

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 7pm. In Chorlton WI Hall.

Minutes

PRESENT

Cllr. M Lewis – Chairman

Cllr H Groves

Cllr B Holmes

Cllr Chris Whitehurst

Cllr Louise Rees

Cllr Betty Young

CWaCC Cllr Rachel Williams

Public - One

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Chewins – Vice Chairman

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held 30th. May 2018 were duly accepted and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

The meeting accepted the Chairman's Report for circulation. **Appendix A**

REPORTS

History Group

Cllr Rees updated the meeting on the activities of the History Group. **Appendix B**

Malpas Community Land Trust

Cllr Whitehurst updated the meeting on the activities of the CLT **Appendix C**

Police Report

The Clerk reported that PCSO Jon Hurst would deliver the few remaining Operation Shield kit on this Sunday.

OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:-

Litter bins were not being emptied regularly

Overhanging tree on Sarn Road

The steps on footpath 19 require attention

Pothole at the junction of Sarn Road – Greaves Lane

The clerk to action as appropriate

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Signed Dated

AGM – 2019**Appendix A****CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

It is my duty to report on a relatively active 12 months in Threapwood and your Councillors and I have continued to represent the interests of the Parish and our Parishioners by making representations to Cheshire West and Chester Council on various issues wherever relevant.

I must firstly thank our Clerk Richard Salmon who continues to relentlessly represent the best interests of the Parish with skill and thorough professionalism and I must say how fortunate we are as councillors and a Parish to have Richard as our Clerk.

In a formal context, the following issues are worthy of note:

FORMAL MATTERS:

1) Planning:

It has been another relatively quiet year in terms of planning activity. There were 3 applications of a minor nature submitted within the parish along with a more contentious application in the adjoining area of Tallarn Green and Worthenbury Community. The local applications included two at the same property, the first for a new Garage and separately for a Stable Block. These were considered and as they were within acceptable policy guidelines were both accepted. The third application for an extension was also considered to be non-onerous in context of modern living standards and was also approved by the CWAC Planning department or committee. There is a fourth application which has just been submitted and will be under consideration at the Parish Council meeting which immediately follows this Annual Parish Meeting.

The more impacting application was outside the Parish and over the border into Wales, and which had been lodged prior to this current year but following a refusal at local planning committee was appealed. An extraordinary meeting was called in November and a further objection was submitted, but the application and costs were awarded by the Planning Inspectorate Wales in favour of the applicant and planning permission was granted on appeal.

2) Risk Assessment

In accordance with requirements, the Parish Council undertook its annual Risk Assessment for the 12 month period.

3) Audit

The Parish Governance Statement, Year-end Cash Book, and Audit Accounting Statement for 2017-2018 were all resolved and accepted at our May 2018 meeting.

4) Precept

In January the Parish Council approved a revised precept for the year of £3106. This is a minimal increase on last year of £6. The full details were outlined in the minutes and are available on the Threapwood Parish Council website.

ELECTIONS

The local council elections were held on Thursday 2nd May 2019.

Two of our Councillors decided not to continue to serve and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the service of Steve Ford and also of Carol Bennion who have both performed their duties with enthusiasm and integrity throughout.

I am pleased to welcome our two new Councillors, Mr Chris Whitehurst and Mrs Louise Rees. Chris has served for many years as the Malpas Ward Councillor, whilst Louise has previously sat on the bench as a Magistrate and I am therefore sure they will both be valuable additions to the Parish Council.

Since there were no additional candidates for the election, all nominees were automatically elected unopposed.

ONGOING PROJECTS

The Parish Council have been involved in the following projects (some carrying on from previous years) and I report on progress as follows:

1) Operation Shield

Following the roll out of Operation Shield packs in 2017-18 the remaining packs were circulated through letterboxes of all Parishioners who had not been available on the first visit.

2) Defibrillator

The defibrillator is now fully functional and situated at the Village Garage and Stores on Wrexham Road.

3) Speed Limit Review.

