



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th
May 2022 at 7.30pm at Westlow Mere Fisheries Meeting Room.**

Part 1 Public and press present

Present

Councillor Vic Brown - Chairman
Councillor John Spence
Councillor Mark Hill – Vice Chairman
Emma Bambrook – Clerk

Public Forum

1 member of the public was present.

The member of the public wished to offer his thanks to Cllr. Hill for the assistance he has provided to residents, his work on the bridleway and the Community Orchard.

64/22 To elect the Chairman for 2022/23

Cllr. Vic Brown informed the council that he wished to continue in the role of Chairman and following a vote the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Vic Brown as Chairman for the year 2022/23 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Brown and the Clerk.

65/22 Apologies for absence

Cllrs. Mark Wakerly and Adam Scott

66/22 Declarations of Interest

NIL

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Signed

Dated

67/22 To elect the Vice Chairman for 2022/23

Cllr. Mark Hill informed the council that he wished to continue in the role of Vice Chairman and following a vote the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Mark Hill as Vice Chairman for the year 2022/23. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Hill and the Clerk.

68/22 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st April 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2022 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

69/22 To approve councillor responsibilities for 2022/23.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the councillor responsibilities as listed below:

Cllr. Spence – Police Liaison, Planning/Litter Action Group, Cross Parish Council Communications

Cllr. Brown – Public Rights of Way, Developers' Representative, Planning Lead, Community Issues for Hulme Walfield

Cllr. Scott – Parish Wide Maintenance and Rural Issues

Cllr. Wakerly – Community Issues for Somerford Booths, Financial Scrutiny and Payments

Cllr. Hill – Alderley Gate Representative, Redrow Liaison, Bloor Liaison

70/22 Accounts and sign off of Audit 2021/22

Internal Audit – To receive the internal audit report for 2021/22 and to note the recommendations and the action plan.

The Internal Audit report was received and the recommendations noted along with the action plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the recommendations of the Internal Audit Report and approve the action plan.

71/22 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement Section 2021/22 of the AGAR - To receive and approve section 1 annual governance statement section 2021/22 of the AGAR and that the chairman and Clerk/RFO sign to confirm.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement Section of the AGAR 2021/22 and the Clerk and Chairman signed the form.

72/22 Section 2 Accounting Statements 2021/22 - To receive and approve section 2 Accounting Statements 2021/22 and that the chairman sign to confirm approval

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It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements section of the AGAR 2021/22. The Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman Sign the form.

73/22 Certificate of Exemption 2021/22 – To confirm that the council meet the criteria to declare themselves exempt from an external audit.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Parish Council are exempt from external audit. The Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman signed the Certificate of Exemption for 2021/22.

74/22 To confirm the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights).

The Clerk confirmed that the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights) would be from Monday 13th June to Friday 22nd July inclusive. All the relevant information will be posted on the website and noticeboards or the above period.

75/22 To review and adopt Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended amendments to the Council's Standing Orders.

76/22 To review and adopt Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended amendments to the Council's Financial regulations with the following changes to the thresholds for market testing:

Tender Threshold – Contracts exceeding £25,000

Formal Quotations Threshold – Contracts between £25,000 and £500

Strive to obtain Quotations Threshold – Contracts below £500 and above £200

Best available Terms Threshold – Contracts of £200 and under

77/22 To receive the Chairman's Report and any response to correspondence.

The contents of the Chairman's report were noted and can be viewed in Appendix 1, page 7.

78/22 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Cllr. Wray was not present.

79/22 To consider the desirability of a Housing Needs Survey, and the quotation for its execution by Cheshire East Research Team.

Cllr. Brown explained that he was also in the process of securing a second quote from a different organisation which would provide a more in-depth review but at this stage was seeking the council's agreement that this is a course which they feel is worth pursuing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council is in favour of carrying out an assessment of local housing need Survey which addresss the needs of local people who either live in the area or have family connections to it.

80/22 To receive any new information regarding verge treatment and other measures on Giantswood Lane.

There is no update at present as the meeting with the Highways Officer has not taken place. This will be progressed by Cllr. Spence.

81/22 To report on the confirmed proposals of Cheshire East Boundary Review

The details relating to the outcome of this review are contained within the Chairman's Report, please see Appendix 1, page 8.

82/22 To make any required arrangements for Queens Jubilee Celebrations.

The Parish Council is joining with Alderley Gate Resident's Group to celebrate the Jubilee on Saturday 4th June. There will be a meeting on Sunday to finalise the arrangements. Cllr. Brown proposed that the council supported the event by providing bunting and 2 banners, leaflets and a licence to sell alcohol. Redrow have agreed to sponsor the event for £250; this money will be paid to the council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council would approve receiving £250 from Redrow into the Parish Council bank account and to pay invoices presented for the Jubilee Celebrations from this sum. The council further resolved to provide up to £250 from General Reserves towards the cost of running the event in addition to Redrow's contribution if required.

83/22 To agree a date for a community Litter Sweep and identification of fly-tipping issues.

The council agreed to organise a litter sweep to take place in September and use this as an opportunity to identify areas of fly-tipping.

84/22 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

21/2240C Reserved Matters Following Outline Approval Application seeking detailed consent via Reserved Matters approval following Outline application 17/1000C for 454 dwellings and the associated infrastructure and open space on Land off Giantswood Lane and Manchester Road, Congleton

Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No. 3 (Part), Parish of Hulme Walfield Town and Country Planning Act 1990 s257.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no further comments on the proposed diversion of Footpath No.3.

