

MAWDESLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 10th September 2003 at Mawdesley Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Present

Councillors Pauline Collins, James Halsall, Grahame Green, Jill Cavan, Frank Culshaw, David Rawcliffe, the Clerk C Brodie and thirteen members of the public.

2. Apologies

Councillor D Hepplestone,

3. Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the meetings, held on 9th July and 13th August, previously circulated, were approved.

4. Matters Arising

Letters of thanks have been received from Mawdesley Millennium Green Trust and the Mawdesley Tennis Club re funding granted or promised by the Parish Council.

Vice Chairman Jill Cavan reported that progress was being made in improving the playground at the top of Tarnbeck. It is to be weeded and chippings put down. The Chorley Borough Council contact is Clive Oldfield.

Councillor Grahame Green met with Mark Hornby LCC re the hoped for pavement around the Dark Lane/Hall Lane corner. The Borough Engineer came out to assess the area. It was agreed that there would be a need for earth works. A structural engineer is to be requested to obtain costings within the next few weeks and make costings.

Councillor Pauline Collins had received an email responding to her email to Chorley Borough Council re the overflowing litter bins – the basis of which was that if we have special events in the village then email Chorley Borough Council and inform them in order that they can come out and empty the bins.

Minute of Parish Council meetings and newsletters are to be put on the website and on the main Parish Council Notice Board at the Post Office.

5 Playground

Equipment installation is going ahead as planned. Vice Chairman Jill Cavan suggested that the residents with property backing on to the Playground should be asked their opinions on the way the tree situation should be handled – felling, pruning or re-planting smaller trees etc. A sub-committee is to be formed to discuss the matter.

Councillor Grahame Green reported that footpath outside the playground has roots of a tree growing underneath causing unevenness – Clerk to write.

6. Parish Plan

Next meeting September 19th

7. Gate across Sandy Lane

Councillor David Rawcliffe still monitoring the situation.

Signed

J Halsall Chairman

Dated _____

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Wednesday 10th September 2003 at Mawdesley Village Hall at 7.30pm

8. **Best Kept Front Garden**
Councillor Pauline Collins reported that the Best Kept Front Garden award would be made at the Village Hall Show on Saturday. She felt it was a good initiative and hoped more would enter next year.
9. **Training for Clerk**
A cheque for £55 for the clerk to register for training was approved.
10. **Quality Parish Council**
As this is a very detailed and important subject it was hoped that the Parish Councillors could get together before the next meeting or, at the latest, before the November meeting to discuss at length the issue before bringing it to the full Parish Council meeting.
11. **Remembrance Day Parade**
This would be on 9th November the usual organisations would be invited and Eccleston Brass Band will be requested to play.
12. **War Memorial**
A letter was read out from the Mawdesley Branch of the Royal British Legion in response to the letter sent by the Parish Council asking what ideas the RBL had on how to “brighten” up the Memorial. It was agreed that the lettering be renovated – clerk to ask Rawcliffes of Chorley for a quote. There was a lot of general discussion regarding the Memorial and it was agreed to put the item on the agenda again in November for any further ideas.
13. **Correspondence from County and other bodies**
Various correspondence was read out and distributed including a letter from Chorley Borough Council saying a small amount of funding was available for Street Furniture. A sub-committee to discuss this was formed (Grahame Green, Jill Cavan, & Pauline Collins).
A letter from Mr. Peter Cordall of Nook Cottage Farm, Wood Lane, attaching a copy of a letter he had sent to Chorley Borough Council’s planning department had been received. The letter drew their attention to the inappropriate size of transport using the lanes to the leisure complex at Cliff Farm, the lack of passing places and a number of other points. In general it appeared that Mr. Cordall felt that some of the conditions of planning permission had not been met.
Councillor Frank Culshaw, Cliffs Farm, Wood Lane, informed the meeting that technically he did not have to declare an interest because he had been named in the letter. He responded to Mr. Cordall’s letter by saying that sometimes the size of the vehicles bringing guests to the complex may have been too large but in general Councillor Culshaw refuted Mr. Cordall’s points.
Councillor Pauline Collins commented on the fact that she had had to reverse 100 yards or so up the lane because of a double-decker bus approaching
Chairman James Halsall commented that this was a very difficult issue as farmers had a need to diversify and yet the lane was very narrow and in a very quiet area. Sympathy to all parties.
There was nothing that the Parish Council could do about it.
14. **Road Traffic Speed through the Village**
Once again the speed of traffic through the Village was discussed at length and it was agreed that the Parish Council would still endeavour to get some action from the responsible authorities. The Clerk to write a strong letter to the Environment Directorate regarding this matter.
Chairman James Halsall informed the meeting that Croston now had a new policeman; juvenile crime in Croston has slightly decreased whilst crime in Mawdesley has slightly increased – mostly the theft of garden ornaments.
It was suggested that extra funding be applied for to fund more hours of Community Policing – it

Signed

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MAWDESLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
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was felt that this would be better left until the situation regarding the Mawdesley policeman be resolved.

15. Juvenile Nuisance

This matter to be put to the next agenda.

16. Open Forum

Ruth Armitage, Hurst Green, representing the residents of the Hurst Green Sheltered Accommodation, thanked the Parish Council for requesting input to the recent newsletter; she thanked James Sexton and Keith Howey for their help with this.

Mrs Armitage went on to say that, whilst the residents felt that there was a need for low-cost housing it should not be on Hurst Green. The residents felt that other sites were available and that Councillor Culshaw's statement in the Parish Newsletter stating that there were no other sites available was very misleading. Mrs Armitage asked if the Parish Council condoned Councillor Culshaw's statement.

Chairman James Halsall answered Mrs Armitage's question by saying that it was common practice to publish in the Parish Newsletter a wide variety of information and it did not necessarily mean that the Parish Council supported the matter.

It was felt that as Chorley Borough Council had still not come forward with any planning application for houses on Hurst Green, the Parish Council could do nothing but await action by Chorley Borough Council.

Mr. James Sexton, Hurst Green asked Mr. Culshaw why nothing had been done over the years re low cost housing – the opportunity had been there – Tarnbeck for example. Also land was available in the Village – off New St and Smithy Lane. Mr. Sexton also asked why the demand for low cost housing is not already known. Mr. Sexton went on to say that the only satisfactory conclusion for residents of Hurst Green would be no – building.

Mr Sexton went on to read a cutting from the Farmers Weekly regarding a revision of PPG3 which will allow councils to allocate land at the edge of villages for low cost housing. Regarding the Local Policeman being off work due to ill health Mr. Sexton commented on the fact that private business would have had arrange a substitute if any of their employees had been absent for that length of time.

Mr. Sexton also pointed out that the Village Website was not up to date – Councillor Pauline Collins agreed to look into the matter.

David Mee, Hurst Green pointed out that almost all the Council Tenants on Hurst Green had bought their own houses because it was a nice place to be.

Councillor Culshaw replied to the above by explaining that Chorley Borough Council were doing a needs survey in various areas on low cost housing. He explained that when he said there is no other land it was land at the right price, which he was referring to, that, being land owned by Chorley Borough Council, which was costing nothing to build on.

General discussion then took place on the purchase of land for low cost building, on the PPG3 changes and the cost of low cost housing.

Mr. Mee asked when the broken tree branch would be moved from opposite the Eating House – Chairman James Halsall agreed to deal with this.

Rod Collins Bluestone lane said more police coverage would be welcome and more people are needed to “look after” the village green.

Chairman James Halsall again pointed out that we do not have a village policeman – just a policeman who lives in the village with local duties, which are also shared with Croston and Eccleston police. The good news is that the “shared” landrover is not going to be replaced with a small car.

Signed

_____ J Halsall Chairman

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MAWDESLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 10th September 2003 at Mawdesley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Rod Collins pointed out that our “local” bobby, PC Martyn Smith has been great at dealing with local trouble over the years.

David Mee asked if we could request to get Bluestone Lane resurfaced – clerk to send a letter

Mrs Nicky Ollerton – Rufford Road asked whether the proposed building of houses on the Rawcliffe site on Rufford Road would lead the way to more – Councillor Frank Culshaw pointed out that the surrounding land was green belt and therefore the answer was no.

