

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BARTHOMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY ON 12th MAY 2020**

PRESENT:	Cllr T Clark Cllr T Wilde Cllr C Horrocks Cllr J Bailey	Chairman (in the chair) Vice-Chairman Cllr J Peacock Cllr R Nield
APOLOGIES:	Cllr S Gresty	Cllr M Addison (Cheshire East)
ALSO PRESENT	Dr. M Bailey (Clerk/RFO) Cllr S Edgar (Cheshire East Council) Laura Airton, Duchy of Lancaster Four members of the public	

Part 1 – Annual Business

46 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The existing Chairman, Cllr Teresa Clark, took the Chair to ask for nominations for Chairman up until the 2021 Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr Teresa Clark was nominated and **ELECTED** as Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2020/21 Council Year.

47 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman up until the 2021 Annual Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Tom Wilde was nominated and **ELECTED** as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the 2020/21 Council Year.

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Gresty and from Cheshire East Cllr M Addison.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

Cllr Janet Peacock declared a personal interest in minute 59.1 - planning application 20/1709N – A500 widening.

50 MINUTES – 16th JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED: Members resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51 UPDATE ON MINUTES – REPORT OF CLERK

- Church Bank House – no updates
- Hungerford Place – Cllr Edgar reported that he had followed this up and will chase

- this up
- Litter – Roy Aspinall has completed this work and the Duchy has ensured that litter is cleared up from the service station areas
 - 30 mph sign – no updates
 - Bank Cottage – potholes have been fixed, but more have appeared
 - Top End Farm – no updates
 - Weed killer – it was reported that Ansa were updating their policies on the use of weed killer – no updates
 - Mill Lane – ongoing issues with potholes – no updates
 - CEC Portal Service – this has not come online yet – Chair will chase up
 - Engelsea Brook sign has been reported – no updates
 - Mill Lane crossing – Cllr Edgar reported that he has been in touch with Network Rail and the Duchy on the matter of closing the crossing. SE has asked that residents have a key to get through the crossing if necessary – no updates
 - Village Day Committee – it was reported that the event is unlikely to take place this year
 - Questionnaire – now completed and waiting to be distributed
 - Police report – no issues reported

52 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The following appointments were approved by the Parish Council: -

Planning Working Group – Cllrs T Clark, T Wilde, and C Horrocks

Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Cllr T Clark

Police Cluster Meetings – Cllr T Clark (Cllr Edgar also attends)

Crewe Local Highways Group – Cllr T Clark (will attend if possible although may ask other councillors to attend if cannot make it)

53 STANDING ORDERS

The Parish Council **APPROVED** the Standing Orders for the 2020/21 year

54 FINANCIAL MATTERS

54.1 End of Year Accounts (1st April 2019-31st March 2020)

Members **APPROVED** the following draft documents for the financial year 1st April 2019- 31st March 2020: -

- Budget Monitoring Statement (full year 2019-20)
- Ledger 2019-20 (1st April 2019-31st March 2020)
- Receipts and Payments 2019-20

54.2 Asset Register 2019/20

Members **APPROVED** the Asset Register for the 2019/20 Financial Year.

54.3 Risk Assessment 2020

Members **APPROVED** the Risk Assessment for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

54.4 Responsible Financial Officer

Members **APPROVED** the appointment of the Parish Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

54.5 Appointment of Internal Auditor

Members **APPROVED** the appointment of Mr. Len Griffin as the Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 Financial Year.

54.6 External Audit 2019/20

The Clerk went through the arrangements for the external audit for the 2019/20 Financial Year.

Mr. Len Griffin will be approached to carry out the internal audit before the next meeting of the Parish Council on 14th July 2020.

Due to the ongoing issues with the COVID-19 pandemic, the dates for the external audit have been changed, so that the period for public inspection of the accounts will now be 20th July 2020 to 28th August 2020.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 14th July 2020.

The Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance audit – for which the Parish Council qualifies due to it having a turnover of less than £25,000 will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on 14th July 2020.

The final audited accounts will be published before the new deadline of 30th November 2020.

Members **NOTED** these points.

54.7 Authorisation of Payments

Payments made between 16th January 2020 and 12th May 2020 which could not be authorised due to the cancellation of the Parish Council meeting due to be held on 24th March 2020.

£237.12	Dr MJ Bailey – salary payment for Clerk (March/April 2020)
£59.28	HMRC – tax on clerk’s salary (month 12 – 2019/20 and month 1 – 2020/21)
£250.00	Netwise Training Ltd (website costs)

The following payments were presented to the meeting on 12th May 2020.

£237.12	Dr. M J Bailey – salary payment for Clerk (May/June 2020)
£59.28	HMRC – tax on clerk’s salary (months 2 and 3)
£990.00	Roy Aspinall (litter pick)
£39.97	Dr MJ Bailey – reimbursement of Zoom costs
£184.61	Zurich Municipal (insurance 2020/21)
£41.40	Shires Pay Services (Payroll Costs M1-M3 2020/21)

RESOLVED: The above payments were **APPROVED** by the Council

55 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2020-2021

The Council **APPROVED** the suggested calendar of meetings for the 2019/20 year.

The approved dates were: -

14th July 2020

8th September
10th November
12th January 2021
9th March
11th May (Annual Meeting)

Part 2 – Ordinary Business

56 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were four members of the public present, but no items were raised.

57 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Steve Edgar attended the meeting – points covered under minute number 51. Cllr Edgar also reported that he was working on the planning issues around the A500 widening.

58 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The following issues were reported: -

- Cllr Peacock – reported a flood along Englesea Brook Lane. This demonstrated that not all gullies along the lane were working well and the issues next to the post box remain
- Cllr Peacock – the wet area by Hungerford Place remains an issue and the flooding issue by Church Bank House remains a problem. Cllr Edgar said that he would investigate both these issues.

59 PLANNING MATTERS

59.1 Planning Applications

20/1689N Town House Farm, Rushy Lane, Barthomley CW2 5PB

Conversion of the existing barns into seven dwellings, retention and improvement of existing access, removal of the large farm buildings and erection of a block of eight garages and a single garage.

Members considered the application and expressed concerns about the impact on the local roads and on the village. Members also expressed some concerns about drainage, although it was pointed out that the location of the site should provide adequate drainage as it is on higher ground.

20/1709N A500 Newcastle Road, Barthomley

Dualling of the existing 3.3km stretch of the A500 between junction 16 and Meremoor Moss roundabout (resubmission of planning permission ref. 18/3766N including proposed amendments to the approved design).

Members considered this application in some depth and a variety of comments were made.

The Clerk read out an email from Cheshire East Council which set out the changes between this application and the previous application referred to above. These changes included the following: -

Scheme Component	Description of Changes
Meremoor Moss Roundabout redesign	A smaller, oval shaped roundabout has been proposed.
Realignment of access tracks north and south of Meremoor Moss Roundabout	The redesign of Meremoor Moss Roundabout has resulted in the eastbound A500 exit being shifted north, having knock on effect on the alignment of the access track north of the roundabout, and a farmer's access track has been proposed directly off south side of the roundabout to remove need for 250m of track.
Realignment of A500 westbound approach to Meremoor Moss Roundabout	The carriageway has been shifted 10 to 15m south of the consented scheme design.
Flood protection change at agricultural drain	Installation of a new flood attenuation pond at an agricultural drain located approximately 250m to the east of Meremoor Moss Roundabout, to the north of the carriageway, to provide flood protection. This, along with the pond to the northwest of Englesea Brook Culvert, have replaced a pond that was to the southwest of Englesea Brook Culvert. This is because they are in locations that have more favourable ground conditions.
Extension of Englesea Brook culvert	A further extension to the Englesea Brook culvert as a result of the realignment of the A500 westbound approach to Meremoor Moss Roundabout.
Flood protection change at Englesea Brook culvert	A new flood attenuation pond is to be constructed to the north west of Englesea Brook culvert. This, along with the pond close to Meremoor Moss Roundabout, have replaced a pond to the south west of Englesea Brook culvert, which has now been removed from the design. This is because the ponds are located in areas of more favourable ground conditions.
Mainline fuels protection and construction working area	Protective measures are required over this fuels pipeline in order to construct the A500 Dualling scheme. The red line boundary also covers the working area required in order to lay this slab.
Flood protection change at Barthomley Brook culvert	A barrier wall solution proposed as part of the original scheme design to retain flood water in extreme flood events, has been changed to a bunded earthwork solution. Barthomley Brook culvert will be extended further south to accommodate the earthwork bund.
Changes to outline drainage design	The original scheme design included a straight extension of Barthomley Brook culvert, and on the southern side a realignment of the brook channel to tie into the culvert. The new scheme design has a change in direction where the new and existing parts of the culvert meet, and to the north and south of the A500 there are lengths of the existing brook that are re-aligned. There are also new attenuation ponds to the north and south of the A500, on the east side of the brook (which is the reason for the brook re-alignments). These ponds replace the previous pond for network C further to the east because these locations have more favourable ground conditions and remove a clash with the National Grid Gas pipeline diversion.
Barthomley Road and Radway Green Road bridges to be demolished and rebuilt along existing alignment	Full closure of Barthomley Road bridge and the Radway Green Road bridge, in order to demolish the structures and re-built them online rather than in new locations.
Diversion of National Grid gas main pipeline under the A500 and associated construction working area	A National Grid gas pipeline running under the existing A500 requires a short diversion in order to allow for the construction of the A500 Dualling scheme. At the time of the submission of the Approved Scheme no details of these works were available. The proposed pipeline diversion will be tunneled under the A500. Auger/ Microtunnel machines will excavate a section of existing pipeline running under the A500, approximately 325m to the east of Barthomley Road. Cut and cover excavation will also be used in the fields to the north and to the south of the A500.
Realignment of A500 between Radway Green Road bridge and Barthomley Road bridge	Change the dualling proposal to widen both to the north and south (previously only on the south) of the existing A500 carriageway between Barthomley Road and Radway Green Road to allow for statutory diversions. The road would be moved 10m to the north to avoid diversion works to a second National Grid Gas pipeline, by centring the road within an existing section of strengthened pipeline.
Extension of access	Extension of an access track by approximately 45m to the north west of Smithy Lane, to replace an existing track that is lost beneath the footprint of the road as a result of the A500 shifting to the north.
Bluemire Farm retaining wall	The retaining wall solution proposed as part of the original scheme design has been changed to an earthworks solution, which requires additional land take.
Removal of Laybys	The two laybys proposed in the Approved Scheme are no longer required and therefore not included in the Proposed Scheme.

