



**Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths**
Parish Council

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday
23rd April 2026 at Eaton Community Hall.**

Present: Cllr. Mark Hill (Chairman), Cllr. Mark Wakerly (Vice Chairman), Cllr. John Spence, Cllr. Vic Brown, Cllr. Margaret Gartside, Cllr. Adam Bamping

Members of Congleton Rotary

14 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman, Cllr. Mark Hill welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting Held on 10th April 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in April 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

3. Presentation by members of Congleton Rotary

The Rotary is made up entirely of volunteers; they all joined the Rotary to give something back, and there are currently 40 members.

Rotary was set up 121 years ago by a group of businessmen in Chicago, who wished to give something back to the local area. This grew from Chicago and is now a global charity, with rotary clubs to be found all over the UK and the world. Rotary International is the parent global charity, which supports global endeavours to improve literacy, reduce poverty and other causes.

All the members of the Rotary are local people and are actively involved in the town. In 2025, the Rotary raised over £40,000 for good causes, thanks to the people of Congleton. The Rotary try to strike a balance between local activities and supporting the charity globally – in the last year, Congleton Rotary have specifically supported UNICEF to globally inoculate against polio. Locally, purple crocuses have been planted, reflecting the purple dye that is used to mark individuals who have been inoculated. Polio is still a risk, with the virus being found in the last 12 months in the

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Signed

Dated

water of London and New York.

The Rotary has also run competitions in 16 local schools, including Young Chef, Young Artist, Youth Speaks (debating competition for secondary schools), Stars of the Future (focussed on civic responsibility) and Young Photographer. The Young Photographer exhibit is still on show at Congleton Library until Saturday.

One of the Rotary's biggest events is the swimathon where individuals, schools and organisations complete a sponsored swim in a lane for 55 minutes. This raises around £20,000 per year and the whole pool is often taken up by primary school children, but members of the Rotary still joined in.

The Rotary ran Party in the Park to give back to residents. This included many fun events and games, and a real-life version of "It's a Knockout!"

The Rotary reach out to local organisations to join the global Rotary scheme and encourage them to exhibit corporate-social responsibility. These included large businesses within Congleton, including a large aerospace company. If a company gets involved, this can appeal to everyone from the Chief Executive.

Likewise, if individuals or companies reach out to the Rotary, who also aim to help wherever they can. This has included replacing the field at Marton Primary School and buying new IT equipment for Eaton Bank, among others. The Rotary also support Congleton Town Council, as marshals and volunteers at their event.

The environment is important to Rotary globally. The Rotary has a wildlife friendly gardening competition – the campaign encourages awareness of birds, bees, butterflies, frogs and hedgehogs and the Rotary are providing advice, plants and encouragement that all residents who are able take part. The Rotary also bring local schools, bringing the message of the environment to young people.

The Rotary ran a last night of the proms, at Congleton Town Hall, featuring local musicians. The Rotary also runs bonfire night and the fireworks every year. The schools complete to build a "guy" and the Rotary runs two displays – one is quieter fireworks, suitable for everyone, and then there's a "full display" later on in the evening.

In December, the Rotary is busy. They wrap and gift 250 presents to those in care homes and hospitals (and not forgetting the staff!) They provide the Tree of Light, allowing those to buy an ornament in memory of a loved one, and they run a Christmas concert.

The Rotary also donated £1,000 to a local Toy Appeal, making sure that 83 local children had presents to open on Christmas Day.

This barely scratches the surface – the Rotary are here to help and support residents

and hope to continue to do so for many years to come. For the last 78 years the Rotary have supported the people of Congleton, they will continue to do the same for their people in their town, as part of Congleton.

Cllr. Brown asked how the Rotary had continued to support individuals affected by the Ukraine conflict. This work has now tailed off slightly – the Rotary did support CAUSN while this was in place, but now are supporting the work from afar, as it is mainly based in Macclesfield. Cllr. Brown thanked the Rotary for all their hard work as he is aware of several members of this community who have been greatly supported by the Rotary over the last few years.

A resident asked the criteria to join the Rotary. Membership is a subscription of £30 / quarter / £120 / year, which goes entirely to the running of the Rotary locally (insurance, PPE etc.) and a donation to the Rotary's global initiative of Polio vaccines. The majority of the money raised goes to support local individuals and businesses, and a small proportion is donated to the parent charity, Rotary International.

4. Chairman's Report - Councillor Mark Hill

The Chairman's report is included in full in Appendix 2.

A resident made a comment that the substation on the Bloor Estate may be a suitable location for a further defibrillator. The Parish Council will look into this over the coming 12 months.

In response to Cllr. Hill's remarks about local defibrillators, the Rotary mentioned a free training session on Saturday 16th May, focussed on CPR and defibrillatory training.

Cllr. Brown added a comment regarding brown field sites and additional spaces for housing. Cllr. Brown believes that, in the absence of a strong local plan, there may be new housing developments appearing in the Parish. This was merely an initial remark and the Parish Council are not aware of any firm plans.

These minutes remain draft until they are approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting in 2027.

