 3rd September 2019 - 10:45 - 16:45 - Chester Rugby Club, CH3 7DB. 4th September 2019 - 11:00 -19:00 - Stamford Bridge Inn (conservatory), A51/Barrow Lane, CH3 7HN

19/109.2 Cheshire Society of Local Council Clerks Branch Annual Conference

RESOLVED: that the Clerk attend the conference to be held at Northwich on Wednesday 9th October from 9am to 4.30pm – Cost £30.00

19/109.3 Christmas Lights and Street Market

The Clerk had received an e-mail from the Street Market Committee asking whether the Christmas lights would be up before the Street Market which is to be held on 30th November.

RESOLVED: that the lights be installed during the weekend of 23rd November.

Councillor Ford confirmed that he would order the Christmas Trees as last year and co-ordinate the installation of the trees and lights.

19/109.4 Traveller Development Plan Document

An e-mail from Mr M Stallard indicating that Cheshire West and Chester Council Cabinet would be examining the Traveller Development Plan document in October 2019 had been forwarded to Councillors

RESOLVED (19/109.4.1): that Borough Councillors Leather and Tonge be asked to take up this issue. In particular, to have it confirmed that all conventions, particularly those that concern consultation, were being adhered to and to request that they gain access to the report as soon as it available for sharing with Council.

RESOLVED (19/109.4.2): that Council write to Cheshire West and Chester Council Planners saying that Council were aware that a report on travellers was due to go to Cabinet in October and remind them of the comments that Council made last time.

RESOLVED (19/109.4.3): that the Clerk inform the Tarvin Residents Action group of the action taken by Council.

19/109.5 Tarvin to Chester Improvement Scheme.

RESOLVED: that the letter from the resident be considered at the next meeting after everyone had been given the opportunity to view the detailed plans at the planned drop in sessions.

19/110 FINANCIAL MATTERS

19/110.1. Financial Standing Orders

The National Association of Local Councils had published new Financial Standing Orders on 30th July 2019

RESOLVED: that the Finance Working Party study the newly published document and aim to make recommendations to the October Council meeting

19/110.2 July 2019 Payments

Councillor Ford had confirmed in writing that all the payments made by the Clerk were as approved by Council.

19/110.3 RESOLVED: that the following payments be authorised and that payments be made by internet banking:

Payee	Detail	Amount to be Paid
VAT	Net Amount to Charge against budget	Budget available before payment
Groundforce Landscape Ltd	Grass Cutting King George V Playing Field July 2019	459.85
76.64	383.21	1,799.47
Mr M Hassall	Reimbursement of Expenditure Laser Pens and Batteries	8.69
0.28	8.41	226.99
Mr B Dean	Reimbursement of Expenditure – Land Registry Searches	24.00
0.00	24.00	218.58
Water Plus Ltd	Qtr. to July 2019	58.13
0.00	58.13	300.00
Payroll	August 2019	1,307.51
0.00	1,307.51	12,608.51

19/110.4 Direct Debit

The meeting noted that the following payment had been made by direct debit: British Telecom Plc – 29th July 2019 - Telephone and Internet July 2019 – £147.82

19/111 TOPICS FOR TARVINONLINE

RESOLVED: that articles be written on the new gate, defibrillator, weeds, further work on the Ridgeway, Rights of Way, Drop In Sessions, and Traveller Development Plan

19/112 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 23rd September 2019 – 7.15pm – Edna Rose Room, Tarvin Community Centre