Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths
Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18th June 2026 7.30pm, held at Eaton Community Hall

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Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

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

Absent:

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

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

84/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr. Gartside had sent apologies for absence.

85/26 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Spence declared his interest in planning application 26/1852/HOUS as this is his immediate neighbour.

86/26 To elect the Chairman for 2026 / 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Hill as Chairman for 2026 – 2027.

87/26 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 2026

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

88/26 To receive a report from the Cheshire East Councillor if present
Cllr. Wray was not present.

89/26 To discuss Councillor roles and responsibilities for 2026 / 2027
It was **RESOLVED** to approve Councillor roles and responsibilities as below.

- Cllr Hill – Chair, Human Resources, Developer / Business Relations, Parish Council Engagement, Community Defibrillator Project
- Cllr Wakerly – Vice Chair, Human Resources, Rural Matters, Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Bamping – Community Engagement
- Cllr Brown – Planning, Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Spence – Police / Community Liaison, Cross Parish Liaison
- Cllr Gartside – Education, Rural Matters, Nature

90/26 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda
26/2041/NMA – The Pheasantry, Giantswood Lane, Somerford Booths, Congleton, CW12 2JR – Non material amendment to approval 23/0440C
It was **RESOLVED** to not submit a comment.

26/1988/NMA – Mount Pleasant Farm, Giantswood Lane, Hulme Walfield, CW12 2JJ – Non material amendment to approved application 22/930C
It was **RESOLVED** to not submit a comment.

26/2117/FUL – Giantswood House, Giantswood Lane, Hulme Walfield, CW12 2JJ – Proposed demolition of existing buildings and construction of new residential dwellings and new holiday let accommodation
The Parish Council has no objections to this application and seeks to support new business (such as the holiday lets) wherever they can within the Parish. The only reservation that the Parish Council has relates to the rest of the land on this site and further potential developments in the wider area of ownership. The Parish Council would be keen to meet with the landowner to help better understand any wider plans for the land, leading to a constructive dialogue, and a development suited to the needs of current and potential new residents.
It was **RESOLVED** to submit the above comment.

91/26 To ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings
26/1852/HOUS – Sandhurst, Giantswood Lane, Hulme Walfield, CW12 2HH – Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of the property, with a pitched roof, skylights and new glazed doors
The Parish Council has no objections to this application.

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the above comment.

92/26 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:
BALANCE OF ACCOUNT= £39,194.61, as of 1st June 2026
Payments in italics were made after the last bank reconciliation.

PAYMENTS MADE	
Clerk Salary (April)	£330.34
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (April)	£26.00
ICO	£52.00
John Henry (internal audit)	£307.20
CHALC	£210.00
TCS Management	£64.80
Clerk Salary (May)	£329.94
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (May)	£26.00
Clerk Expenses (APM)	£14.80
Eaton and Hulme Walfield Garden Party	*£250.00*
M Wakerly Expenses (Hi Viz)	*£249.36*
PAYMENTS RECEIVED	
Precept	£8,025.00
VAT Refund 2025 – 2026	£1,063.65
Bank Interest	£2.82
PAYMENTS APPROVED	
Clerk Salary (June)	£329.94
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (June)	£26.00
M Wakerly Expenses (Litter pickers)	£99.95
HMRC	£719.42

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and sign the Bank Reconciliation.
Cllr. Spence that it had previously been resolved to over-print the Hi-vis jackets and tabards used for Speedwatch activities at the same time as those recently purchased for other activities Cllr. Wakerly will arrange for this.

93/26 To discuss reports of waste tipping on Giantswood Lane
The Parish Council has been made aware of a piece of land adjacent to Giantswood Lane on which the storage of unsightly materials is taking place. Cllr. Brown has discussed this informally with the resident, since which it has become tidier.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact Environmental Health and Planning Enforcement. Cllr. Brown will send the Clerk some images for her to pass on.

94/26 To discuss the planting of mature silver birch trees within the Parish, following the offer of a donation from a resident
Cllr. Wakerly gave the background to the offer. An update will be provided by Cllr. Gartside at the next meeting.

95/26 To receive an update on the installation of a further defibrillator within the Parish
The Somerford Booths defibrillator has now been installed. Cllr Wakerly is in the process of finding prices for signs to indicate the location of the defibrillator from the road. An update on this will be provided at the next meeting. The defibrillator will be included on the asset register, which will be amended when the other asset installation (of the boundary signs) has been completed.
The Council agreed that there are currently no plans for any further defibrillators within the Parish at this stage.
The Parish Council discussed additional first aid workshops – Cllr. Spence is aware that

Friends of Giantswood Lane considering supporting a training session to be run by British Lions. Cllr. Spence asked Cllr. Brown to mention this at the next Liaison Group meeting to see if there is interest from neighbouring parishes.
The Parish Council discussed bleed kits – Cllr. Wakerly will present a proposal for these at the next meeting. Cllr. Bamping will approach local organisations and see if any are willing to sponsor a bleed kit.

96/26 To discuss Parish Council marketing more widely, including Councillor outreach and surgeries
Cllr. Brown and Cllr. Hill believe that public engagement needs to be improved immediately. Cllr. Wakerly raised concerns regarding the Purdah period (a period of political impartiality, usually commencing 6 weeks before elections) and whether now was the right time to start – Cllr. Hill and Brown proposed that this was completed as trial and then could start formally next year. Cllr. Brown, Hill and Wakerly will create a proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

97/26 To receive and note the contents of the Vice Chair's Report
The Vice Chair had nothing to report, other than updates provided on other items within the meeting.

98/26 To receive and note reports from members
Cllr. Bamping – nothing to report

Cllr. Brown – Cllr. Brown discussed an issue relating to the footpath crossing point on Giantswood Lane. Cllr. Brown will liaise with Highways to progress this matter.

Cllr. Gartside – nothing to report

Cllr. Hill – Cllr. Hill attended another Bus Strategy meeting where the report relating to a potential bus route in Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths was resubmitted. Cheshire East Council to have a total of 4.1 million bus users across Cheshire East by 2031. 81% of buses run on time, with a target of 85% by 2031. There is a slow increase in taking passengers, and a slow trend of improvement relating to punctuality and customer satisfaction. The bus stations in Congleton and Macclesfield are due to be improved shortly.

Cllr. Spence – Cllr. Spence had heard a rumour that some of the Barrett Estate had now been taken over by Jones Homes. Cllr. Hill believes that this might refer to Lorris who have sold some of their Barn Road development to Jones.
Cllr. Spence is still awaiting an update regarding police approval for possible Speedwatch locations on Barn Road. He will liaise with the Police to try and pursue this
Cllr. Brown asked when Cllr. Spence was available to complete a community Speedwatch on Giantswood Lane. Cllr. Spence will send Cllr. Brown some dates.

99/26 Any other correspondence including what to include in the Parish Magazine
It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to submit a short article for the Parish Magazine confirming the installation of the defibrillator in Somerford Booths.
The Clerk reminded Councillors that she is away for a week in July on annual leave (w/c 13th July).

100/26 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 23rd July 2026