



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 16th
February 2023 at 7.30pm at Westlow Mere Fisheries Meeting
Room.**

Part 1 Public and press present

Present

Councillor Vic Brown – Chairman
Councillor Mark Hill – Vice Chairman
Councillor John Spence
Councillor Adam Scott
Emma Bambrook – Clerk
Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

021/23 Apologies for absence

None

022/23 Declarations of Interest

None

023/23 Approval of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January 2023 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 16th February 2023

Signed

Dated

024/23 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

025/23 To receive the Chairman's Report and any response to correspondence.

Cllr. Brown thanked Cllr. Spence for his efforts in setting up the Neighbourhood Watch Group for Alderley Gate and Giantswood Lane and arranging the first meeting. The Chairman encouraged everyone to continue to publicise the election and to engage with prospective councillors particularly in the Somerford Booths Ward. As this was the Clerk's final meeting for the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked her for her work over the last 19 months. The Clerk was presented with a token of appreciation and was wished the very best for the future.

026/23 Cheshire East Councillor's Report

Cllr. Wray advised that there would be a full meeting of Cheshire East Council (CEC) next week where the budget will be considered. Funds and resources are very tight, particularly in rural areas. Cllr. Wray advised that it seemed unlikely that a replacement household waste tip would be provided in Congleton, although he would support one.

Cllr. Brown asked about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) as nothing had been received from it in the last two years. Approximately three years ago the Parish Council were in line for funds based on new housing in the area. This was deferred the following year and this has still not been addressed. Cllr. Wray was asked to investigate whether and when councils would receive this funding as this money will be required.

027/23 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

23/0243C BRICK HOUSE FARM, SMITHY LANE, HULME WALFIELD, CHESHIRE, CW12 2JG. Proposed Agricultural and Stable Building and Menage.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council had no objection to planning application 23/0243C subject to a proposal for additional landscaping.

23/0440C The Pheasantry, GIANTSWOOD LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHES, CHESHIRE, CW12 2JR. Single storey rear extension

It was **RESOLVED** that the council had no comment on planning application 23/0440C.

028/23 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting:

NIL

029/23 To consider the street naming proposal for planning application 22/0670C, 9 streets off Barn Road, Congleton.

No suggestions were made regarding street names.

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030/23 To receive an update on progress and approve quotes for phase 1 of the Bridle Path and the Community Gardens project.

It has been confirmed by CEC Planning that planning permission is not required for the new noticeboard, benches or raised beds. Cllr. Hill has submitted the project proposal to Bloor and Trust Green for their approval. The noticeboard has been ordered as this had already been agreed by council and funding set aside in an earmarked reserve. The cost for this is £618, a 50% deposit before production is started will be required, which will need to be authorised by the council. CTS Systems are ready to install the noticeboard for approximately £120 plus materials.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should place an order, subject to permission from Bloor and Trust Green, for one raised bed (option 1) and 3 benches (option 1) with brown slats and black frame with tamper resistant fixing bolts. This will be funded from the Public Area Enhancement earmarked reserve.

The Clerk has asked for an indicative quote for installation of the benches and raised beds from Congleton Town Council.

031/23 To receive an update on arrangements for the community litter pick on Saturday 18th March.

Congleton Town Council have confirmed that they are able to provide the litter picking and safety equipment, plus a model risk assessment template. Some volunteers have expressed an interest, 8 – 10 volunteers would be ideal. The Chairman will produce a plan for the exercise and circulate it.

032/23 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Watch meeting and any decisions.

There was a good turnout at the inaugural meeting and it has been decided, provisionally, to hold another meeting in 3 months' time in order to stay in contact and build relationships. Three additional volunteers signed up after the meeting. Cllr. Spence requested that the Neighbourhood Watch has a standing item in future newsletters and Parish Magazine articles; this was agreed. The Chairman asked Cllr. Spence to produce a press release which he would submit to the Congleton Chronicle. Cllr. Hill suggested that a poster could be placed in the noticeboards.

033/23 To approve the roads to be submitted to Cheshire East Highways Authority for consideration for a reduction in speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.

Cllr. Wray was asked to assist with ensuring that the section of A34 Manchester Road outside of the Redrow development and the main road into the estate are designated with a 20mph speed limit.

