

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Kerry Duffin
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**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting of LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
held on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 8.30pm in
Lymm Youth and Community Centre**

Councillors:	*	Cllr B Barr (Chairman)
	*	Cllr A Johnstone (Deputy Chairman)
	*	Cllr K Buckley
	*	Cllr C East
	*	Cllr G Gowland
	*	Cllr I Marks
		Cllr T Martland
	*	Cllr K Rurlander
	*	Cllr B Selwood
	*	Cllr S Sharma
	*	Cllr J Stansfield
		Cllr S Towndrow
	*	denotes attendance

Also in attendance: Kerry Duffin (Clerk)

201. Welcome, introductions and housekeeping

The meeting was opened at 8.30pm.

202. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Martland and Towndrow.

In advance of the Public Forum, the Chairman opened with an update reminding those present about the size and scale of the Carols event, being one of the largest events in the wider context of Warrington Borough's annual calendar. The last physical Carols event in 2019 was attended by around 3,000 residents, with a village population of 12,000. The Chairman added that 13 emails sent to both the Clerk and the Chairman had to be taken in the context of the wider population of the village, as well as the practicalities of moving the date to the 24th.

The call-in process was explained, and that four councillors had requested another meeting to discuss the date of Carols being set for the 23rd December. In the future, the level of decision that is delegated to a Committee will be properly considered.

Cllr Gowland added his reasons for requesting the additional meeting, supporting the voice of those residents who are requesting a change of date. Cllr Sharma supported

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these, adding that the victimisation of individual Councillors on social media has been unacceptable.

Cllr Buckley called in the decision to support the Committee's decision to hold Carols on the 23rd and in turn, upholding the democratic process that the elected members follow.

Cllr Rurlander attended the first half of the Events Committee where the date was set and called in the decision for personal reasons as the tradition of holding Carols on Xmas Eve is a strong one. Cllr Rurlander added that there will always be those who both can and cannot attend on both dates.

Cllr Selwood added that the decision was made based on facts, the discussion was thorough and was made in good faith.

Cllr Johnstone also added that the Events Committee also discussed the option of not holding another physical Carols event at all.

Cllr Marks added his comments, stating that he was one of the original founders of the Carols event many years ago. He added that the Council decision was made in good faith and he has been appalled by social media backlash towards individual Councillors. Safety of the event is paramount and Councillors are individually responsible for Parish Council decisions. There is also a need to make responsible decisions about the costs of the events, spending public money with care.

Cllr Marks will approach Warrington Borough Council about the possibility of free parking in Lymm on the 23rd and 24th December.

203. Declaration of Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest that they may have had in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item was reached.

204. Public Open Forum

20 members of public were in attendance as well as PCSO Redshaw.

Individuals commented on their wish for the date to be moved, with some accounts from local business owners being read out. A list of volunteers has been developed since the meeting earlier in the month, and now consists of 42 volunteers for the 24th December. One member of the public asked about the paperwork for Warrington Borough Council and the risk of Carols not taking place at all. The Clerk added that the Council has always made sure the paperwork was in place so the outcome of this is

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unknown. This year, the Parish Council will have to successfully present to the ESAG group (Events Safety Advisory Group, including members of the emergency services). This year, Warrington Borough Council has contracted a security company to run the Remembrance Day parade and event due to the size of the event – normally 3,000 in attendance.

A member of the public asked about the village being decorated for Xmas. The Clerk provided an update about the load tests on the brackets, the electrical tests on the sockets, the bulbs have already been sorted and the tree costs have been received, all awaiting the results of the reports.

Another resident who owns a business in Chester added concerns for the local businesses and the importance to the local economy.

205. Carols from The Cross

RESOLVED: To move the date of Carols from The Cross to 24th December subject to organising a safe event and Warrington Borough Council approving the plans. An additional budget of £1500 was also approved. Votes in favour – 4. Abstentions – 6.

206. Honorary Freemen of the Parish Policy

RESOLVED: to accept the tabled policy. All in favour.

207. Date of next meetings and items for the next agenda

Full Council Meeting 13th December 2022 – 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.