



**Hulme Walfield  
and Somerford Booths**  
Parish Council

**Final Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 7.30pm at Eaton Community Hall**

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**Part 1: Public and press present**

**Present:**

- Councillor Mark Hill (Chair)
- Councillor Mark Wakerly (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Adam Bamping
- Councillor John Spence
- Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

**Absent:**

- Councillor Vic Brown
- Councillor Margaret Gartside
- Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor

**Public Forum**

Four members of the public were in attendance.

A question was asked regarding the new defibrillator, which had been installed but not commissioned. Members of the public were concerned that individuals may attempt to use it. Councillors confirmed that the defibrillator had not been registered online so the ambulance service would not direct members of the public to use it.

A second question was asked regarding the constructions traffic on the Castle Green development. Cllr. Hill said that he had liaised with the developer and that they were aware of the concerns relating to this. A member of the public confirmed he had raised this with Planning who should be attending site imminently. Cllr. Wray is also aware of the matter. Cllr. Hill will take further actions after the meeting.

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A third question was asked regarding signposting from the Bridle Way to the footpath opposite and whether “pedestrians crossing” would be installed. Cllr. Hill confirmed that this is the site for the Parish Council’s speed watch, which will reduce the risk, and that further signage will be discussed later on in the meeting.

A fourth question was asked regarding cars parking on the squash court. Councillors are aware of the issue.

A member of the public read an extract from a letter they had received from Cheshire East Council regarding readings recorded during the piling, as he wished to make Councillors and members of the public present of the findings. Cllr. Hill is aware of the matter and will liaise with the member of the public after the meeting.

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**33/25 To receive and approve apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Brown and Cllr. Gartside.

**34/25 To receive any declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**35/25 To receive and resolve to approve [the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 20th February 2025](#)**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve these.

**36/25 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.**

Cllr. Wray was not present.

**37/25 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:**

There were no planning applications.

**38/25 If applicable, to ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings.**

No comments had been made.

**39/25 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:**

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £33,277.88

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk’s Salary (February)	£419.41
Clerk’s Homeworking Allowance (February)	£26.00

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Bank Charges	£8.00
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PAYMENTS RECEIVED

None

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

First Aid Evening Donation	£150.00
Clerk's Salary (March)	£419.41
Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (March)	£26.00
Bank Charges	£8.00
Clerk's Salary (April)	£419.41
Clerk's Homeworking Allowance (April)	£26.00
HMRC	£314.60
Hire of Eaton Community Hall (three meetings)	£120.00
Crewe Colour Printers (500 copies)	£302.00
Marker spray (VB expenses)	£8.00 budget
Projector and extension cable (MW expenses)	£200.00 budget

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

**40/25 To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting (All)**

Cllr. Hill has added the agenda to the noticeboards covering Alderley Gate and the Redrow site. Cllr. Spence will place the agenda in the remaining noticeboards. A reminder will be included in the next Parish magazine and is also in the newsletter.

The Clerk will buy tea, coffee, milk, sugar and biscuits. Cllr. Wakerly will provide homemade cakes.

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a projector, cable and carry case. This will be purchased after April 1<sup>st</sup> to be included in the Council's assets in the next financial year.

**41/25 To discuss the installation of a further defibrillator within the Parish (MW) Cllr.**

Wakerly said that, building on the upcoming defibrillator training and his own research, he would like to install a further defibrillator within the Parish, in a more rural location, either at Newsbank or Somerford Booths Hall. Cllr. Wakerly will liaise with Cllr. Brown and will contact the developer at Somerford Booths Hall to discuss possibly arranging a defibrillator site at the entry way to the development. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the maintenance costs of the defibrillators, and the budget for next year – the Council had budgeted for one defibrillator, but will now have potentially three (Redrow, Castle Green, Somerford Booths Hall).

**42/25 To discuss the issue of dog fouling on the Bridle Path (MH)**

The Neighbourhood Watch have noted several issues of dog excrement on the path, on the grass and in the playground. It appears to be the excrement of larger dogs. Cllr. Brown has bought some marker spray and the noted waste has been sprayed to draw attention to it. Cllr. Bamping will arrange for a small campaign with the Neighbourhood Watch, as well as

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Councillors and the Clerk as needed – suggestions from Councillors included speaking to individuals, flyers in the noticeboards, social media, and the Parish newsletter. Cllr. Spence will speak to the PCSO to see if they can provide signs.

