Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths
Parish Council

Final Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th September 2026, 7.30pm, held at Eaton Community Hall

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Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

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

Absent:

- Councillor Margaret Gartside
- Councillor Mark Hill

Public Forum
There were no members of the public present.

114/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence
Cllrs. Hill and Gartside had both sent apologies in advance of the meeting.

115/26 To receive any declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

116/26 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 2026
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

117/26 To receive a report from the Cheshire East Councillor if present
Cllr. Wray provided an update on waste collections. Missed collections have been due to operational issues – specifically, staff leaving and handover to new staff, and lack of vehicles. Cllr. Wray will continue to monitor the issue and liaise with Cheshire East to ensure this is resolved presently.

Cllr. Wray provided a brief update on the changes to planning committees.
Cllr. Brown asked if there was any feedback on the recycling offering within Congleton. Cllr. Wray said he had not heard any specific feedback.
Cllr. Brown fed back about an issue with a tree bough on Giantswood Lane. Cllr. Brown asked Cllr. Wray to feed back that the out of hours number for Cheshire East was difficult to find, and that the regular contact phone number (found on the Cheshire East website) and the police both appeared unaware of this number as both were unable to share with Cllr. Brown.

118/26 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:
26/0893/HOUS / Appeal Ref: 6015255 - SOMERFORD GRANGE Trap Road, Somerford Booths, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 2LT - Alterations to existing outbuilding, increase roof pitch, add doors and windows and first floor balcony to West

It was **RESOLVED** to not submit a comment to the above appeal.

119/26 To ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings
26/2754/HOUS - 17 Fieldfare Close, Congleton, Cheshire East, CW12 2GW - Erection of detached outbuilding for ancillary use to main dwelling
The Parish Council has no objections to this application, provided that the proposed dimensions are within the planning guidelines.

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

120/26 To consider increasing the Clerk's salary to SCP17 (£16.61/hour), following four year's employment by the Parish Council
It was **RESOLVED** to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP17.

121/26 To confirm that the Clerk's pay will increase in line with the new NALC pay-scale as of 1st October 2026
It was **RESOLVED** to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the new NALC pay-scale, as of 1st October.

122/26 To confirm back pay arrangements for the period 1st April – 30th September 2026
It was **RESOLVED** to award the Clerk back pay for the period 1st April – 30th September 2026.

123/26 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:
BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £36,620.56 (as of 1st September 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE	
Clerk Salary (July)	£329.94
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (July)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (Aug)	£329.94
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Aug)	£26.00
TCS Management	£67.50

Eaton Community Hall	£120.00

PAYMENTS RECEIVED
None

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Sept)	£428.70
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Sep)	£26.00
Eaton Community Hall	£120.00
Parishes Online (website)	£420.00
Wreaths x 2	£46.00
Clerk Training (LANTRA)	£180.00
Grit	£197.99
HMRC	£810.53
Plaque or certificate for Good Design Award	£100.00 budget
Refreshments for Councillor drop-in session	£50.00 budget

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

124/26 To discuss the planting of mature silver birch trees within the Parish, following the offer of a donation from a resident
Cllr. Wakerly provided a brief update on the history of the silver birch trees and how they have come to the Parish. This has now evolved from just a donation of the trees; the tree owner wishes to provide information about the trees' origin and some additional planting in the area around the trees.
The trees will be planted on the 9th October at the location agreed with Cllr. Gartside.
An update will be provided at the next meeting and Cllr. Wakerly will provide information on arrangements for the planting once these are known.

125/26 To discuss the implementation of the Good Design Award
Cllr. Brown has drafted a proposal for how the Good Design Award could be implemented.
It was **RESOLVED** to set aside £100 for a plaque or physical award.
Cllr Brown will present the paper and names of suggested first awardees at the October meeting

126/26 To discuss Parish Council marketing more widely, including Councillor outreach and surgeries
Councillors agreed in principle to trial the "drop-in" coffee shop conversations. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a £50.00 budget figure, to allow for purchase of hot drinks for attendees at the first meeting. More information will be provided on this at the next meeting.
Cllr. Brown suggested a brief video "This is what your Parish Council has done this month" to be produced after each meeting. This will be considered as Cllr. Hill and Cllr. Wakerly continue to consider wider communications.