Following a discussion the following submission to CEC Highways was agreed:

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would support measures to reduce speeds by appropriate signage, consideration of other methods of speed reduction and will support

Congleton Town Council's initiative to place 20mph speed restrictions on all new housing developments. The Parish Council is, however, fundamentally opposed to street lighting.

034/23 To receive the findings of the Rural Housing Needs Survey and consider actions.

John Heselwood from Cheshire Community Action has supplied an interim report to the Chairman and the Clerk. The complete report will be shared with the council in due course.

035/23 To receive and note reports from the members:

Cllr. M. Hill

The contents of Cllr. Hill's report were received and noted by the council. The Chairman queried when the sound monitoring equipment for the Redrow development would be relocated inside the security fence, adjacent to the Giantswood Lane properties. Cllr. Hill confirmed that the equipment would be moved when piling commences, adjacent to the houses on Giantswood Lane. The large roller is currently not in use.

Cllr. J. Spence

Cllr. Spence asked whether the council should be encouraging residents to become councillors. The Clerk confirmed that she has been posting on the website, the newsletter, and the Parish Magazine. Cllr. Brown advised that he would write something for the Chronicle.

Cllr. M. Wakerly

NIL

Cllr. A. Scott

NIL

036/23 Accounts

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT: £32110.99

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

£370.00	Donation to The Storehouse Project
£ 46.59	Reimbursement to Clerk Printer Ink
£341.50	Clerk's Salary
£269.76	Crewe Colour Printers Newsletter
£309.00	The Parish Noticeboard Company (50% Deposit for noticeboard)

It was **RESOLVED** that the above payments be approved and signed as an accurate record.

RECEIPTS:

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Signed

Dated

£ 35.00
£268.57

Community donations to The Storehouse Project
HMRC VAT Refund

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation as an accurate record and the paperwork was signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting, Cllr. Brown.

037/23 To review and approve the Council's Financial Risk Assessment.

The risk assessment was scrutinised by the council and the amendments were approved. The Clerk was also asked to include the new Zero Tolerance Policy as mitigation for the risk of violence or abuse directed at staff, councillors or volunteers.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council's Financial Risk Assessment be approved with the addition of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

038/23 To review and approve the Council's Risk Management Policy.

The council's Risk Management Policy was scrutinised by the council and was approved without change.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council's Risk Management Policy be approved.

039/23 Review priorities for the Business Plan for 2023/24.

The Business Plan was reviewed. The Clerk advised that the council should state their priorities for the next financial year and allocate any funds required from any budget underspend at the end of this financial year. The items identified were as followed:

- Continuation of Alderley Gate Public Area Improvement project - Funding of Future Phases.
- Footpaths Improvements – Earmarked reserve
- Support for Community Farm/Allotments – Earmarked reserve
- Local Council Award Scheme. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement. The Award Scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils, enabling them to share best practice to drive up standards.
- Implement a sector specific website which will improve performance, provide best practice results in terms of .gov email addresses and regulations and greater ease of use. This will also improve community engagement.

040/23 To consider and approve a donation in aid of the victims of the Turkish/Syrian earthquake.

A donation to this worthy cause was considered. It was agreed that, on this occasion the parish council was not in a position to make a donation but would promote official channels for making donations to the Disaster Emergency Committee on the council website.

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041/23 To receive and note the contents of the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk provided a verbal report on her activities over the last month as follows:

- Completion of a handover document for the new Clerk.
- Recruitment process for new Clerk.
- Publicising the upcoming elections.

The Clerk also confirmed that she would be attending the election briefing at Macclesfield Town Hall on 20th February where she would also collect nomination papers.

042/23 To resolve to discuss staff matters in Part 2 under Standing Orders 3c – Exclusion of the Public. Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons. The public's exclusion from part of all of a meeting shall be by resolution which shall give reasons for the public's exclusion.

It was **RESOLVED** to move to Part 2 for the purpose of discussing staff matters relating to the appointment of a new Clerk/RFO.

043/23 To note the date of the next meeting:

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday 16th March 2023. Cllr. Scott gave his apologies.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm