

## SOUND & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Virtual Meeting of the above Council, held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### Councillors:

D. Tomlinson (Chairman), A.G. Lawrence (Clerk), Mrs E. Hollinshead, M. Hartland, P. Griffiths, Mrs JR Park, F. Wright, R. Blackburn, M. Wright, Ms N. Watson, Clr. RA Bailey and two members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** L. Wright, Ms. H. Paterson, R. Brassington, and Mrs R. Ruscoe
- 2. Declaration of Interest** – if a member is present at a meeting of the authority, and they have a disclosable pecuniary in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting, they cannot take part in any discussion of the matter at the meeting or vote on it. They should disclose the interest to the meeting and follow the Council's Code of Conduct.
- 3. Minutes** of last Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were unanimously confirmed as a true and correct record on the prop., of R. Blackburn, sec., D. Tomlinson
- 4. Vacancies on Parish Council:** it was reported that these are - Austerson x 1, Baddington x 1  
And Clerk further reportedL-  
**Community Governance Review** - With regard to CGR, consultation will commence in April, so just advice that the following is in the pipeline, and will be for further discussion in due course:-

Sound and District Parish Group (the parishes of Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound) that have between 57 and 214 electors and 838 electors overall. The council of the grouped parishes has 15 seats, divided rather unevenly between the six parishes. The following table shows the present governance arrangements (2018 electorate figures). Parish/ Parish Group

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2018)	Ratio
Austerson	1	100	1-100
Baddiley	3	214	1-71.3
Baddington	2	102	1-51
Broomhall	3	161	1-53.7
Coole Pilate	2	57	1-28.5
Sound	4	204	1-51
Total	15	838	1-55.9

The parish of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith is a separate parish with its own parish council of nine seats and the following governance arrangements:-

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2018)	Ratio
Wrenbury-Cum-Frith	9	975	1-108.3

The parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley are both in the Wrenbury borough ward, and the electors of both parishes vote together at St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith. The remaining parishes of the Sound and District parish group are all in the Audlem borough ward, and the electors of all the parishes vote together at Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church. The Borough Council considers that parish governance in this area of dispersed rural dwellings with only two sizeable settlements at Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Sound could be enhanced and made more viable. At the same time, it is considered that parish governance should be aligned with the borough ward boundaries. The Borough Council proposes merging the parishes of Austerson, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound into a single parish. This parish would have an estimated 667 electors by 2025 (104 in Austerson, 119 in Baddington, 178 in Broomhall, 61 in Coole Pilate and 205 in Sound). It is proposed that there should be a council for the merged parish comprising eight seats and that there should be no separate parish warding. The proposed total number of seats would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. Furthermore, it is considered that the legal tests for creating a warding arrangement cannot be met in this instance. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the five parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council does not consider that this test can be met, as this is predominantly an area of dispersed

rural dwellings. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. It is considered that having separate parish ward elections where the electorate is less than about 100 would be an inappropriate use of the parish's budget. The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The following governance arrangements would follow from the Borough Councils proposal

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2025)	Ratio
Austerson/Baddington/Broomhall/Coole Pilate/Sound	8	667	1-83.4

The Borough Council also proposes the merger of the parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley.

The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The Council considers that an allocation of ten seats would be appropriate for the new parish council, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear from electors and other interested bodies whether it would be appropriate to have a warding arrangement for the purposes of elections to the council of the new parish. Consultees are reminded of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and that the Baddiley area has a separate community of identity to the Wrenbury-Cum-Frith area. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The following table is provided for guidance only

Parish	Councillors	Electors (2025)	Ratio
Baddiley	2	219	1-109.5
WrenburyCumFrith	8	1087	1-135.9
Total	10	1306	1-130.6

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, sec., M. Wright and it was by a majority agreed that Sound & District Parish Council wish to see no change to the current situation. The present arrangement has worked well for many years and the Parish Council don't wish parishes to lose their identity by being amalgamated with others. If a list of specific benefits can be outlined, which the Parish Council can't see at this time, these could be considered further.

**5. Matters arising:-**

**6. Highway matters:** the following matters were raised:-

a. Joint Parish Council Group D. Tomlinson reported a meeting has been held with CE which was very constructive. Everyone needs to manage expectations, and everything comes down to money. A further meeting with E. Timpson MP is arranged for tomorrow.

**b. Speed Watch Report:**

**Speed Watch on the A530 -Sound, Broomhall and Newhall Parishes**

It is now over 5 years since Sound and District PC and Newhall PC agreed to support the speed watch initiative by the purchase of a speed gun and other equipment and I thought it would be useful to give an update.