The Parish Council continue to monitor the issue of speeding traffic through the Village. Parishioners may have noticed the portable speed monitoring devices which have been in operation at various times and the Parish Council agreed to contribute to the cost of a speed gun in conjunction with Malpas Parish Council as we believe the matter of speeding through and within the village is a serious issue.

4) Quality Status

Threapwood Parish Council continues to maintain its Quality Status.

EVENTS

1) Threapwood Fun Day

The Threapwood Fun Day was once again hosted by Rob and Sue Pickering last June and another successful evening was had. A full report of the event will follow under Sue's Community Report but I would like to record our continued thanks to Sue and Rob for their effort. The occasion was as popular as ever and the event will continue this year and I look forward to hearing full details from Sue Pickering in her report.

2) Armistice Commemorations

The one hundredth anniversary of Armistice Day took place on 11th November 2018, and this was the highlight of the year in terms of important events in the Parish. Threapwood supported Malpas in its extensive commemoration of the armistice and Sue Pickering will no doubt report on the Afternoon tea which was held at Chorlton Lane Hall. A two minute silence was held on Sunday 11th November at the Threapwood memorial at 3pm in order that the Rector, Canon Ian Davenport could be in attendance, and this included a short service and prayers and was well attended by Parishioners. Wreaths were laid by Threapwood Parish Council and others in memory of those lost.

GENERAL ONGOING MATTERS

There are various ongoing matters under consideration and discussion and these will be posted as and when they occur via the notice board and Threapwood Parish Council website as usual.

Drainage issues, Best kept village, Defibrillator and Speed Control are all under regular review by your Parish Council, and we continue to liaise and encourage the Highways department to attend to our roads. This currently includes ongoing representation about the sunken road at the bridge on Sarn Road.

We continue to support and update the Parish Council website and social media especially via Facebook and Parishioners will be able to obtain updates from both of these on a regular basis.

Cllr Miles Lewis - Chairman
15/05/2019

Appendix B

THREAPWOOD HISTORY GROUP

Although we have not met as a group in 2018, our History Group is regularly contacted by people looking for information, help or offering info to us. Everything is put onto the website which is continuing to grow and is a source of pride for us.

I hope that the residents of Threapwood look at the website – we are never sure how many local people realise that it exists.

There are many others however, from all over this country – and the world, partic those who are researching their family histories and really appreciate the information that they find on the website – often giving info of their own for us to include.

During the past year, we have included research on the War Time Decoys that were relative to our area – this is in the ‘Military Past’ section

Members of a local metal detecting group have – with all relevant recommendations and explanations of how they worked – have been detecting on local land – with permissions – and made some very interesting discoveries – this is in the ‘archaeology’ section.

We have interesting facts and stories about Shocklach Hall from Oriel Piggott of Manor Farm – in the ‘people’ section.

We have been approached by The Chapel Archaeology Community Interest Company who are researching Shocklach and have approached us asking to use some articles and pictures relating to the old Broughton Hall

We have been given some photos of Emral Hall, now pulled down – although not in our village area, it is close enough to have employed local tradespeople and craftsmen.

We recently had an informative talk from David Haynes about the Civil War and how it affected Threapwood – an opportunity for more research I am sure.

It’s surprising and gratifying just how we are continuing to be a point of contact for so many people and pleasing to see the website used, valued and growing.

This has brought you up to date, I look forward to another rewarding year.

Appendix C

MALPAS AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (MCLT)

Update May 2019

Introduction:

I am one of the 6 Directors of the Malpas and District Community Land Trust.

The idea of a Trust was formed back in 2013 by a group of residents with the aim of providing permanently affordable housing in Malpas for local people by influencing the existing affordable housing allocation in the area in the first instance, and then to later acquire or develop and look after other assets for the benefit of our community.

The original exploratory work was carried out by a small Steering Group, but the Trust was eventual incorporated as an Official Body in October 2016.

Difficulties we are facing:

The main issue is that we have no significant funds at this time. When applying for loans or a mortgage, we are regarded as being no different to an ordinary individual, so if we are going to be able to provide and manage property at a cost local people on rural salaries can “truly” afford, we have to have the land, construction work, or an amount of money donated to us.

This has proved difficult to date, but the Government’s and Cheshire West’s Policies are now changing and this hopefully will help us more easily to achieve our primary goal in the coming years.

We do have Cheshire West Council’s support and partially finance us in principle, if we can provide them with a viable project.

Achievements to Date:

Fellow director Carol Broad and I have been successfully in liaising with Cheshire West Council Housing department to review their Affordable Housing allocation processes: the outcome of which is that some 20-25 individuals in the local area have been allocated some of the new affordable dwellings that have been built in Malpas.

Assets:

When I heard Peter Howell, owner of Prospect House, was planning to sell up and move away, I went to see him to try to personally buy Castle Hill; this with the idea that it should be an asset that could be enjoyed by everyone in the community, and not just reside in private ownership.

Peter stated his original thoughts were to sell the site along with his Home and Business, and he had already had interest from another individual in purchasing the site.

He also challenged me, saying that if he sold it me, then how would that ensure public access in the long term.

When I suggested that the Parish Council or the CLT could own it, he stated if he did decided not to sell it to a private individual, then he would not want the Parish Council to have it either.

That seemed the end of the matter, and I was quite shocked when 2 days later, I received a telephone call from Peter saying that Kate and he had made a decision to donate the Hill to the Land Trust for just the cost of the transfer expenses.

With the sad unexpected passing of Peter, there has been a delay in the transfer of ownership, whilst his estate was wound up, but the CLT are very grateful to Kate Howell for honouring her promise.

Plans for Castle Hill:

The plan is to provide access to the hill from St Oswald's Church yard to allow it to become an additional tourist attraction for the visitors to the St Oswald's Church.

Through one of the other CLT directors, and with help from Edward Reeves, I have now secured the Fire Escape steps from the Red Lion Inn, and are looking to provide these as a safe pedestrian access to the Hill from St Oswald's church yard.

In addition, we also plan to use the Hill, with St Oswald's as a backdrop for wedding photographs and for occasional summer drama play or small music concerts.

Annually we need to find money for our public liability Insurance and maintenance/grass cutting.

We still have no significant funds, so I would welcome anyone who would be interested in helping with the ground maintenance.

Chris Whitehurst
Director Malpas and District Community Land Trust
15th May 2019

Malpas and District Community Land Trust (MCLT)

What does Malpas and District CLT aim to achieve?

To provide permanently affordable housing for local people by influencing the existing affordable housing allocation in the area in the first instance. To acquire or develop and look after other assets for the benefit of our community

Why should you join?

The more members a CLT has—the stronger it is.

With more members we have more credibility to apply for loans, to lobby Cheshire West and Chester Council for building sites and we will be more representative of our community.

How do you become a member?

Any adult who lives or works in the area of the Malpas Ward can become a member for £1 for life. The more who join, the stronger the CLT.

Fill out the form on the back of this leaflet.

What could you get out of it?

Help to deliver affordable housing for local people in need.

Join a focus group to design the housing.

Share in the ownership and management of our community's Assets.

Be part of achieving improvements to Malpas for the benefit of our community. Receive regular email and newsletters.

Put yourself up for election as a Director of the CLT.

Who will manage all this?

As an incorporated land Trust the MCLT is managed by a board of directors, elected by its members at the AGM.

This board will consist of:

CLT members who are elected as voting directors

Non-voting representatives of key organisations – elected councillors serving the Parish Council and CWaC

A non-voting representative of a Registered Provider/ Housing Association (if we are in partnership with one)

What is a CLT?

CLTs are community controlled and owned, with an open democratic structure.

They provide permanently affordable housing and other community assets, obtaining funding and advice specifically for that purpose.

A CLT's assets can never be sold, so will always be available for Malpas Ward residents.

How can I find out more?

Contact Paul Roberts at E-Mail: rallyrobbo38@yahoo.co.uk

What has this got to do with me?

You could provide voluntary help with setting up and running the M-CLT, through for example, joining the Steering Group, or by offering some time or expertise.

This is a major opportunity for Malpas and its residents, help us to embrace and shape this opportunity together