**43/25 To discuss the installation of dog waste bins near to Newsbank (MW)**

Cllr. Wakerly was going to put a flyer out to residents of Newsbank and Somerford Booths Hall confirming that the Parish Council plan to install dog waste bins in the area. An update will be provided at the May meeting.

**44/25 To receive an update on the newsletter (All)**

It was confirmed that the Council will proceed with 500 copies. Approximately 130 will be delivered to residents direct, and the remaining 370 will be posted to Councillor Hill for distribution.

**45/25 To review the Council's social media trial and discuss any amendments to be made to their communications strategy ahead (AB / All)**

The Council felt that generally the trial with X has been a success. The Clerk has noted more engagement as the trial has continued. It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the use of X, under the same guidance as has previously taken place. X will be advertised in the newsletter that will be circulated shortly. The Clerk will arrange for QR code posters to be placed on the noticeboards containing a link to X.

Cllr. Brown has suggested a private WhatsApp group could be used for residents on an information out only basis. Councillors and the Clerk will complete a trial on a private group (to be set up by Cllr. Brown) for testing purposes – this item will be revisited on the June agenda, following a three-month trial on the private group.

**46/25 To discuss how to improve the Council's communication and liaison with community groups (MH)**

Cllr. Hill is keen to better engage with Community Groups – Councillors agreed that initially this will include the Neighbourhood Watch, FoGWL and Alderley Gates residents' groups, Trees for Congleton, the Parish / the Church, Congleton Partnership, Eaton and Hulme Walfield Garden Party and Congleton Community Projects (via Congleton Town Council). This will be revisited at the May meeting to allow for input from Cllrs. Gartside and Brown.

**47/25 To discuss signage for Speedwatch (JS)**

Cllr. Spence asked for permission to purchase two or three community speed watch signs. Cllr. Brown has found a different option for signs which were £70.00 each. These will be £62.91 each – Cllr. Spence will circulate the pictures of the signs. This will be revisited and authorised at the May meeting.

**48/25 To discuss the Council's response, if any, to the Devolution Consultation (All)**

Cllr. Hill has reviewed the consultation. He suggested that the consultation is a very personal thing, as it could be political, and so he requested that all Councillors complete this as private

individuals, rather than compiling a Council response. Councillors also felt that they couldn't adequately poll the views of residents to compile a representative response.

**49/25 To receive and note the contents of the Chair's Report**

Cllr. Hill will accept the offer of the donation of 20 saplings. Several will be planted in the area around the previously installed benches, and the remainder will be given to Trust Green. This was **RESOLVED** by Councillors.

**50/25 To receive and note reports from the members: Cllr. Bamping**

– nothing to report.

Cllr. Brown – [report](#)

Cllr. Gartside – nothing to report.

Cllr. Spence – the Police have appointed a new PCSO and a new Beat Officer. The new Beat Officer has a background in Community Policing. Cllr. Spence is hoping to arrange an early meeting with them to introduce himself. Cllr. Spence has also received a contact with whom he can arrange further Speed Watch training – Cllr. Hill and a few members of FoGWL may be interested in taking part. Cllr. Spence will contact Cllr. Gartside and see if she would be interested in attending.

Castle Green have asked for a letter confirming the Parish Council will take responsibility for the defibrillator to be installed on their site. Cllr. Spence will draft this, submit to Councillors for comments and then the Clerk will print on letterhead and sign.

Cllr. Spence is still struggling with the PC e-mail system. He will liaise with Parish Online regarding his technical issues. He will liaise with Parishes Online relating to this and see if he can connect this to his personal Outlook. Cllr. Wakerly will offer his assistance.

The defibrillator and First Responder training is going ahead on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. There will be c. 20 attendees, including two Councillors from Eaton Parish Council. Cllr. Spence will liaise with the organiser shortly to confirm the final details.

Cllr. Wakerly – nothing to report

**51/25 Any other correspondence**

The Clerk noted that she is on annual leave from 11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April. The Parish Council e-mail will not be monitored during this time and anyone making contact will be advised to contact the Chair if the matter requires urgent attention.

The Clerk will submit a draft version of the AGAR and the final cashbook to the Chair and Vice Chair, in advance of her annual leave, for their checking and approval, and, providing approval is received, will submit all paperwork to the internal auditor on her return.

**52/25 To note the date of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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