**Background**

The A530 is a major A road that runs through Sound, Broomhall and Newhall Parishes. From the Dept of Transport Road census data [Road traffic statistics - Manual count point: 27274 \(dft.gov.uk\)](https://www.dft.gov.uk/road-traffic-statistics-manual-count-point-27274) the average annual daily flow in 2019 was 6315 vehicles. This is a 25% increase since 2000, an extra 1224 vehicles per day. Obviously, there is the knock- on effect of more pollution, noise, environmental damage, property damage but that is another story.

Whether this increase is also seen on the minor roads I cannot say. There are other census points in the parishes but there is only data for one year. Heatley Lane in Sound (2019- 317 vehicles) and Sheppenhall Road (2019 – 844 vehicles) and Wrenbury Road (2018 – 1328 vehicles) in Newhall

The 4 SIDS on the A530 (1 in Sound and 3 in Newhall) did give traffic data 24/7 but I believe their use was discontinued and data stopped being collected in 2017.

### **Current Status**

The number of volunteers has varied since 2015 but currently there are 7 volunteers, all in the Sound and Broomhall area. There are none in the Newhall /Aston area. Subsequently all speedwatch at the moment is in Sound and Broomhall, mainly in the vicinity of Sound School. Speed watch sites are designated by the Police and speed watch can only be carried out at the site.

The volunteers work in 2 person teams. Currently, there are 4 teams who operate on a 2 week on, 6 weeks off rota. The team decide when and where to carry out speed watch during their 2-week stint.

Vehicles are monitored and registration, colour make etc recorded if the vehicle is travelling at greater than 47 mph in the 40mph speed limit zone and greater than 36mph in the 30mph zone. Normally between 3 and 5% of vehicles are above 47 mph and we see between 200 – 250 vehicles/hour one way(A530) This have been pretty consistent for the last 5 years.

Details are then sent to CPSO Nick Jarvis and a warning letter sent by the police.

The presence of the team certainly acts as a deterrent to speeding with many vehicles slowing on sight of the team but most vehicles are travelling at around 40 mph.

There are 4 SIDS (speed indicating devices) on the A530 which can record each vehicle, speed and time but as far as I know these have not been in use for monitoring traffic flow and speed since 2017. I believe one of the SIDS in Aston has been converted and now only shows "slow down". The others still show speed but their effect is now minimal in controlling speed.

In the questionnaire for the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan completed by local residents, in section 6 infrastructure "What aspects of the local infrastructure/amenities do you think are most urgently in need of improvement or concern to maintain character, safety and wellbeing?" Ranked no 2 was Road safety on the A530 and ranked no 3 was road safety on minor roads.

Similarly, in the Newhall Neighbourhood Plan adopted 2020 Policy T2 "Sustainable Travel" highlights residents concern about traffic and road safety. Disappointingly there are no volunteers for speed watch on the A530 and other roads in that parish.

Therefore, road safety is a very high concern for local residents and we have to ask what more can be done to meet that concern.

I encourage all parish councillors to watch the video on the link below

<https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>

Our speedwatch group is not a member of community speedwatch UK but I have sent the information to CPSO Nick Jarvis for comments and advice.

There is a speed watch review meeting held every year with CPSO Nick Jarvis to discuss any issues, concerns, possible improvements or ideas etc

This year the zoom meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Actions discussed at the review meeting and to be brought to the attention of the Parish councils were

1. There is always a need for more volunteers but especially in the Newhall/Aston area and currently there are none. Can the Parish Councils encourage more volunteers especially from Newhall?
2. We have requested community speedwatch signage to be permanently installed in our area but nothing has been forthcoming. Can the parish councils provide these signs?
3. Can that the parish councils investigate the feasibility of bringing the data collection from the SIDS back into operation.? The 24/7 data collection would provide very useful information to the police and the parishes
4. The 40mph SIDS displays are probably not effective any longer in reducing speed as they have been in place too long. There are movable SIDS which we believe have been used by Burland Parish council. Can the parish councils look into the feasibility of using a movable SID in our parishes?
5. Average speed cameras along the 40mph stretch from Sound through to Newhall would be one answer to combat speeding on the A530. Will the parish councils investigate the feasibility of introducing average speed cameras?

6. There was speedwatch report in 2017 by Brian Rogers for the Cheshire Road Safety Group recommending various actions. Have any been implemented? Can the parish council or ward councillor please investigate and advise current status on this?

M. Hartland agreed to get costings for items above and then they can be considered by Sound & Newhall to see if any are feasible, especially as road safety is a major point in both NP's

**c. CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL - NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE**

**S14 (2) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cheshire East Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers issues this notice temporarily to prohibit traffic in the following length of road:-

Newtown Road, Audlem Ward, Nantwich, CW5 8 from the junction with Sound Lane to the junction with Chapel Lane.

