



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd
November 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
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk
Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

Absent

Councillor Margaret Gartside

Public Forum

Four members of the public were present.

One question was asked regarding the possible sale of Westlow Mere and the surrounding land. Councillors were unaware of this, but they will look into it.

A question was asked regarding several caravans that have been noted in the area. The Clerk confirmed that Cheshire East Council were aware of the situation, as were Cheshire Police. Councillors were being kept informed and the situation is being monitored.

Two residents made comments that there were incidents of loud works taking place including machinery reversing 'loud beeping.' Cllr. Hill will look into this ahead of the next meeting.

158/23 To receive and approve apologies for absence

No apologies for absence had been received. Cllr. Gartside was absent.

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159/23 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Brown confirmed he knew the applicant on the first planning application to be discussed. He will refrain from commenting on this application only.

160/23 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th October 2023](#)

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

161/23 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor

Cllr. Wray shared that all departments across Cheshire East are being asked to complete budget cuts. He will share a report with the Clerk for circulation with an update for all departments (Highways, Education etc.)

There is still a small amount of funds within the Ward Councillor budget; Cllr. Wray will provide an update on this to the Clerk.

Cllr. Hill asked about the junction of the A34/Lomas Way – there was some confusion from engineers, with whom Cllr. Hill had spoken to, as to whether the junction should have been refreshed as part of the works. Cllr. Hill asked Cllr. Wray who was responsible for the works (whether it was Redrow or Cheshire East Highways). Cllr. Hill also asked whether it would be possible to install a traffic island and who he would need to speak to about this. Cllr. Wray will investigate these matters further.

Cllr. Brown asked about section 106 monies (re: the Castle Green / Mount Pleasant development) and whether these would be forthcoming shortly to Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths Parish Council. Cllr. Wray confirmed that he had seen Cllr. Brown's original e-mail and would investigate the matter further. Cllr. Brown said that he would send through some further information.

162/23 To formally review, and resolve to adopt, the [budget for 2024 - 2025](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the budget for 2024 – 2025.

163/23 To discuss and approve the Council precept application for 2024-2025

It was **RESOLVED** to apply for a precept of £13,000 for 2024 – 2025.

164/23 To receive an update on the dog waste bins, discussed at the October meeting

The Clerk confirmed that Streetscape will collect the bin adjacent to Lomas Way. It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to proceed with the purchase of the bin for £252.00. Delivery will be arranged to Cllr. Hill.

Cllr. Brown will confirm an update on the bins (up to two, based on discussions at October's meeting) to be installed at Newsbank and his conversation with Streetscape at the next meeting.

165/23 To discuss policies and procedures that the Council may wish to have in place, and a method of ensuring all Councillors are familiar with these policies

Cllr. Wakerly confirmed he has commenced his revision of the grant policy and will provide an update at the next meeting.

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Cllr. Hill shared a templated document which he proposes to implement with Councillors in the new year, asking Councillors to confirm that they have read selected policies. Councillors had raised no objections to this implementation.

166/23 To receive an update on the Parish Council newsletter, discussed at the October meeting

The newsletter is currently with Cllr. Spence for proof reading. The Clerk is still awaiting a biography to be submitted by one of the new Councillors for the front-page article. The Clerk will gain a copy of the address list that Crewe Colour Printers have available and will pass this on to Councillor Hill to ensure that enough newsletters are purchased to cover all the new dwellings. It was **RESOLVED** to defer progression of the newsletter until the new year.

167/23 To receive an update on the status of footpaths within the Parish

168/23 To further discuss ideas for an Annual Parish Meeting speaker, and how this event could assist the Council's objectives

Cllr. Spence proposed John Dwyer; concerns were raised that he may be political, given it is an election year for him.

Cllr. Hill proposed Trust Green; concerns were raised that this may be too specific.

Cllr. Wakerly proposed Cheshire Wildlife Trust – Councillor Wakerly will make an approach to ask if they would be willing to speak.