Mr. Peter Cordall indicated that Councillor Culshaw’s reply to his letter was as he had expected but, in some respects, Councillor Culshaw’s statement was incorrect.

Councillor Culshaw then replied by saying he had fulfilled all the necessary requirements.

Mrs. Maggie Clayton requested information regarding the letter sent to Chorley Borough Council as a result of discussion at the last meeting regarding the application to prune trees covered by a tree preservation order at Crows Nest Cottage, Tarnbeck. The Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the letter which had been sent to the planning department at Chorley Borough Council. It was explained to Mrs. Clayton that if she had have been at the meeting she could have voiced her opinion along with others who had objected to the pruning of the trees. Prolonged discussion took place and the Parish Council decided that no further action would be taken on the matter at this meeting. The Open Forum was then closed and the meeting re-opened.

It was agreed to leave the planning application at Rufford Road until the end of the meeting in order that Mr. David Rawcliffe who had indicated an interest could leave the meeting.

Open Forum was re-opened in order that Mr. Peter Clayton, Crows Nest Cottage could explain a matter he felt the meeting should know – that being that that he had contact Chorley Borough Council requesting advise on the pruning of the trees and had received no response whatsoever.

A while later the Planning Officer plus an Arborist were seen in the area.

The meeting re-opened.

Signed

J Halsall Chairman

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MAWDESLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 10th September 2003 at Mawdesley Village Hall at 7.30pm

The next item took place after A.O.B when Councillor David Rawcliffe had left the meeting

17. Planning Applications

			Comments
9/03/00812/FUL	Erection of 7 detached dwellings	Transport Depot - Rufford Road	No objections to the application provided that more varied designs be used for the dwellings in order to lessen the 'urban' look of the development.

With regard to the tree pruning application at Crows nest Cottage it was decided no further comment would be made to the planning office re this matter at this time.

18. Planning Decisions

Details of all planning permissions recently received were read out.

19. Any Other Business

Councillor Pauline Collins asked that a letter be sent to Chorley Borough Council Leisure Services complimenting them on the renovating of the rose garden and placing of a seat nearby at the Sheltered Housing. This was agreed.

Councillor Pauline Collins also pointed out that the Radio Lancashire Road Show was shortly to be at the Green Centre in Eccleston – 7/8th October – all welcome, also Mawdesley Parish Council could, if desired have a web site via the Green Centre.

Councillor Frank Culshaw explained that in 2004 there would be elections for the European Parliament and for Borough Councils. It has not yet been decided what format the ballot would take. A referendum on the North West Assembly is also to be held.

Councillor Grahame Green asked if the Parish Council would actively encourage the introduction of Broadband to the area. The clerk will write to BT to check progress. Maybe something could be put in the newsletter about it. Councillor Grahame Green also commented on the number of small planes in the area – could something be done about this. It was generally felt that this was not too much of a problem at the present time.

Councillor Grahame Green also asked whether anything could be done regarding the closure of the "entry" to the motorway at Charnock Richard Services. After discussion it was agreed that Eccleston are happy about its closure so no action should be taken.

Councillor Green also asked if flagstones could be placed in front of the now "well used" seat in New St. Bert is to be asked to look into the matter and also to re-varnish the seat.

Councillor Green had spoken to Mathew Norris, planning, Chorley Borough Council who explained the demand on planning departments to turn applications round in a very short space of time, hence leaving not much time for Parish Councils to make comments. The planning applications can now be found on the Chorley Borough Council website at www.chorley.gov.uk

Chairman James Halsall asked if the clerk could write to the footpaths agency re a slippery bridge on footpath 57 – wire netting probably needed.

20. Accounts for payment

559	C Brodie	AQA Training Seminar	5.00
560	C Brodie	Salary & Expenses	126.42
561	Bert Hughes	Weed killer - playground	14.97
562	Lancashire County Training Partnership	Registration fee for Quality Clerk	55.00
563	P Bleasdale	Grass cutting	80.00
564	Bert Hughes	Caretakers Salary	225.33

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Next meeting - Wednesday 8th October Mawdesley Village Hall 7.30pm

Signed

J Halsall Chairman

Dated