The alternative route will be via the following streets: - Sound Ln, Whitchurch Road, Newtown Rd

Location Map - <https://one.network/?tm=121747893>

Pedestrian access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

The closure is necessary to enable Scottish Power to carry out cabling works.

It is anticipated that the works will take place on the following date(s): Thursday 27th May 2021 to Monday 31st May 2021.

**7. Correspondence:** Noted to members for their inspection and interest as follows:-

**a. Cheshire East:**

- i. Covid Updates
- ii. Cheshire East Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation

**b. Councillors:** none

**c. Parishioners:-**

- i. Correspondence from local resident, as follows:- "I would like to bring to your attention, to the erection of a large shed, being built on the field, between our property and Sound school. We were led to believe by Cheshire East, that when this field was sold, it was only for grazing and there would no buildings, built on there.

One shed was built on the field a number of years ago. Now a large shed is being built as well as the existing one. Are there regulations on the height and size of shed that can be built without planning consent? If this shed is allowed, does that mean the go ahead for us all to build whatever size shed we like on our property?

I would also draw attention to the fact, that the field has become an eyesore and not conducive to the surrounding area, It is littered with rubbish, which has encouraged rats, which we have seen coming across to us. They may well be venturing also to the school.

This has been reported to CE Planning Enforcement and is now subject to investigation

**d. Other**

- i. Clerks and Councils Direct
- ii. CHALC Weekly newsletters

**8. Accounts**

**I. Income since last meeting:-**

- 1. HMRC – VAT Refund £70.37

**II. Accounts paid since last meeting – none**

**III. Accounts to pay at this meeting**

1.	Chq No 500087	Purchase Order 25	
	AG Lawrence – Clerk Salary – Jan – March 2021		£378.95
2.	Chq No 500088	Purchase Order 26	
	HMRC – Jan – March 2021		£94.80
3.	Chq No 500089	Purchase Order 27	
	AG Lawrence – Clerk Expenses – Jan – March 2021		£21.63

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PAYMENTS

4.	Chq No 500090	Purchase Order 28	
	Broomhall & Sound Methodist Church		£100.00
5.	Chq No 500091	Purchase Order 29	
	RLH Print Ltd		£115.00
6.	Chq No 500092	Purchase Order 30	
	Groundwork Ltd – Repayment of unspent grant		£5233.00

The above account(s) were unanimously approved for payment on the prop., R. Blackburn, sec., Mrs JR Park

**9. Planning Applications:****I. Applications received since last meeting:-**

As per 8/III below

**II. Results of previous applications :**

<b>a.</b>
20/5582N
CORONERAGE FARM, HEATLEY LANE, BROOMHALL
Prior notification of an agricultural produce storage building.
Determination - appvl not reqd (stage 1)
<b>b.</b>
20/4802N
1, Chapel Cottage, COOLE LANE, COOLE PILATE, Nantwich, CW5 8AU
Single storey side and rear extension
approved with conditions
<b>c.</b>
20/4929N
Lower Farm, COOLE LANE, AUSTERSON, CW5 8AT
Erection of fitness and education suite
approved with conditions
<b>d.</b>
20/4898N
Bramble Cottage, NEWTOWN ROAD, SOUND, CW5 8BG
Demolition of Existing Conservatory to Rear and Replacement with
Oak Framed Orangery Extension.

approved with conditions
<b>e.</b>
20/3218N
The Willows Caravan Site, COOLE LANE, AUSTERSON
Removal of condition 6 on approval 20/1791N - Retrospective application for four static caravan pitches on existing site
and extension to existing site to provide 12 additional touring pitches (change of use from equestrian)
approved with conditions
<b>f.</b>
20/5871D
Sandford Bank, SLAUGHTER HOUSE LANE, BROOMHALL, CW5 8BZ
Discharge of condition 4 on approved application 20/3953N - Proposed demolition of existing stables and erection of agricultural implement store (retrospective).
approved
<b>g.</b>
21/0179N
THE GARDEN PLOT, NEWTOWN ROAD, SOUND
Outline planning permission for construction of a one bed retirement bungalow for local resident
refused

### **III. Applications/Planning Matters before this meeting:**

- a.**
- Application No: **21/1267N**
- Proposal: **Single storey front and side extensions to dwelling and alterations to elevations and change first floor flat roof to gable pitched roof**
- Location: **THE GABLES, COOLE LANE, COOLE PILATE, CHESHIRE, CW5 8AU**
- National Grid Ref: **364974.7975 346286.3068**

On the prop., D. Tomlinson, sec., M. Hartland it was agreed to support the application

