



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21st
March 2024 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 Mark Wakerly
Councillor Adam Bamping
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

Apologies

Councillor Margaret Gartside
Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

Public Forum

Six members of the public were present. A reminder was given to all attendees to submit questions to the Clerk in advance to allow Councillors to provide a full response.

One individual asked a question regarding provision of a defibrillator, to be installed within the Parish boundary. Cllr. Hill confirmed that, currently, there are two defibrillators, one each at the two construction sites within the parish, with a third located at the nearby ambulance station at Lower Heath, just outside the parish boundary. Cllr Hill confirmed that the Clerk has applied for a grant to part-fund a defibrillator. Cllr. Hill is liaising with local developers on a suitable location for this. The Clerk will liaise with the grant supplier and confirm the conditions for installation and that the grant is still available; Councillor Hill will liaise with developers for alternative options for installation.

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A second individual asked about several large wagons that have generated dust and debris on the roads and paths. Cllr. Hill is aware and has already spoken to the drivers; cleaning will be arranged after the work has completed on Monday. Cllr. Hill will also ask about remedial work.

A third question was asked regarding maintenance of hedges and trees on the side of the new-build estates. Councillors are unsure if these belong to the developers or Highways; Cllr. Hill will find out who will manage the maintenance of these after the development has been completed. It was noted that it could be a private company, arranged by the developers, who will manage this.

35/24 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Councillor Gartside had sent her apologies in advance of the meeting.

36/24 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

37/24 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd February 2024](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

38/24 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

The Ward Councillor was not present.

39/24 To further discuss the proposed changes to the Cheshire East Wards and consider the Parish Council's response

Cllr. Brown shared an update on the briefing he attended on Monday evening on the Ward Boundaries. The review is being carried out by an independent body, who are looking for initial views in their first round of consultation. A second round of consultation will be shared by July 2024, with the period of consultation running until October 2024. Findings will be published in January 2025. There is currently no revision of the Parish boundary at this stage, but recommendations may be made to the Secretary of State to inform Parish boundary reviews in the future.

Councillors noted that the Parish has changed significantly, especially the area inside the Link Road boundary which has increased significantly and has strong links to Congleton. It was also noted that this may not be the wish of residents.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Wakerly will formulate the Councillor's response next week.

40/24 To receive a report on the Council's website and agree any actions - [report](#)

The Clerk shared a report. Cllr. Brown will send a quotation round to Councillors from Parishes Online.

The Clerk shared her concern that no changes are made as the Council approaches the audit, to ensure the website remains compliant.

Councillors will review both the Clerk's report and Cllr. Brown's quotation. This will be further discussed at the June meeting, once the audit has been completed.

41/24 To discuss the Giantswood Lane traffic survey and agree any actions - [survey](#)

The pre-prepared report was discussed. Different methods were discussed as to how speeding could be assessed. Cllr. Hill stated that support from Friends of Giantswood Lane (FoGWL) was essential if the aims set out in the report were to be achieved.

Cllr. Hill advised that FoGWL review the Parish Council's report and discuss how the survey can be achieved, if that is the wish of FoGWL. Cllr. Brown suggested that FoGWL inform the Council of their aims. The Parish Council can then decide if they are able to offer support, however the aims and goals need to be clarified first.

Cllr. Spence is to submit a Freedom of Information request to Cheshire East asking for details of any speeding, road traffic accident or traffic-related surveys that may have been recorded in the vicinity of Giantswood Lane in the last several years.

Cllr. Wakerly shared that there had been a previous survey completed several years ago. The information may be valid but may also not be given the installation of the Link Road.

42/24 To further discuss the formation of a Community Group, with a specific focus on tree and hedgerow planting within the Parish

Councillor Brown will speak with Councillor Gartside upon her return from annual leave. It was suggested that an article is circulated within the next newsletter.

43/24 To consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting

A speaker has been engaged from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, who will speak for around 30 minutes (with questions) on how the Cheshire Wildlife Trust manage planning applications. An update on the topic should be received by the end of the month.

The Clerk will arrange for the usual refreshments to be provided.

44/24 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[24/0831C](#) - Land East Of, HALL GREEN LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS - Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to Single Dwellinghouse

[24/0832C](#) - Land East Of, HALL GREEN LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS - Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to 1 Smaller Dwellinghouse and 1

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Larger Dwellinghouse

The Council **RESOLVED** to not submit any comments to either application.

45/24 If applicable, to ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings:

[23/3611C](#) - SWETTENHAM LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS, CONGLETON - Outline application with all Matters Reserved for change of use of land from pasture to 4 bungalows, courtyard and fruit orchard - [comments](#)

The Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the comments.

46/24 To receive and note the contents of the [Chair's Report](#)

47/24 To receive and note reports from the members:

Cllr. V. Brown – nothing to report

Cllr. J. Spence – Cllr. Spence reported an unidentified vehicle had parked up. This will be monitored.

Cllr. M. Wakerly – Cllr. Wakerly reported issues with flooding in Somerford Booths.

Cllr. A Bamping – Cllr. Bamping has joined CHALC's Net-Zero Advisory Group.

48/24 To review and approve the Council's [Asset Register](#) and consider whether an assessment of assets should be completed

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the asset register and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Spence would complete an assessment of assets over the next few weeks. Pictures and exact locations of the assets will be sent to the Clerk.

49/24 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £30,429.38 (as of date of last bank reconciliation)

PAYMENTS MADE

£335.76	Crewe Colour Printers (newsletter)
£22.50	Peaks and Northern Footpaths Membership
£351.52	Clerk's Salary
£26.00	Clerk's Homeworking Allowance
£225.00	Website Support (August – December)
£8.00	Bank Charges

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£351.72	Clerk's Salary (March)
£26.00	Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (March)
£40.00	ICO Payment (via Clerk's expenses)
£45.00	Clerk Mileage (November – March)

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£351.72 Clerk's Salary (April)
£26.00 Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (April)
£260.80 HMRC

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

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

50/24 Any other correspondence

The Clerk noted a survey from CHALC. The Chair and Vice Chair will consider whether a response should be made to this.

51/24 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 25th April 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting)