



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

Final Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th March 2026 at 7.30pm at Eaton Community Hall

Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

- Councillor Mark Hill
- Councillor Mark Wakerly
- Councillor Adam Bamping
- Councillor Vic Brown
- Councillor Margaret Gartside
- Councillor John Spence
- Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk
- Councillor John Wray – Cheshire East Council Ward Councillor.

Absent:

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

42/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

43/26 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

44/26 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 2026

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

45/26 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Council tax has been confirmed and residents should have all received a letter detailing how the Council are proceeding. The Council have signed up to a long-term loan via a release facility

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which will need to be paid off within the next ten years. Social care and education are still the two largest costs.

Cllr. Brown asked whether Cllr. Wray was aware of any possible changes to Parish Councils resulting from Devolution, under the new Mayor. Cllr. Wray was not aware of any changes, or any details of how Parish Councils could communicate with the new Mayor. Cllr. Wray will share information on this matter as and when this is received.

Cllr. Wray had not heard anything from Enforcement regarding the matter at the squash courts – Cllr. Brown asked if Cllr. Wray could chase this again. Cllr. Brown also asked whether Cllr. Wray could connect the Council to the Highways safety officer as to how the Bridle Way crossing between the wood and the foot path could be better demarcated – Cllr. Brown is undertaking an informal speed survey to gain data and Cllr. Wray will investigate the matter of footpath demarcation.

46/26 To consider planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda

26/0750/HOUS – Chapel House, Wornish Nook, Somerford Booths, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 2JP – Proposed workshop / log store

The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

47/26 To ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings

There were no comments to ratify.

48/26 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT= £32,698.98, as of 1st March 2026

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (February)	£330.34
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (February)	£26.00
Crewe Colour Printers	£90.00
Clerk's Expenses	£28.52

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

None

PAYMENTS APPROVED

Clerk Salary (March)	£330.34
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (March)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (April)	£330.34
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (April)	£26.00
ICO (via Clerk's Expenses)	£52.00
Eaton Community Hall (Jan – Apr)	£160.00
Branded Hi-Viz Vest	£300.00 budget
HMRC	£718.62
Clerk Budget (refreshments APM)	£50.00

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It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and sign the Bank Reconciliation.

49/26 To receive an update on the Fitness Trail

The Fitness Trail with Redrow is now in progress and copies of the CAD drawings have been sent to Kompan. The site is at the far end of the Redrow Estate and will not be ready for 8 – 10 months. Councillor Hill will monitor this and expects a meeting with Kompan and Redrow in c. 6 months.

50/26 To discuss the installation of a further defibrillator within the Parish

The defibrillator and box are now with the site manager of the location where it will be installed. The Parish Council are awaiting the site electrician to attend and install. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

51/26 To receive an update on the proposed boundary signs within the Parish

The boundary signs will be installed on Sunday 12th April, meeting at Cllr. Wakerly's house at 10.00am. An update will be provided at the next meeting. The Clerk will complete the risk assessment and will send through to Cllr. Wakerly.

52/26 To discuss arranging regular litter picks within the Parish and how best to promote these

The next litter pick will take place on Sunday 12th April, meeting at the Bloor sales office at 10.00am. The group then splits into two, with half covering the main road and the other half covering the car park next to KFC. Cllr. Hill confirmed that approximately 15 people attend each month.

53/26 To confirm the arrangements and marketing of the Annual Parish Meeting

The speaker from the Rotary has been confirmed and will bring several guests and members of the rotary to attend the meeting. Cllr. Hill and Wakerly will check that the IT is working.

The Clerk will include full details of the meeting in the Parish Magazine for this month's entry. All Councillors are encouraged to invite their neighbours.

The Clerk will purchase tea, coffee, milk and napkins, cake and biscuits and it was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £50.00.

54/26 To discuss Parish Council marketing more widely, including Councillor outreach and surgeries

This is still in development between Cllrs. Wakerly and Brown to allow them to consider the reasons behind holding these sessions and what the potential value for residents could be. This will be on the agenda on May (if space allows) or June.

55/26 To receive and note the contents of the Chair's Report

Cllr. Hill confirmed to Councillors that the parking charges across Cheshire East have gone up. Cllr. Hill has contacted The Circuit regarding installing bleed kits in the existing defibrillator boxes – this is allowed by The Circuit, provided that the defibrillator isn't damaged and is suitably maintained. This will be considered by Councillors in early 2026 – 2027. The view from medical professionals (paramedic) is that it is better to provide too many resources than too few and, if suitably marked, then the individual administering the first aid can seek advice from the first responder on the phone.

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Cllr. Hill and the Clerk attended a meeting with other local Parish Councils and Congleton Town Council regarding Devolution. Cllr. Hill is awaiting feedback from Congleton Town Council but hopes to continue the conversation.

The Parish Council considered whether a joint event between other local Parish Councils to meet the Mayoral candidates and better understand their manifestos and post-election plans.

56/26 To receive and note reports from members

Cllr. Bamping – nothing to report

Cllr. Brown – nothing to report

Cllr. Gartside – nothing to report

Cllr. Spence – Cllr. Spence would like to organise another training session for speedwatch. Cllr. Gartside will liaise with Cllr. Spence on this, as she would like to attend. Cllr. Hill will also ask residents of the Bloor Estate if they would like to become involved.

Cllr. Spence asked when the trimming of the buffer zone will take place – Cllr. Hill will follow this up and try and get a response ahead of the next meeting.

Cllrs. Spence and Brown raised concerns regarding a patch of land which has recently been acquired by new ownership, and which may be being prepared for development. This will be monitored by Councillors and Cllr. Brown or Cllr. Hill will write to the enforcement officer on this matter.

Cllr. Wakerly – Cllr. Wakerly proposed the purchase of twenty Hi-Viz branded jackets, bearing the Parish Council's name and logo. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the spend of £300.00 (budget). Cllr. Wakerly has made some minor changes to the logo – it was **RESOLVED** by Councillors to adopt the new logo across all Parish Council documents ahead (i.e. this will be the Parish Council's new logo from April 2026). The Hi-Viz jackets will be purchased early in April 2026 to allow the Clerk to complete a VAT return before the end of the financial year. Cllr. Wakerly has spoken with the landowner regarding the gate that has been damaged, which is leading to fly-tipping. The landowner believes that the gate is the property of Cheshire East, rather than the landowner. Cllr. Wakerly is drafting this response, and the Clerk will send this to Cheshire East, Highways and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Bearing in mind the Good Design Award, Cllr. Wakerly mentioned a neighbour who has worked with the Woodland Trust on having several hundred trees planted in a way that is both environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing.

The finding of the recent Rural Needs Analysis was shared by Cllr. Wakerly – the local community is considered prosperous. The main trend is that businesses are now working from more rural areas rather than town centres, which may be a consideration ahead. Unfortunately, the information cannot be broken down to Parish level but Cllr. Wakerly will continue his analysis and will share more findings.

57/26 Any other correspondence including what to include in the Parish Magazine

The Clerk will include an invitation to residents to the Annual Parish Meeting in the Parish Magazine. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the upcoming audit and that she will have less capacity for non-audit related Council matters throughout the month of April.

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It was **RESOLVED** to approve the IT, Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policies.

58/26 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 23rd April 2026 (APM)