- b.**
- Dairy House Farm Wrenbury Heath Road 19/2541N. M Hartland reported:- 4 dormer windows have been added in the roof and the roof line at the end is different. I can understand why it has been done, because there is an attic room at one end and I think it looks OK, it's just that it is not what is shown on the plans when it was approved. On the prop., P. Griffiths, sec., Mrs JR Park it was agreed that the matter should be brought to the attention of CE Planning

### **IV. Neighbourhood Plan:** reported:- Sound & Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan

Regulation 14 Consultation - Public consultation on the Pre-Submission Version of the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan will run from 9am Fri 2nd April to Midnight on Fri 14th May 2021

The Pre-Submission Version of the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan sets out a positive vision on how the community want the parishes and local area to grow and develop in ways that meet identified local need, make sense for local people and support the sustainability of the

community. The views have been gathered and interpreted through an extensive and inclusive process of community engagement and consultation.

As required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, we are making this version of the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan available for consultation with those who "may be affected by the proposals for a neighbourhood development plan". We shall consider all comments and suggestions very carefully and make necessary revisions to the Plan before it is submitted to Cheshire East Council for independent examination.

This six week public consultation will run from 9am Friday 2nd April to Midnight on Friday 14th May 2021

<http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk>

To visit our web page click on this link - [http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk/?page\\_id=173](http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk/?page_id=173)

Click on this link to view the plan in full. - <http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SOUND-AND-BROOMHALL-PLAN-Reg14Final.pdf>

If you would like to make some comments please click this link and complete the online form. - [http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk/?page\\_id=188](http://soundandbroomhall.co.uk/?page_id=188)

David Lowe - Clerk to the Neighbourhood Plan sub committee of the Sound and District Parish Council

- 10. Sound Common Report: Clerk** reported re road a reply from Richard Doran, Countryside Service Development Manager, Cheshire East Council. "Thank you for your email.

I'm pleased you have been liaising with Mark about Sound Common. Marks achieves so much at the Common with limited time, limited resources and with the support of local individuals.

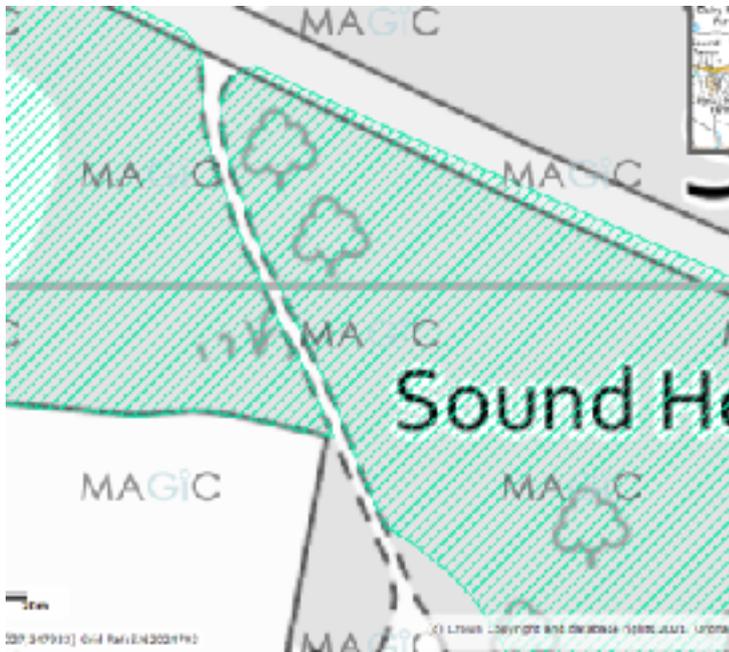
Mark has said the track is no wider than previously, others may have a different view? If it is, then perhaps it could almost be considered de-minimus and possibly be associated with the backfilling of the trench in which the cable for the electric gate is located.

There is no interruption to the condition of the surface of the Public Right of Way and colleagues in PROW are not aware of any adverse comments on this matter.

Neither Mark or I were aware of the resurfacing beforehand. In the light of what is being reported (I have not been to site) it is unlikely we would have objected, and indeed the surface of the PROW is now improved.

I do not know if Natural England were consulted, as the track lies in between the two parcels of the SSSI, and that would be a matter between the person who carried out the works and Natural England. Please note that the access track does not form part of the designated SSSI, hatched green on the attached plan below.

I hope the above is helpful.



On the prop., P. Griffiths, sec., Mrs E. Hollinshead it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Cheshire East and Naural England to ask for clarification on:-

1. Is the road and work undertaking damaging the SSSI site?
2. Can the owner of the property who undertook this work lay claim to the track by reason of doing the work?
3. Can it be confirmed that the owner of the property who undertook the work has annual use only of the track?

**11. Police Report:** no report

**12. Next Meeting:** - proposed date of next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**Meeting closed**