APPENDIX 1

Unaudited Accounts 01-April-2025 to 31-March-2026



Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths Unaudited Accounts 01-April-2025 to 31-March-2026

Receipts

Precept Payment	£	15,300.00
Bank Interest	£	3.87
Reserves Income	£	-
Exceptional Income	£	-
VAT Refund	£	-
	£	15,303.87

Payments

Salary / Clerk Homeworking Allowance	£	6,776.18
Clerk Expenses	£	342.84
Training	£	-
Memberships	£	256.75
Professional Fees	£	843.45
Communication	£	1,039.40
Donations	£	1,650.00
Meetings	£	496.74
Community Projects	£	308.57
Fixed Assets	£	4,444.01
Banking Charges	£	32.00
Civic Responsibilities	£	39.98
	£	16,229.92
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£	(926.05)

Balance at 01-April-2025	£	32,390.07
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£	31,464.02
Less Spend From General Reserves	£	-
Less Spend From Earmarked Reserves	£	-
Balance of Accounts at 31-March-2026	£	31,464.02

N.B. Spend from reserves included in donations line

General Reserves (inc. Current Account)	£	13,972.20
Earmarked Reserves	£	17,491.82
Total Reserves	£	31,464.02

Represented By	£	31,464.02
Current Account	£	31,464.02
	£	31,464.02

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APPENDIX 2

Annual Meeting: Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths PC: 2025 - 2026

Chairman: Mark Hill

I would like to thank the Rotary club of Congleton for spending time to share with us their work within the community and the people and groups they support. Thank you.

This has been another busy year for the Parish Council - as I have said before, most of the Council's work is outside of the meetings. The meeting is statutory; however, on the public's behalf we carry out and agree projects.

The world has not changed much from last year; it is still tough for many families. The cost of living was very slowly improving but the world is a volatile place, and globalisation affects us all in one way or another.

You may have noticed on your council tax that Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths Parish Council has not increased the precept again this year. There has been no increases for 3 years and the Parish Council feel that every little helps.

The Parish Council made two donations in the last year, to Cheshire East Hospice and the Congleton Food Bank who both received £1000 each, near to Christmas, to assist the vulnerable and to support residents and children who have difficult time during the festive period.

To outline some of the projects the Parish Council have and are working on:

- A bus route and stops for the new estates, including Bloor, Castle Green / on Viking Way and on the A34 to link to Macclesfield on the 38 route from Crewe. A proposal has been submitted to Cheshire East transport group for their consideration.
- The fitness trail on the Redrow development: this has been ongoing for a couple of years and has been slowed down by the takeover/merger of Barratt Redrow. This has finally come back on stream; work is progressing via the planning department of Redrow and will be built in approximately 8 months.
- A second de-fib is to be installed in Somerford Booths to give coverage to the surrounding area and the rural community. This is to be registered before the end of April. A bleed kit is also being added to the de-fib on the Redrow site.
- Speed watch has been set up on Giantswood Lane and, if anyone would like to join the team, Cllr John Spence will be organising further training. To add to this John is looking into a further speed watch site on Viking Way.

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- A litter pick group has been set up on the new Bloor development on Viking Way. There have been 3 meetings and picks along the Link Road, Viking Way and the nearby area with shops (Starbucks, Greggs, Aldi). There is an intention to develop this group into a residents group to include Neighbour Watch, and we are working with the Rotary to coordinate this, so we are not working to litter pick the same areas!

The Parish Council is looking into a meet and greet with the councillors in a more informal setting, outside of meetings. This may also help the residents with information flow and assist with the correct information being disseminated to the community. More information on this will follow.

Residents from Redrow contacted the Parish Council and we worked together to remove and amend many of the material changes which were proposed during the Redrow / Barratt handover. I think we can, at this moment, class this as a win.

The Parish Council is in the process of putting up boundary signs throughout the parish. This has been done after many other Parish Councils have already completed theirs. We believe the timing is correct due to the forthcoming election for the new Cheshire mayor and to further establish the Parish Council's identity.

On behalf of the community, I attended the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau at Crewe Town Hall. I also laid a wreath at the Congleton Cenotaph as part of the Remembrance Day commemorations, and Cllr. Spence laid a second wreath as part of the service held at Eaton Church, on the same day.

Next year (2027), the elections for the Cheshire Mayor will take place and powers will be devolved. What that means for Cheshire at this point is unknown -, however, the Parish Council will at some point start to receive information. I believe as of today there are 3 candidates, but more may be announced.

As we get closer to May 2027, if you wish to find out more, then contact the Parish Council and we will find out as much information as possible.

We do know that is that its highly likely that some authority will be passed down to Town and Parish Councils, but we do not know what these powers will be. The Parish Council are meeting with Congleton Town Council to stay informed on the matter.

Parish Council elections will also be held in Spring 2027.

I would like to add my personal thanks to all the Parish Councillors for all their hard work during the year. There are emerging and ongoing projects that take up time outside of meetings – all of them do much more than just attending the meeting every month and many of the Councillors also do other voluntary work outside of their Parish Council duties. I thank you for your work in the community.

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Finally, thanks go to our Clerk – nothing much happens without her and her hard work. She works for us and four other small Parish Councils in the surrounding area. Thank you Lizzie!

Thank you all for attending and listening and again thanks to Congelton Rotary.