Hulme Walfield
and Somerford Booths
Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22ND October 2026, 7.30pm, held at Eaton Community Hall

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Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

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

Absent: None

Public Forum
There were no members of the public present.

136/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence
There were no apologies for absence.

137/26 To receive any declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

138/26 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 2026
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

139/26 To receive a report from the Cheshire East Councillor if present
Cllr. Wray had attended a full Council meeting on Wednesday 14th October. The Peak Cluster pipeline has formally been opposed by Cheshire East Council, although the final decision will be made nationally.
A new interim Chief Executive has been appointed at Cheshire East, as the previous Chief Executive has retired due to ill health.

Cllr. Spence made Cllr. Wray aware of a scam e-mail which he had received and requested that he passed the message on to the relevant parties at Cheshire East. Cllr. Spence was concerned that other Councillors or residents could have received the same scam e-mail. Cllr. Wray confirmed that the last meeting of the Planning Committee at which Ward Councillors could call in applications for consideration had taken place.. This is part of the streamlining of the planning process.

140/26 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:
There were no planning applications to consider.

141/26 To ratify and approve any comments made on planning applications between meetings
There were no comments to ratify.

142/26 To receive the Q2 budget monitoring report and consider any amendments to be made
The Parish Council received the Q2 budget monitoring report and it was **RESOLVED** to make no amendments.

143/26 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:
BALANCE OF ACCOUNT = £42,616.16 (as of 1st October 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE	
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
HMRC	£810.53
PAYMENTS RECEIVED	
Precept	£8,025.00
Bank Interest	£1.83
PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED	
Clerk Salary (Oct)	£346.60
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Oct)	£26.00
TCS Management	£67.50
Mark Wakerly Expenses (grit)	£224.99
Mark Wakerly Expenses (defib signs)	£169.94
Kompan	£17,967.49

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

144/26 To discuss the planting of mature silver birch trees within the Parish, following the offer of a donation from a resident
The trees were planted earlier in October. Some additional planting will be sourced by the

residents and there will be an official opening in November. Cllr. Hill and Cllr. Wakerly will provide information on this to Councillors when details are confirmed. A press release has been drafted and will be issued after the opening has taken place.
Councillors discussed planting more widely – Cllr. Brown noted that several fruit trees in the community orchard have died due to the hot weather over summer. Councillors will revisit this in spring.
Councillors will also arrange for a plaque to be installed in the community orchard, confirming that the Parish Council manage this.

145/26 To discuss the implementation of the Good Design Award
This item was deferred to the November 2026 meeting.

146/26 To discuss Parish Council marketing more widely, including Councillor outreach and surgeries
The first 'coffee catch up / café' will take place on Saturday 28th November at Esquires 10.30am. Cllr. Wakerly is still in the process of working on marketing materials.

Cllr. Wakerly presented a suggestion for a digital noticeboard to the group. Cllr. Bamping and Cllr. Wakerly will work together on investigating if the Parish Council should proceed with this.

147/26 To receive an update on the fitness trail
Cllr. Hill has spoken to Kompan and to Redrow, and is in the process of arranging a site visit to progress this.

Kompan have increased the price of the equipment as the initial quote was accepted 18 months ago. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the new price (£14,972.91 excluding VAT, an increase of 5%). This is covered in the Parish Council's financial regulations as a continuation of an agreed contract as the original quotation was accepted by the Parish Council in June 2025. Installation is now estimated to be Q2 of 2027.

Cllr. Spence suggested that a future use of land within the Parish could be for a skate park / BMX area adjacent to the bypass. Councillors believe the land is owned by highways. Cllr. Wakerly will prepare an e-mail approaching Highways and the Clerk will send this once this has been approved.

148/26 To resolve queries raised at the meeting of September 2026 in relation to the Parish Council's assets
Cllr. Hill confirmed that the believed missing decibel meter was in his possession.

Cllr. Wakerly has the three hi-vis jackets plus one tabard used for speedwatch; Cllr. Hill is in possession of 16 tabards. There are three tabards outstanding – Cllr. Hill will speak to the volunteers and try to ascertain the whereabouts of these.

Cllr. Hill has 10 litter picking tools and 10 sack rings.

Cllr. Brown will pass his speedwatch equipment to Cllr. Spence.

There was no update on the assets which Cllr. Wakerly had offered to assess at the October meeting.

149/26 To receive and note the contents of the Chair's Report
Cllr. Hill shared an update regarding ongoing complaints about the noisy chillers at KFC. These were all replaced between 5th and 16th October and there have been no complaints since then.

Cllr. Hill met a group of c.20 people who had complaints about the bins not being emptied. The bins had been emptied on that morning.

There is a small community group forming which is doing a Neighbourhood Watch and litter picks.

Councillor Hill was asked about the land adjacent to Aldi and he has submitted a request to Cheshire East asking about any known planning permission. Cllr. Wakerly had found information suggesting that this could be converted to small business units. Cllr. Hill will provide an update when he's heard back from Cheshire East.

Cllr. Hill confirmed that it is Davenham Primary's Centenary in 2027. Cllr. Hill will attend as a Governor
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Cllr. Hill and Wakerly attended the CHALC AGM. Topics discussed were Devolution and changes to the planning system.

150/26 To receive and note reports from members
Cllr. Bamping – Cllr. Bamping has sent a letter to Sarah Russell, the MP, relating to concerns raised around sexual assaults and crime within the local area. Cllr. Bamping will share the response when this is received.

Cllr. Brown – Cllr Brown confirmed that he believes November 2026 will be his final meeting.

Cllr. Gartside – nothing to report

Cllr. Spence – Cllr. Spence has investigated the lamp that was reported as shining into windows of properties on Giantswood Lane. This appears to be a streetlamp which is reflecting off a white-painted gable end and is noticeably visible as it shines between two roofs. Cllr. Spence will forward the image on to Cllr. Hill, who will liaise with Redrow.
The speed watch training went ahead in October as planned. Four additional volunteers have now been trained and the PCSO has confirmed that all have now been registered. Cllr. Spence has been passed a copy of a letter, which volunteers can hand to any drivers who behave aggressively toward speed watch personnel. Cllr. Spence confirmed that the temporary suspension of Speed Watches that occurred approx. 3 years ago was due to speed watch volunteers apparently waving inappropriate signage at drivers who were recorded as exceeding the speed limit. Training of any new volunteers can now be carried out by Cllr. Spence but new

sites still need to be verified by the Police. Cllr. Spence plans to include practical training in future sessions. Cllr. Spence will liaise with volunteers to arrange dates on Giantswood Lane and Cllr. Hill will do the same for Barn Road.
Cllrs. Spence and Wakerly attended a meeting hosted by the PCC, Dan Price. A report on this meeting has been circulated. The subject of PCSO staffing levels is still being reviewed and there are concerns about larger areas being covered by fewer PCSOs, with Councils noting that PCSO presence has been reduced. Traditional crime appears to have fallen; online crime is still increasing, as this type of crime is apparently perceived as being less risky for the perpetrator. The PCC is working to reduce reoffending and rehabilitation, including training packages and apprenticeships. Cheshire Police are focussing on expanding their use of drones, as well as a campaign on water safety and reducing officer's administrative time.

Cllr. Wakerly – Cllr. Wakerly has shared a draft proposal for a PCC bursary, focussing on giving young people things to do. Cllr. Wakerly has completed a proposal suggestion, asking that water sports will be available for children who live in HWSB. Cllr. Wakerly will liaise with water sports organisations to progress this and the application will be approved by whole Council in November 2026.
Cllr. Wakerly provided an update on Giantswood House. The cattery is still operational and there are plans to build two holiday let / Air B and B properties. There are currently no plans for development of the land, due to the presence of woodland nearby. Cllr. Wakerly will draft a note to go to Friends of Giantswood Lane, who have raised questions on this.
Cllr. Wakerly visited the resident who complained about the oak tree. The current view, from Cheshire East, is that the risk of incident relating to the tree is within a tolerable range. This is being monitored by Cheshire East and the resident has been asked to contact the Parish Council if anything changes.

151/26 Any other correspondence including what to include in the Parish Magazine
It was **RESOLVED** to include the latest press release on grit bins in the next Parish Magazine.

152/26 To consider meeting dates for 2027
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the below dates, assuming the hall is available.
28th January
18th February
18th March
20th May (APM followed by APCM)
17th June
22nd July
23rd September
21st October
18th November

153/26 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 19th November 2026