22/1535C Hall Farm, Giantswood Lane, Somerford Booths, Cheshire, CW12 2JR.
Proposed oak framed single storey kitchen extension.

It was **RESOLVED** to make NO OBJECTION to this planning application and the Clerk was asked to submit the following comment: This is an excellent and very sympathetic extension to a fine farm building.

85/22 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting.

NIL

86/22 Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Mark Hill

The contents of the report were received and noted and can be viewed in Appendix 2, page 9. It was agreed that Cllr. Hill would submit a response to the CEC Highways Survey.

Cllr. John Spence

Alderley Gate Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

A resident is setting up a scheme and is going to act as co-ordinator and has already applied to the governing body. The resident wanted to decide on a notional name for the group and wanted to know if Giantswood Lane wished to be included, which they did. Cllr. Spence intends to email and leaflet residents to advise them that the scheme is being established and it was agreed that he should issue this as a council publication and include the households on Sandy Lane.

It was suggested that the boundary for the group be reduced and residents outside the boundary could be co-opted into the group.

Parish Council Liaison Group

It was agreed that Cllr. Spence should advise the group that the opportunity exists for the parish councils to have a meeting with Congleton Town Council once every three months to discuss matters of common interest.

Fly-tipping

Cllr. Spence reported the incidence of fly-tipping that Cllr. Scott had identified to Cheshire East Council and has received notification that this had been dealt with.

Cllr. Mark Wakerly

NIL

Cllr. Adam Scott

NIL

86/22 Accounts

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT: £30931.50

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

£ 8.00	HSBC Bank Charges
£203.76	Crewe Colour Printers – Letter regarding Ukraine
£317.29	Clerk's Salary (April)
£216.00	JDH Business Services Ltd – Internal Audit
£ 54.00	TCS Management Accounts
£ 43.37	Repayment to Chairman for refreshments Parish Meeting and 750th Anniversary walk
£ 30.00	ChALC Training – Mark Hill

The reimbursement of the Chairman's expenses was corrected from £43.37 to £49.69.

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

RECEIPTS:

NIL

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.

87/22 To approve transfer of remaining Grants/Donations funding of £3,483 from Earmarked Reserves to the Grants/Donations budget heading for 2022/23.

The Clerk withdrew the agenda item and explained that this was not necessary as the remaining funds should be shown in the accounts as spend from earmarked reserves.

88/22 To receive and note the contents of the Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that the article for the Parish Magazine was ready to be submitted and that the Parish Council Newsletter would be ready to send the printers once the Jubilee article was included and the whole newsletter proof read.

89/22 To consider continuing the Emergency Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk which will operate between Parish Council Meetings.

This scheme of delegation was put in place in anticipation of the tightening of Government Restrictions in relation to COVID-19 (or other emergency situation) which may stop Parish Councils Meeting face to face. For reasons of health and safety of Councillors, employees, and the public the adopted the scheme to operate between meetings and to allow meetings to take place if it is safe to do so. This means that a standing item will be added to each Parish Council Meeting Agenda, to continue the scheme of delegation to the Clerk until the next meeting.

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Dated

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the Emergency Scheme of Delegation to the Clerk until the next council meeting.

90/22 To note the date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 16th June 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Appendices

Appendix 1

HWSBPC : 5th May 2022

Chairman's Report

Three things have dominated our thinking since the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21st April

The most significant was the confirmation by the Full Council of Cheshire East on the 27th April of the recommendations of their Boundary Review sub-committee.

Both myself and Cllr Hill attended and I presented the view of your Council in support of the recommendation that HWSBPC should continue for a further period with an increase of councillors from 5 to 9 (3 from Somerford Booths).

A small minority of County Councillors and representatives from Congleton Town Council sort to either defer a decision for further consultations, or the remove the 'contentious proposals for more detailed review. In both cases, following advice from legal and electoral officers, their proposals were lost by a substantial number of votes.

Our parish council is now likely to remain in its present form for at least 5 years and probably longer unless there is an formal judicial review of the Boundary Review process. This is, in the view of County Council officers, unlikely to be heard as they consider their processes both robust and in compliant with legislation.

The second issue is the rapid rate at which the Ukraine Support Network has developed. There are now 240 adults and 176 children registered in Cheshire East. Locally it is fast approaching 30. I am now working closely with Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network, Congleton TC and Cheshire East and am co-hosting a lady from Kivv. Your financial support has been acknowledged.

Finally I want to mention the upcoming link up with Alderley Gate residents. They have already planted several of their trees, and hope to start the planter area shortly. Tonight we will also be considering joint working with them to hold a Queens Jubilee Celebration at Alderley Gate on the 4th June. They are also commencing the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch Group. Such community collaboration is to be encouraged, especially with or outlying villages in the joint parish.

I am also reliably informed that the planning applicaiton from Castle Green, which affects the west side of Giantswood Lane is to be submitted in the next few days. To date the issue of direct access onto Giantswood Lane has not been resolved and it is likely that we will have to consider what further action is required to influence the decision of Cheshire East planners.

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Signed

Dated

Appendix 2

Councillor Mark Hill's Report

Alderley Gate Residents Group (AGRG)

- a. A neighbourhood watch is now under way and 3 individuals have expressed interest in running this scheme
- b. 4 apple trees have been planted for the new community orchard, the remaining trees will be planted later in the year

Trust Management

- a. Ongoing discussions on the land change over from Bloor to TM
- b. Permission has been granted to start the orchard planting via TM
- c. Awaiting permission to position the PC notice board

The Redrow Land Management

- a. Meeting on 12th May to understand the scope of the enhancements for the community
- b. Discussions to understand the planning for the A34 new road to the bridge construction and timescales