



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th
October 2023 at 7.30pm at Westlow Mere Fisheries Meeting
Room**

Part 1 Public and press present

Present

Councillor Mark Hill (Acting Chairman)
Councillor Vic Brown (Acting Vice-Chairman)
Councillor John Spence
Councillor Mark Wakerly
Councillor Adam Bamping
Councillor Margaret Gartside
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk
Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

Councillor Hill shared a brief introduction explaining the new seating arrangements ahead of the Public Forum.

Public Forum

Five members of the public were present. One question had been asked in advance of the meeting, passed on to a councillor and addressed ahead of the meeting.

One question was asked about the amended plans from Castle Green. The member of the public highlighted the close date and queried whether comments made would be taken forward. A second member of the public queried a section of the plans that refers to access from Giantswood Lane to the proposed development, which should have been removed in the revisions. A request was made of the Council to provide further input and information; this will be addressed by a Councillor outside of the meeting.

A question was asked regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy. Councillor Brown confirmed that Hulme Walfield is zero rated for the levy, but he is looking into this further.

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A comment was made regarding litter on the Link Road and speeding on Giantswood Lane. Cllr. Spence will investigate speeding and will report back at the next meeting. Cllr. Gartside will investigate the complaint regarding, alongside her remit to manage public rights of way and footpaths. A request for traffic calming measures was made and this will be investigated by Cllr. Spence.

135/23 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence had been received in advance of the meeting.

136/23 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

137/23 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2023](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the 21st September 2023 with amendments made to item 117/23 to redact potentially sensitive information.

138/23 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor

Several consultations are ongoing currently – a new one has been released regarding maintenance of green spaces. Cllr. Wray will circulate a list of green spaces in Brereton Rural to the Clerk for circulation.

Finances are tight at Cheshire East Council and there is a deficit in the budget so several measures will be implemented to save money. Every department has been asked to find additional savings to support the Council's efforts.

139/23 To discuss training needs for Councillors and the Clerk for the remainder of 2023 – 2024 and 2024 - 2025

Cllr. Wakerly shared that training should be completed to support the Council's aims and objectives ahead and especially when the new homes are completed. Training should be offered as a priority to Cllr. Bamping. Planning needs and applications are becoming more complex so Cllr. Wakerly suggested that a Councillor completes additional training in planning.

Cllr. Wakerly will work with the Clerk to pull together a suggested training programme for new councillors and a suite of training available to support training in planning applications.

Cllr. Gartside suggested that laminated sheets of planning application 'terms' could be kept and bought out at the meeting. The Clerk will implement this in meetings ahead.

140/23 To consider how the Council should assess grants and donations made to charitable bodies ahead and consider how much the council may wish to allocate to the budget in 2024 – 2025

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Cllr. Wakerly shared a Draft Donations and Awards Policy for review by Councillors to hopefully finalise at the next meeting. Cllr. Wakerly proposed a cap of £2,500 for the next financial year, but is happy to keep this under review as the population of the parishes grow.

141/23 To discuss and decide whether the Council should purchase a Remembrance wreath, where it should be presented (Congleton or within the Parish) and who should present it

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase two Remembrance Wreaths at a cost of £49.98. It was **RESOLVED** that one wreath would be presented to Eaton and one would be presented at the Cenotaph in Congleton.

It was **RESOLVED** the Councillor Hill would present the wreath in Congleton and Councillor Spence would present the wreath in Eaton.

142/23 To discuss the purchase of a further dog waste bin, to be installed adjacent to the Bridle Path - [report](#)

Cllr. Bamping presented his proposal for the dog waste bin. The Clerk will approach Streetscape to see if they are willing to collect an additional waste bin and will feedback on their response at the next meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** in principle to approve a cost of £223.20 for an additional bin if Streetscape are willing to collect the waste.

A proposal for additional signage will be completed by Cllr. Bamping for further discussion at the next meeting.

143/23 To discuss a compost waste bin scheme, and whether this may be suitable to implement in 2024

Councillor Brown confirmed that, on the advice of Cheshire Association of Local Councils, the Council will not be proceeding with the previously discussed compost waste bin scheme.

144/23 To discuss the response from Newsbank residents regarding suggestions for environmental improvements

It was proposed that the Council purchase two new dog waste bins for Newsbank. It was **RESOLVED** in principle to approve a cost of £446.40 for additional bins if Ansa are willing to collect.

The Clerk will liaise with Ansa to discuss the process for arranging the collection of the bins.

145/23 To discuss the next Parish Council newsletter and consider items that may be included and who will be responsible for drafting each item

Cllr. Wakerly will write an article on rural matters. Cllr. Spence will write an article introducing the new Police Community Support Officer.

It was **RESOLVED** that all Councillors will submit at least one item to the Clerk for review by the 3rd November. The Clerk will research prices with the newsletter provider for approval the next meeting.

146/23 To discuss the Cheshire East Parking charges consultation and any Parish Council response

Cllr. Brown had circulated a draft response from the Council to Councillors for approval. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Brown should submit the statement.

147/23 To receive an update on and discuss any actions from the Parish Council network meeting on the 16th October

Cllr. Spence shared a brief update on the history of the group and the content of the meeting. The group will have no formal decision-making powers and will be made up of 1-2 members from each of the local Councils. The agenda and minutes will be formalised and circulated to members.

Matters discussed were working with the Congleton Partnership ahead, highways and traffic issues and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The next meeting will take place in January.

148/23 To review the budget, agree to make any adjustments required and make recommendations for the 2024/2025 budget.

[Draft 2024 - 2025 budget and Q2 monitoring document](#)

The Clerk presented the budget to Councillors for final approval at next month's meeting for 2024-25.

The Clerk noted a surplus, which councillors will need to resolve, ahead of the application of the precept next month.

Cllr. Spence will complete further research into a Community Speedwatch programme, for discussion at the next meeting.

Any comments on the budget should be submitted to the Clerk by 3rd November.

149/23 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[23/3618C](#) - SHANNOCK COTTAGES, GIANTSWOOD LANE, HULME WALFIELD, CW12 2JQ - Certificate of lawful existing use of residential amenity land

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a response of 'no objections' on the Council's behalf.

[23/3699C](#) - SOMERFORD BOOTHS HALL, HALL GREEN LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS, CW12 2LY - Non-material amendment on application 20/1169C: Variation of condition 1, allowing a number of minor changes to the new-build element of the approved development

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a response of 'no objections' on the Council's behalf.

[23/1309C](#) - Agricultural Building at Land East of Hallgreen Lane - Change of use - agricultural to dwellinghouses – Decision (declined) has been appealed; Planning inspectorate are accepting further comments and evidence

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit the Council's response to 'object' on the same basis as previously submitted.

[22/1930C](#) - MOUNT PLEASANT FARM, GIANTSWOOD LANE, HULME WALFIELD, CHESHIRE, CW12 2JJ - The demolition of certain existing buildings and the erection of residential dwellings (Use Class C3) with access, car parking, landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure. – Council has previously commented, further documents submitted so further comments are being accepted.

Due to the size and scope of the application, councillors will complete further research on this item, return comments to the Chair and a response will then be formulated.

[23/3817C](#) - Orchard Cottage, Wornish Nook, Somerford Booths, Congleton, CW12 2JP – Conversion of Garage Block

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a response of ‘no objections’ on the Council’s behalf.

150/23 If applicable, to ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings.

No comments had been made on planning applications between meetings.

151/23 To receive and note the contents of the [Chair’s Report](#)

Cllr. Hill shared his report.

152/23 To receive and note reports from the members:

Cllr. V. Brown – [report](#)

It was suggested by Cllr. Wakerly that the affordable housing report and survey is revisited in 12 months.

Cllr. J. Spence – Cllr. Spence shared that the White Lining buildings are occupied by a private ‘fitting out’ company which is a division of the Concept Group. The building is being used for storage by another division of the company. The company plan to refurbish some of the building due to issues with the roof.

Cllr. M. Wakerly – nothing further to report

Cllr. M Gartside – nothing further to report

Cllr. A Bamping – nothing further to report

153/23 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £33,243.49 (as of date of last bank reconciliation)

PAYMENTS MADE

£309.80	Clerk’s Salary (September)
£26.00	Clerk’s Homeworking Allowance (September)
£232.40	HMRC
£11.75	Chairman’s Expenses

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£8.00 Bank Charges

RECEIPTS

£6,500.00 Cheshire East Precept (second payment)

£1.07 Lloyd's Banking Grow

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£309.80 Clerk's Salary (October)

£26.00 Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (October)

£58.50 Clerk Mileage (May – October)

£30.00 CHALC – Adam Bamping attendance at David Kaiserman Training

£59.40 TCS Management (Payroll Services Q3 2023)

£49.98 Poppy Wreaths x 2 – to be paid for by the Clerk and reimbursed

£252.00 Dog Waste Bin, with fixings and post (green) for installation next to the Bridle Path (conditional on agreeing collection)

£446.40 Dog Waste Bin x 2, with fixings and post (green) for installation near to Newsbank (conditional on agreeing collection)

[Bank reconciliation \(end September\)](#) to be reviewed and signed by the Chair.

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

154/23 To consider and resolve to approve the internal auditor for 2023/2024 audit

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint John Henry to be the auditor for the end of year audit.

155/23 Any other correspondence

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk will respond to Streetscape and will decline the offer of wildflower planting on the roundabouts.

156/23 To consider and resolve to approve meeting dates for 2024

Based on the same pattern, suggested dates are:

18th January 2024

22nd February 2024

21st March 2024

25th April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting

16th May 2024 – Annual Parish Council Meeting

20th June 2024

18th July 2024

19th September 2024

17th October 2024

21st November 2024

It was **RESOLVED** by Councillors to adopt the above meeting dates. Cllr. Wakerly shared his apologies for the meeting in January.

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157/23 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 23rd November 2023

It was **RESOLVED** by Councillors to change the date of next month's meeting from the 16th to the 23rd.