In addition, Cheshire East Council had supplied the following information: -

- The start of the main works is expected to be approximately October 2021. This is substantially dependent on the timing of approval of funding from the Department for Transport. If this is delayed beyond the end of May 2020 then the main works start date will also slip.
- The construction works duration is expected to be between 24 and 27 months.
- The intention is to undertake the vast majority of the construction works with the A500 corridor remaining fully open to traffic in both directions. There will be occasional short term closures, overnight or weekends for instance to facilitate e.g. replacement bridge deck installations. Full closures of the A500 will be kept to a minimum.
- The existing two bridges over the A500 will be replaced one at a time. At least one or the other bridge will be open throughout the works.

Members thanked Cheshire East Council for this information.

A number of areas of concern were raised at the meeting: -

- The Parish Council as a whole believed that not sufficient consultation is taking place by Cheshire East Council with residents and the community
- Cllr Wilde commented that the closures of the bridges now appears that bridges will be closed altogether
- Trees – existing trees on both embankments will be removed and the road is being moved to the south as well as the north from both bridges at Barthomley Road and Radway Green Road
- It was stated that the plans had changed substantially from their original versions
- The Parish Council thanked Cllr Edgar for his work in bringing the various issues together
- Cllr Edgar commented that the original application has changed and widening to the north and the south will result in a lot of closures to roads and disruption to the local area. More consultation is needed between Cheshire East and the various other agencies involved and the local area and its residents/businesses. Closure of the bridges will affect agricultural traffic and any diversions will cause issues as well in terms of time
- Cllr Peacock, whilst declaring an interest, did speak to the processes involved in this work. Local landowners were concerned about the land being taken for this work with not all this land being used for the road widening. Cllr Peacock reported that Weston Parish Council want to oppose the closure of the bridges in conjunction with Barthomley PC. Any diversions via Audley Road will be difficult due to the nature and layout of the road. This needs some additional consultation and is made more difficult by doing it during a pandemic when people cannot meet.
- Cllr Edgar commented that Cheshire East Council has said that there will not be any further consultation, but he remained of the opinion that more consultation was needed. If Audley Road was not adequate for diversions, then this would cause additional problems for traffic trying to get to the M6.
- The Chair commented that this would cause serious disruption to the rural calendar in the area.
- Cllr Horrocks commented that the diversions were problematic, and that landowners would lose more land than previously thought. Cllr Horrocks agreed that more consultation was required.
- Cllr Nield commented that one landowner was losing around 18 acres of his farm and this will cause serious issues. Cllr Nield said that there should be further consultation.
- Cllr John Cornell of Weston Parish Council attended the meeting and was invited to speak. He said that the question of the bridges is a serious issue and there needs to be further consultation on the plans.

He argued that there needs to be a proper Traffic Management Plan in place to ensure people are not disrupted by the work going on.

- Cllr Peacock asked if the Leader of Cheshire East Council could be contacted and Cllr Edgar said that he would contact the Member of Parliament about this matter – focusing on the proposal for one parallel bridge and the issue of land in the area.

20/1809N

Whitelands, Audley Road, Barthomley CW2 5PL

Remodel and extension of existing dwelling together with construction of garage building.

The Parish Council considered the application and, whilst expressing minor concerns about the increase in size of the building and the fact that it is in the conservation area, had no other objections.

60 COMMUNICATIONS/SHARED INFORMATION/REPORTS OF MEMBERS

- Cllr Clark – reported that there had been no police report since January 2020. Cllr Edgar commented that the PCSO would like to be invited to future Parish Council meetings via Zoom
- Cllr Clark – reported that the questionnaire is printed and ready for distribution
- Cllr Clark – reported that contact had been made with Crewe Green PC regarding a possible merger. Cllr Edgar reported that there had not been any meetings on this due to the pandemic.

60.1 Installation of a defibrillator in the parish

The Clerk presented a report on the potential for installing a defibrillator in the parish. It was noted that the purchase and installation could be supported by a grant from the British Heart Foundation, but £600 would have to be paid by the Council/community. There would also be costs attached to purchasing a cabinet. It was **AGREED** to defer a decision on this matter and, in the meantime, to contact the Parochial Church Council about the matter.

60.2 COVID-19

Members discussed the local response to the ongoing pandemic. It was noted that the White Lion had led on this and done some excellent work in supporting local people. The Parish Council praised the village for coming together at this difficult time.

61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7.30pm – via Zoom.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 9.20pm