



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 29th
June 2023 at 7.30pm at Westlow Mere Fisheries Meeting
Room.**

Part 1 Public and press present

Present

Councillor Vic Brown

Councillor Mark Hill

Councillor John Spence

Councillor Mark Wakerly

Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

Public Forum

1. Eight members of the public were present. The Chair acknowledged there were several issues with Redrow and said that, at his discretion, he was happy to extend the Public Forum as he felt it appropriate.
 2. A member of the public raised concern regarding noise at night. At approx. 5.15, sound similar to a gunshot was heard. Around half an hour later, a second one was heard slightly further away. This had been reported to Cllr. Spence. Cllr. Spence had checked with the owner of the Mere Fisheries; a message will be issued to all members of the fisheries in case it was one of their members. Cllr. Spence urged all members of the public not to investigate gunshots and to contact the police on 999 or 101 as soon as possible. The member of the public felt this needed to be recorded in case this happened again. Cllr. Brown reiterated Cllr.
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Spence's message. Cllr. Spence will also raise this with the police through informal channels at an appropriate moment.

3. A member of the public asked around Councillor holidays as she had tried to contact both the Chair and Vice Chair without a response and thought it was strange both were away at the same time. The Council advised all members of the public to contact the Clerk, or at least copy her in, if they attempt to contact an individual Cllr. The Clerk can chase Councillors and will manage Councillor contact while they are on holiday. The Chairman commented that even if away he does monitor his mailbox from time to time and had inf act replied to the complainant.
4. The Chair asked for all questions relating to the Redrow Development to be asked at this stage. The remaining questions were as follows, all relating to pile driving and road rolling:
 - A question was asked regarding noise levels and vibration levels and asking if the council are aware.
 - A question was asked regarding where bills can be sent to for damage to properties.
 - A question was asked regarding the soil samples and the outcome of these results.
 - A comment was made regarding cracks in the properties.
 - A comment was made regarding possible damage to the foundations, pipes (including gas pipes) and other potential damage that may be 'unseen.' How can this be reported or monitored? Members of the public felt that a professional, or someone acting independently, should be consulted.
 - A member of the public commented that they had contacted Cllr. Wray to make him aware of the problem. Cllr. Wray had advised the member of the public to contact the site manager. Cllr. Wray has also reported the issue to Environmental Health, suggestion; to avoid repetition, say 'as have four members of the public.'
 - A comment was made regarding the poor communication of Cheshire East Council and their lack of response.

Cllr. Hill responded to all the above questions in no particular order.

5. The soil sample (800 pages approx.) was e-mailed to Cllr. Hill, who then passed this on to the Environmental Officer and on to the Land Contamination team. Within two weeks, Environmental Health came back and confirmed there were no contaminates within the soil. Cllr. Hill will pass on any specific questions relating to the soil to the Environmental Health.

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6. Redrow had not informed Cllr. Hill that they were piling. This was to protect a retaining wall in addition to providing underpinning of properties close to the boundaries with several Giantswood Lane residents. This work was to be completed anyway but Cllr. Hill is equally frustrated with the lack of communication from Redrow. Redrow had cancelled their most recent meeting with Cllr. Hill. Despite the secondary monitor not being used on this occasion, which is also frustrating, Cllr. Hill confirmed the rig is monitored constantly by a device attached to the rig, and Cllr. Hill has requested these results from Redrow to confirm the noise (decibels) and the metres per second (vibration). The decibel limits are 89 – 90 (legal acceptable limit for outdoor work). The metres per second need to be under 5 (which will not cause damage or cracks). Cllr. Hill will get this data from Redrow.
7. Going forward, Cllr. Hill will call the Environmental Officer on Tuesday. He will try to collate the data with what he has been told, and with the complaints he has received. Redrow will likely carry on currently; there is no more piling work as they have done what they need to do for now (for the next 18 months, according to current plans). Cllr. Hill and the Environmental Officer will work together on how best to liaise with Redrow ahead. Cllr. Hill confirmed there are other complaints which have not been registered at the meeting, but which will also be discussed.
8. A follow up question was asked regarding whether the metres per second monitoring equipment follows a grid. Cllr. Hill said that he did not know.
9. Cllr. Brown asked when members of the public are likely to hear a response. Cllr. Hill will collate the data and will get a statement from Environmental Health and/or Redrow. This will take a few weeks minimum; Cllr. Hill will provide an update as soon as he can. Cllr. Brown asked all members in attendance to please submit accurate data (issue, time, date, etc.) to Cllr. Hill as soon as possible. Cllr. Hill will also take any more questions regarding the matter to the developers. At Cllr. Brown's suggestion, Cllr. Hill may arrange a meet up at the Waggon and Horses for a public forum if the matter requires it.

89/23 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

90/23 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

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91/23 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th May 2023](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 25th May 2023.

92/23 To receive and note the contents of the Chair's Report, if applicable.