127/26 To receive an update on the fitness trail
An update will be provided by Councillor Hill at the next meeting.

128/26 To receive an update on the Parish Council's assets, following their annual inspection

Cllr. Spence has completed an annual check of the assets and most are in good condition. Two Hi-Viz tabards could not be located by Cllr. Spence. Councillors were asked to check if they had these and return these to Cllr. Spence. Cllr. Wakerly is still in the process of getting the Hi-Viz items printed. An update on the printing will be provided at the next meeting.
Cllr. Spence also queried the location of the decibel meter – Councillors were also asked to check if they had this. Councillors believed this was in the possession of Cllr. Hill, but Cllr. Hill will confirm at the next meeting.
Cllr. Wakerly will assess the damaged bench (located near to the farm, on the corner of Sandy Lane) and decide if it can be repaired or needs to be replaced. Cllr. Wakerly will also assess the old boundary sign, located on Giantswood Lane, and see if the post needs to be replaced.
The asset register will be updated with the new defibrillator and the new boundary signs once these have been installed. An update on the boundary sign and defibrillator sign installation will be provided at the next meeting.

129/26 To consider the e-mail received from a resident, in relation to commercial vehicles accessing Alderley Gate Estate
Cllr. Hill has spoken with Redrow relating to this issue and the developer has agreed to change their Purchase Order system to see if this makes any difference. Early indications are that this has made a difference to residents but this will continue to be monitored.

130/26 To consider the e-mail received from a resident, relating to supply of grit within Somerford Booths and a potentially unsafe tree within Somerford Booths
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure of £197.99 on grit to stock the grit bins within the Parish over winter. This will be purchased by Councillor Wakerly, and a suitable receipt submitted to the Clerk.
Cllr. Wakerly will visit the tree and the resident that raised a complaint. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

131/26 To consider the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the purchase of two wreaths; one to be laid in Congleton, and one to be laid in Eaton. It was assumed the Cllr. Hill would attend the service in Congleton , but this will be confirmed at the next meeting.
Cllr. Spence is unable to attend the service in Eaton, so Cllr. Wakerly will attend instead. The Clerk will confirm this with the Churchwarden.

132/26 To receive and note the contents of the Chair's Report
Cllr. Wakerly provided a brief update on behalf of Cllr. Hill.
There has been a change of management at KFC, which led to some extractor fans being left on overnight, causing disruption to residents. Starbucks have also been taking overnight deliveries, again causing disruption to residents. Cllr. Hill is in the process liaising with KFC and Starbucks to ensure that this causes fewer issues in the future.
Bollards have been installed on the Bloor Estate to stop drivers accessing the site incorrectly.

133/26 To receive and note reports from members
Cllr. Bamping – nothing to report

Cllr. Brown – Cllr. Brown is in the process of moving house and will keep the Parish Council updated. Cllr. Brown asked for the Clerk to circulate the information received from Cllrs. in Macclesfield relating to the call for sites and scoping consultation.

Cllr. Gartside – nothing to report

Cllr. Spence – Cllr. Spence asked a question on the Local Plan Scoping Consultation, as a resident was concerned that they had not been consulted. The Clerk and Cllr. Wray confirmed that the Scoping Consultation had now closed, but further consultations on details will follow.
Cllr. Spence raised an issue regarding a light that is impacting on a resident, shining into their property. Cllr. Spence will first ascertain the location of the light and whether this is private or developer-owned. If it is developer-owned, Cllr. Spence will ask Cllr. Hill to liaise with the developer.
Cllr. Spence asked the Clerk to follow up the letter, sent to Castle Green in 2025, to progress the defib.
Cllr. Spence asked if there was any update on Giantswood House; Cllr. Wakerly is due to speak to the architect, and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
Cllr. Spence has obtained approval for a new Speedwatch Location on Barn Road. A new series of volunteers to cover this location will be trained on Saturday 19th October. Cllr. Spence is keen to train additional volunteers for both the Barn Road and Giantswood Lane teams. This will be raised at the first Councillor drop-in session, to see if any residents are interested.

Cllr. Wakerly – nothing to report.

134/26 Any other correspondence including what to include in the Parish Magazine
It was **RESOLVED** to include the latest press release in the next Parish Magazine.
The Clerk reminded Councillors that she is on annual leave from 4th – 11th October

135/26 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 22nd October 2026