

**MINUTES OF ROSTHERNE PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Councillors: - Vice Chair, E, Wakefield, D. Fenton (DF), B. Beverley (BB), A. Marsland (AM)
Also Present: Ms. S Booth (Parish Clerk - PC) & Ward Councillor C Leach, C Blackburn (Tatton Estate)
2 x MOPs

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm.

1. Minutes Silence:

1.1 The Council observed one minutes silence in memory of our late Chairman, Cllr Joe Gate.

2. Welcome and receive apologies:

2.1 **Resolved** that the below apologies were received and accepted.

2.1.1 Cllr T. Burgess (TB) – Holiday leave

2.1.2 Cllr J Eagle (JE) – Sick Leave.

3. Declarations of interest:

3.1 Councillors are to declare if they hold any interest on any agenda item for this meeting.

3.1.1 **Resolved** that no interest was declared at this meeting.

4. Council to agree the 2021 Annual Parish Council minutes:

4.1 To agree the 2021 AP minutes held on 12/05/21 [P230 to 232], were a true and accurate record.

4.1.1 **Moved** unanimously.

4.1.2 **Resolved** that no matters arose from the set of minutes.

5. Current Chairs annual update:

5.1 Councillor Wakefield to offer a brief synopsis of council business in 2021/22

5.1.1 The Vice Chair said that 'the last year had once again been difficult for us all and more so with the loss of our Chair. Going forward the Parish will continue to look after Rostherne village and its parishioners whilst maintaining a strong link with Tatton and the Ward Councillor.

6. Invitations sent to group representatives

6.1 The below representatives were invited to attend the meeting.

6.2 **Cheshire Constabulary:** The following report was sent

6.2.1 *I have reviewed police systems over the period of the last 60 days and can see police have dealt with the following incidents:*

Stop check by myself of a van which was uninsured and the driver unlicensed, driver was wanted for separate offences, and he was arrested, and the vehicle seized. Single vehicle RTC on Ashley Road involving a car with a baby on board which damaged a telephone line. Stop search on car and occupants parked at Rostherne church – male arrested for drug driving.

6.3 **Rostherne Cricket Club:** The PC apologises to the Council for not inviting a representative.

6.4 **Tatton Estate:**

6.4.1 CB updated that KB has returned to FG, and he is happy to help the Council if required.

6.4.2 Tatton Services: Planning is moving along; it was requested if the Council would write to the Case officer to offer their approval.

6.4.3 Bowdon View Farm: HS2 will eventually go through the estate, a planning application will be applied for. Councillors were updated on the estate strategy. Cllrs were asked if they have any ideas that can be incorporated into a 20/30-year plan broadband etc.

6.4.4 CB thanked the Cllrs for their support regarding Marsh Farm.

Q & A Cllrs opportunity to ask questions.

Q: DF asked if planning has gone through on the Tatton Mile.

A: There is an action group that is lobbying for the HS2 depot in Ashley to be relocated to Stoke-on-Trent.

Action: CB will keep RPC in the loop re a meeting.

6.5 Ward Cllr C Leach:

6.5.1 Community Governance Review. The final recommendations comments from the CGR:

Rostherne Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendations merger proposal and there were no responses from its residents, nor from Tatton Parish Meeting and its residents during the consultation stage. This merger was also one proposed by the sole pre-consultation response from Rostherne and Tatton. The Borough Council therefore considers that Rostherne and Tatton should become part of the same parish council. However, whilst the original forecasts produced for Community Governance Review purposes anticipated a combined electorate for Rostherne and Tatton of 147 by 2025 (no change from 2018), the latest (December 2021) Electoral Register data put their total electorate at only 117 (Rostherne 103 and Tatton 14), with Rostherne's electorate having fallen from 126 (2018) to 103 (2021) and Tatton's from 21 (2018) to 14 (2021). In contrast, the number of electors in Millington (originally forecast to be 149 as of 2025) has unexpectedly increased significantly (from 151 in 2018 to 185 by 2021).

Millington Parish Council's submission makes a persuasive case for its own inclusion in the merger of Rostherne and Tatton - citing a number of common interests, shared resources, and the advantage of strength in numbers - and the unexpected sharp declines in the electorates of Rostherne and Tatton also add weight to this case. A further consideration is the identity of those Millington residents north of the M56 and Little Bollington Parish Meeting's submission persuasively argues that those residents - who attend its meetings and events - are more closely linked to Little Bollington. The Borough Council estimates that only around seven of Millington's properties lie north of the motorway; based on the average number of electors per property for the local borough ward of High Legh, this would equate to an estimated 13 electors. If this part of Millington were to be included in a merger of Agden and Little Bollington, it would therefore leave the rest of Millington with 172 electors. As such, Millington could remain as an independent parish even with this transfer. However, Millington itself had only three nominations for its five seats in 2019, which raises questions about its own viability, despite the significant growth in its electorate since 2018.

Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Final Recommendations Assessment Report – Final Appendix 3 OFFICIAL 557 Taking all these factors and the collective submission evidence into account, the Borough Council recommends that the small part of Millington north of the M56 be transferred to Little Bollington (to be included in a merger of that Parish Meeting and Agden) and that the rest of Millington be merged with Rostherne and Tatton. The Borough Council considers that "Bucklow" (Millington Parish Council's suggestion) would be an acceptable name for the new merged parish but is conscious both of the request in Rostherne's submission for its existing name to be retained and of Millington's separate history. It therefore recommends the name "Millington & Rostherne" and the style "Parish" (as both Millington and Rostherne proposed this). As for the number of seats for the new merged council, the original Community Governance forecasts suggest it would have 283 electors by 2025 (136 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 147 in Rostherne and Tatton). However, as noted, the December 2021 Electoral Register data show Millington's electorate has seen significant, unexpected growth, whilst the reverse is true for Rostherne and Tatton. Consequently, the 2021 Electoral Register numbers are now seen as a better guide but imply a similar overall total of 289 electors (172 in the area of Millington south of the M56 plus 117 in Rostherne and Tatton). For this number of electors, seven seats is in line with the Cheshire East average. However, the new merged parish would cover a relatively large and very rural area, placing additional demands on councillors. Furthermore, Rostherne received nominations for all of its eight seats in 2019, while Millington received three. Therefore, the Borough Council recommends eight seats, as this would better reflect the likely workload, as well as enabling more continuity (less turnover of councillors) and there is a good prospect of getting nominations for all seats. The Borough Council is also conscious that Millington is in a separate borough ward to Rostherne and Tatton and has a separate history. It therefore recommends that the new parish be divided into two wards: a "Millington" ward (covering the Millington parish area south of the M56) and a "Rostherne & Tatton" ward, covering the rest of the new parish. Based on their electorate shares as of 2021, five seats for Millington and three for Rostherne & Tatton would be a fair division. However, given Millington's wish for a broad political balance with Rostherne, plus Rostherne's somewhat greater success (based on 2019 data) in attracting nominations and the fact that Rostherne has eight of the affected areas' existing thirteen seats, a split of four seats each is more likely to provide continuity and political stability. Furthermore, the Rostherne & Tatton ward covers a much larger geographical area than Millington - and it would have to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by Tatton Park. Therefore, the Borough Council recommends four seats for each ward.

Council

6.5.1.1 **Resolved** that the Council unanimously agree that the merger with Millington Parish Council would not work as Rostherne is completely unique and not akin to Millington in any way, as a landlord owns

the whole village. The Council stressed to WCCL that RPC left the comments in respect of agreeing to merge with Tatton but not to merge with Millington. The comments raised by Millington PC were not divulged to RPC so how could we make further representation.

The Parish would become a split ward and the village will be destroyed. The Cllrs resolved that the name 'Millington & Rostherne' would not be acceptable and the ratio of Cllrs from Millington to Rostherne would be unfair.

Action: Clerk to email Mr Reed with Rostherne PC representations.

6.5.2 Tatton Board: WCCL is not permitted to share the minutes from the board meetings with the Parish Council. The Council were updated that a Parish Advisory Board is to be set up to provide better engagement. Cllrs interested on being on board are to inform the Clerk or WCCL.

6.5.3 The Swan Hotel:

6.5.3.1 Cllrs updated WCCL that they were unhappy with the article that appeared in the Knutsford Guardian (KG). It was said that it portrayed the Parish Council of not caring about the application, even though comments were submitted on the proposal.

WCCL stated 'that the article was not a true reflection of what was said and that her words have been twisted'. WCCL updated that she was aware that Rostherne PC did submit their feedback and changes were made with improvements to the application. However, WCCL did state that 'to date she has not received any other comments on the application from Rostherne parishioners. WCCL asked would a Cllr like to attend a meeting to speak about the proposal.

Action: Going forward RPC will keep an eye on the application.

Q: DF asked if the KG could be asked to contact him.

7. Open Forum Q & A:

7.1 To address and answer questions from parishioners; limited to five minutes per parishioner.

7.1.1 **Resolved:** That the MOPs in attendance were there to observe.

8. Year End 2021-2022

8.1 Financial Report Year 2021/2022:

8.1.1 Presentation of the annual report for the last financial period.

8.1.1.1 **Moved** unanimously by Council members.

8.2 Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022

8.2.1 To adopt Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The preliminary accounts were presented at the meeting in readiness for in internal and external audit. The accounts will be prepared in accordance with current regulations and once completed The Chairman and Clerk will then sign the appropriate section of the document at return to the external auditors.

8.2.1.1 **Moved** unanimously by Council members.

9. 2022/2023 Proposed Parish Council meetings.

Wednesday 13th July 2022: 8pm

Wednesday 14th Sept 2022: 8pm

Wednesday 16th Nov 2022: 8pm

Wednesday 11th Jan 2022: 8pm

Wednesday 15th March 2022: 8pm

The Parish Clerk reserves the right to reschedule the meeting if required.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Vice Chairman Councillor E Wakefield
Rostherne Parish Council

AP - Rostherne Parish Council
11/05/2022