Cllr. Brown shared his report – [report](#)

93/23 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Cllr. Wray confirmed he is aware of the Redrow piling issue and commended Cllr. Hill for dealing with this matter.

Cllr. Wray asked the Clerk to add the consultation received from PCC John Dwyer to the website to allow individuals to comment and share any issues.

Cllr. Wray mentioned the consultation relating to libraries and that there is a response form available on Cheshire East website.

Cllr. Brown asked for Cllr. Wray's support in gaining the 25% owed to the council for the Section 106 money for the recent developments within the local area. Cllrs. Brown and Wray will pick this up following the meeting.

94/23 To finalise the purchase of the dog waste bins to be installed adjacent to the Link Road

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase two new dog waste bins (colour green) with a post and fixings. These will be delivered to Cllr. Hill's home address and Cllrs Hill and Spence will liaise to arrange installation.

95/23 To receive an update and discuss the new Aldi development, following a meeting held with Cllr. Hill and the developers

Cllr. Hill met with six representatives from Aldi. The building will have a low carbon footprint including solar panels, recycled equipment, no staff car parking (to encourage staff to cycle, walk, etc.). There will be employment for 40 individuals from the local area. Aldi will liaise with Cheshire East to extend local footpaths to gain easier access to the store. Cllr. Hill requested some extra planting; the developers agreed to this. The developers are keen to commence and are seeking to gain planning approval to start work in September.

Cllr. Hill asked the Council if they would be happy to agree to a letter showing the Council's endorsement and support for the project.

96/23 To finalise and approve plans for co-option of two councillors, as per the [attached draft policy and timeline](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to follow the attached policy and timeline, and seek to co-opt at the meeting on 20th July 2023.

97/23 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[23/2054C](#) - UNIT 1, VIKING WAY, CONGLETON, CW12 1TT

[23/2099M](#) - Sandhole Farm, CONGLETON ROAD, MARTON, Congleton, CW12 2JH

The Councillors had no observations or comments on either of the above planning applications.

98/23 To receive and note reports from the members:

Cllr. M. Hill - [report](#)

Cllr. Hill shared he had been appointed to the board of CHALC.

Cllr. J. Spence

Cllr. Spence shared that we now have a new PCSO called Kim Bowyer; an e-mail has been shared with Cllr. Spence. PCSO Bowyer has previously been with the Rural Crime Unit and should bring a lot to the role Cllr. Spence intends to arrange a meeting with PCSO Bowyer to discuss the Neighbourhood Watch and potential problem areas, including Alderley Gate.

On 28th June, Cllr. Spence attending the Local Policing Community Cohesion Group meeting, led by Chief Inspectors Duncan Crook and Jim Adams at Congleton Town Hall. They shared that crime has reduced proportionately each month this year. Attendees also had the opportunity to comment on whether they feel that the police's use of force has been appropriate in a variety of situations. The Inspectors took notes which will be fed back. Cllr. Spence will seek to attend these ahead.

Cllr. Spence will attend a meeting hosted by John Dwyer next week. He will raise the points around the Link Road (and the steps that have been taken to monitor speed and noise) and will enquire regarding the fate of the Community Funding scheme, which was withdrawn six months ago.

Cllr. Spence has noticed one incident on fly-tipping on Smithy Lane. Cllr. Spence presumed that this had been reported as the rubbish had been removed by later that day but will attend a meeting in Holmes Chapel on 'Waste Crime'. Cllr. Spence will ensure he mentions that closure of the tip and the issues this has caused.

Regarding the Neighbourhood Watch, the Coordinator and Cllr Spence have decided that more formalised meetings will now take place, including compiling a summary of any issues and relevant information and reporting them to members. Once the new PCSO's schedule is known, she will be invited to both the Council Meeting and the Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

Cllr. M. Wakerly – nothing to report.

99/23 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £31,971.77

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PAYMENTS MADE

£309.80	Clerk's Salary (May)
£26.00	Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (May)
£241.00	JDH Business Services
£9.00	Banking Charges
£165.00	CTS Property Services – Installation of noticeboard
£250.00	Donation to Eaton Garden Party (approved by e-mail)

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£309.80	Clerk's Salary (June)
£26.00	Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (June)
£25.00	Payment for CHALC training (Lizzie)
£25.00	Payment for CHALC training (Vic)
£232.20	HMRC
£20.00	Cheshire Community Action (based on 298 electors at last count)
£2,228.00	Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Housing Needs Report
£446.40	Dog Waste Bins, with fixings and post (green)

RECEIPTS

£1.86	Lloyds Banking Grow
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[Bank reconciliation \(end May\)](#) to be reviewed and signed by the Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to approve all the above payments and **RESOLVED** to sign the bank reconciliations.

100/23 To receive and note the contents of the Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report in addition to the matters discussed above.

101/23 Any other correspondence

102/23 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 20th July 2023

Meeting closed at 9.15pm