169/23 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[23/3611C](#) - SWETTENHAM LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS, CONGLETON - Outline application with all Matters Reserved for change of use of land from pasture to a fruit orchard with 3 or more bungalows and house or shed

It was **RESOLVED** to submit an objection based on the fact that this is contrary to policies in the Cheshire East strategic plan. Cllr. Brown will pass the clerk further information for the clerk to draft a response and circulate to Councillors.

[23/1957C](#) - Land East Of, HALL GREEN LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS - CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL PROPOSED USE – currently under appeal; Council has not previously submitted comments but can choose to do so

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objections, and no comments would be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

[23/4298C](#) - SOMERFORD BOOTHS HALL, HALL GREEN LANE, SOMERFORD BOOTHS, CW12 2LY - Variation of condition 1 & 7 on approved application 20/1444C - Listed building consent for - Works to the Grade II* Listed Hall to redevelop as one single property pursuant to variation of condition application 20/1169C

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objections and no comments would be submitted to Cheshire East.

[23/4311C](#) - Development Site Off, BARN ROAD, CONGLETON - Outline planning

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application with all matters reserved except for the principal means of access for the erection of a residential development (Use Class C3), employment and commercial floorspace (Use Classes B1/B2/B8/C1/D2) and a local centre (Use Classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/D1) with associated landscaping, drainage and other infrastructure. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council had no objections and no comments would be submitted to Cheshire East.

170/23 If applicable, to ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings.

None as of 8th November 2023

171/23 To receive and note the contents of the [Chair's Report](#)

Cllr. Hill shared his report.

Cllr. Spence asked if there was any update regarding the previously discussed tree cutting – Cllr. Hill replied that as far as he was aware this would still take place, but he would provide an update.

Several individuals have requested that commemorative nameplates might be affixed to benches. The Clerk will draft a policy for this, to be reviewed by Councillors in January.

172/23 To receive and note reports from the members:

Cllr. V. Brown- [report](#)

Cllr. J. Spence - [report](#)

Cllr. Spence added an additional comment that several of the noticeboards appear to be leaking – once the weather improves, he will investigate further and determine whether maintenance to repair these is needed.

The Clerk will e-mail the Parish Noticeboard Company to try and gain an update on the maintenance of the noticeboard.

Cllr. M. Wakerly

Cllr. Wakerly has reported fly-tipping on a verge near to a local farm. Cheshire East confirmed that this was not their land so was the responsibility of the landowner to manage.

The Clerk will keep a record of fly-tipping reports ahead.

Cllr. A Bamping - [report](#)

Cllrs. Hill and Bamping will liaise with Rights of Way and Highways to discuss this installation further. There may be a specification with which this barrier must comply.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this installation in principle.

173/23 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £32,701.81 (as of date of last bank reconciliation)

PAYMENTS MADE

£309.80 Clerk's Salary (October)

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£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 – paid for by the Clerk and reimbursed
£8.00	Bank Charges

RECEIPTS

None

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£309.80	Clerk's Salary (November)
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£252.00	JRB (revised quotation for dog waste bin agreed in October meeting)
£24.20	Chairman Expenses (for refreshments at the Clerk's appraisal)

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

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

174/23 Any other correspondence

The Clerk will submit the Council's annual Community Infrastructure Levy report.

175/23 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 25th January 2024

Cllr. Brown will chair this meeting, at the request of Cllr. Hill.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting in January to the 25th.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting to Part B proceedings to discuss the matter of the Clerk's employment and appraisal.

176/23 To note the outcome of the clerk's probationary appraisal, and resolve to adopt a salary increase for the clerk, to fall in line with the new NALC pay scales of 2024 – 25 (MH / VB)

It was **RESOLVED** to move to the new NALC pay scales as of 1st January 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the clerk to SCP 13 on successful completion of her probation (as of 1st January 2024) and to further review the clerk's pay upon completion of CILCA and have a reassessment of the number of hours required in April 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.