

## Little Bollington with Agden Community Council

### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

#### At Little Bollington School

#### **0912/1 Present and Apologies**

Present: Agden Ward: Anne Blackburn, Will Blackburn

Little Bollington Ward: Thomas Britton, Paul Cassidy, Raluca Khajeh

Clerk: Mike Reed

Apologies: Robin Palmer (Chair), Rick Taylor, Ward Councillor: Kate Parkinson

In the absence of Councillor Robin Palmer, the meeting agreed that Councillor Paul Cassidy would chair the meeting.

#### **0912/2 Approval of agenda**

The agenda circulated by the Clerk was approved.

#### **0912/3 Declaration of interests**

All present confirmed there were no conflicts of interest with items on the agenda.

#### **0912/4 Public Participation**

The Chair invited those attending to raise any matters for the attention of the Council.

#### Community Orchard

Concerns were raised about the current state of the Community Orchard in Little Bollington. There appears to be no maintenance and the grass and raised beds are overgrown. The Clerk reported that the Community Garden Manager wishes to give up the role. It appears that no mowing has been undertaken for some time. The Council suggested getting a team of local volunteers to work on the garden, as was done recently on the greens on High Field. The Clerk will make enquiries and will also try to locate the strimmer owned by the Council.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

#### Former Site compound near Bowdon Roundabout

There was concern about the poor state of this land following the removal of the site compound. The area is degraded and a mess was left by travellers who used the site recently. There was also concern about the potentially dangerous state of the derelict abandoned pub (Nags Head / Cheshire Lounge). It was reported that Galliford Try, contractors for the M56 smart motorway project, said they would restore the land. The Clerk reported that the planning condition for the site compound included a condition that it must be restored to open farmland on completion. However it was stated that the soil which was moved and stacked high will be degraded and will need to be replaced with fresh

topsoil to allow farming. Nigel Hennerley reported that HS2 Ltd are not interested in making use of the site as a compound for their project. The Clerk will make enquiries of Cheshire East Council Planning Department and Tatton Group, who own the land. He will also ask the owner of the derelict pub about his plans to build a new restaurant on the site.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

#### Motorway Services Proposals

Questions were raised about the proposals for a service station on the M56 near Yarwood Heath Farm. The planning application has not been decided by CEC and a revised application was submitted recently. Tatton Group had offered to speak to the Council about the revisions to the application, but the Council was not in a position to meet at that time.

#### **0912/5 Minutes of last meeting**

The August meeting had been cancelled at the last minute due to an overrun in the briefing for Councillors by HS2 Ltd. The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 July were approved.

#### **0912/6 Matters arising**

##### Giant Hogweed

The Clerk had reported the problem of giant hogweed on the River Bollin to the National Trust but had received no reply. He will write again.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

#### **0912/7 Finance Report**

##### Draft budget and precept options for 2024-25

The paper submitted to the July meeting was considered again. This showed two budget options for 2024-25. Members agreed that the low income and expenditure option was not viable as this did not provide funds for the Council to undertake any work. It was accepted that the precept would have to be increased to fund the salary of a Clerk and to undertake work for the community. It was noted again that the current precept is very low compared with other parishes and had not been increased for many years. A decision on the precept must be made by December and submitted to Cheshire East Council in January.

**ACTION**

**ALL**

##### Grants from Cheshire East Council

The Clerk confirmed the information circulated by email that Cheshire East Council do not provide grants for local parishes. They provide a cost of living grant, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Government Levelling Up Fund. And they support other organisations in providing a grants programme aimed at improving the physical and mental wellbeing of the local population and reducing health inequalities.

### Support from new developments

Questions were raised about the previous offer of support from Novo, the developers of the Stamford Arms site in Little Bollington. The Clerk reported that due to this development a sum of over £12,000 had been received via the Community Infrastructure Levy. A sum of over £2,000 had been received due to a development in Agden. These funds must be used for infrastructure projects in the community. Other work was proposed by Novo including replacement of Cheshire railings and improvements at Little Bollington School. The Clerk will seek further information.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

### **0912/8          HS2**

It was confirmed that LBACC had received an invitation to attend and speak to the Government Select Committee on the HS2 Bill currently before Parliament. This followed a petition submitted by the former Little Bollington Parish Meeting. The main concerns in the petition related to the risk of flooding, and the inclusion of spur junctions for the Golborne Link (despite this having been removed from the Bill) and for a route for Northern Powerhouse rail (despite the route and proposals being not yet determined). The Council had declined the invitation. The above concerns had been reported to the Select Committee by other petitioners, including Nigel Hennerley who represented the Council on HS2 matters. And a substantial response had been received from HS2 Ltd on the flooding concerns. Nigel Hennerley offered to provide advice and to represent the Council on HS2 matters. The Council accepted this offer and thanked Nigel for his support and assistance.

### **0912/9          Establishing LBACC - progress report and next steps**

#### Explanatory note to residents re new Council

The Council approved the revised explanatory note to residents. The Clerk will circulate this via email.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

#### Recruitment of Clerk

The Clerk reported that the Chair is reviewing the documents and advice received from ChALC and will report to the next meeting.

**ACTION**

**RP**

#### Bank account

The Clerk reported that the LBACC bank account is now operational. Co-op Bank had paid a sum of £50 as compensation for the delays and difficulties in processing the application for the changes of name and change of signatories. The account signatories are: Councillor Thomas Briton, Councillor Rick Taylor, and the Clerk. Each will have a cheque book and access to electronic banking.

### Insurance

Quotations for insurance have been requested from two companies.

### Website and email account

Hugo Fox have now introduced a monthly charge for their email service. In view of this the Council decided not to open an account with them and to retain the current email and website service provided by Ionos at a cost of £18 per month. The matter of how to extend this to include residents of Agden requires further consideration.

**ACTION**

**ALL**

### Storage of documents

Councillor Ralucah Khajeh has obtained access to facilities to for scanning of documents. The Clerk will pass her documents from LBPM for scanning and request documents from the former clerk of Agden PM. The Clerk will also seek advice from ChALC on how long paper and electronic documents should be retained.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

### **0912/10 Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that no other significant correspondence had been received.

### **0912/11 Next meeting / future meetings**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 October at 6.00pm. It was agreed to include on the agenda the CEC proposal to transfer to the Council the garages site in Little Bollington.

### **0711/13 Other Business**

#### Q&A session with Esther McVey MP

The Clerk had attended this session on behalf of the Council. He reported that the main topic of discussion was HS2. Concerns were also raised about the proposed clean air zone for greater Manchester.

#### Charge for green bin service

Concern was expressed at the proposal by CEC to levy a charge on all households that continue to use green bins for garden and food waste. The proposed charge is believed to be £58 per year from October 2023.

#### National Trust

The Council agreed that it is important to have engagement with the National Trust at Dunham Massey. The Clerk will send a request to the National Trust

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 7.30pm.