Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th May 2026

Present

Councillors Jackson, Painter, Corlett, Sherry and Wilson.

In attendance:

G Parker (Parish Clerk), Councillor Mark Stocks (CWAC), Phil Hambleton (PCSO).

26.001 To elect a chair for 2026/27

Resolved that Councillor Painter be elected as Chair for 2026/27.

Proposed by Councillor Corlett
Seconded by Councillor Wilson

26.002 To elect a vice chair for 2026/27

Resolved that Councillor Binyon be elected as Vice Chair for 2026/27.

Proposed by Councillor Jackson
Seconded by Councillor Corlett

26.003 Apologies for absence

Councillors Binyon and Dutton.

26.004 To note declarations of members' interests

None.

26.005 Public Participation: -

None.

26.006 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

26.007 To receive the police reports.

Resolved that the police reports be noted.

26.008 To receive news from the Unitary Authority Councillors.

Resolved that the following updates provided by Councillor Stocks be noted including: -

1. Councillor Stocks thanked the Parish Council, particularly Councillor Jackson, for their support over the past year.
2. Agreement to contribute to the cost of procuring a solar speed sign.
3. Currently CWAC is in purdah because of an impending bye election.
4. Issues identified with speeding refuse vehicles will be raised with CWAC officers.
5. The proposed changes to and expansion of the Byley gas storage facility have a potentially detrimental impact on the Parish because of the expected increase in vehicle movements. The Peak Cluster project may have similar implications.
6. Reference to the recent decision on the Barn House planning application.
7. CWAC has a £200m highways programme to repair potholes.

26.009 Consideration matters required by the Standing Order 5j

Resolved that: -

i. The standing orders and financial regulations be approved and adopted.

ii. The inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment be approved.

iii. The arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks be confirmed and approved at £300.

iv. the schedule of the Council's and/or staff subscriptions to other bodies be approved.

v. the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council be approved.

26.010 To receive updates regarding progress with the Parish Plan

Workstream 1

The last Speed Watch session was completed on 13th March, with 22 vehicles being noted above the speed limit (above 35mph). This included two Cheshire East bin lorries. This was passed onto Phil Hambleton PCSO. 5 sessions have been completed in the last twelve months.

Liaison with Cllr Harrison regarding the village gateway sign on Plumley Moor Road is ongoing.

Workstream 3 Public Realm

- The Parish Clerk is looking at prices for the Solar speed sign for inclusion in the grant claim for Councillor Stocks' member budget.
- The order has been placed for the replacement bench at Tree of imagination and we are now awaiting delivery.
- Discussion regarding an additional village bench decided not to pursue this idea.
- Discussion regarding Village sign concluded that a new sign be procured.

Resolved that: -

1. the updates on the Parish Plan be noted.
2. the logs regarding speeding refuse freighter be submitted to Cheshire East Council.
3. the proposal to provide an additional village bench be declined.
4. Quotations for a new village sign for Smithy Green be sought.

26.011 To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

Councillor Jackson reported that: -

- The initial meeting with the consultant had been extremely positive.
- The timescale is estimated at two years.
- The next steps are to
    - redesignate the Neighbourhood Are with CWAC and CEC
    - then initiate the consultation phase.
- Additional Neighbourhood Planning guidance has recently been issued.
    - The Neighbourhood Plan must provide for at least the amount of housing as allocated in the Local Plan(s)
    - The Parish Council should designate a development area in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will from now on be chaired by Councillor Binyon.

Resolved that: -

1. the Planning Authorities be contacted to redesignate the Neighbourhood Area
2. proceeding to the consultation stage be approved.

26.012 Finance

Resolved that: -

a. The Receipts and Payments to 31st March 2026 be noted.

b. The payments due of £357.20 be approved and £20 to Lower Peover Primary School whose invoice was received after publication of the agenda.
c. The budget and expenditure to 31st March 2026 be noted.
d. The schedule of regular payments for 2026/27 be approved.
e. The year end bank reconciliation be approved.
f. The Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 be received and noted and the responses to the audit issues identified be approved.
g. Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2026/27 be noted.
h. Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 be approved and signed.
i. Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025/26 be noted.
j. Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025/26 be approved and signed.
k. The criteria for exemption from external auditor review be noted.
l. The authority meets the criteria for exemption from limited assurance review and wishes to be certified exempt for the year 2025/26.
m. The exemption certificate be approved and signed.
n. The proposed dates for the exercise of public rights from Wednesday 3 June to Tuesday 14 July 2026 be noted.
o. No decisions yet be made on the allocation of the CIL allocation of £4708 received in April 2026.

26.013 Planning.

To consider the latest planning applications (attached).

Application Number: 24/5073/FUL
Proposal: Demolition of existing warehouse and erection of four detached dwellings
Location: HEESOM GREEN STOCK FARM Middlewich Road, Toft, Knutsford, Cheshire East, WA16 9PQ

Resolved that the Parish Council's comments submitted in July 2025 be resubmitted.

26.014 To approve the Risk Register for 2026/27.

Resolved that the Risk Register for 2026/27 be approved.

26.015 To consider room hire for future meetings.

Resolved that: -

1. A request be submitted to reduce the proposed increase in hire charges in recognition that the Parish Council is a community organisation.

2. A further request be submitted that the facilities provided be of a better standard by proving full size tables and chairs.

26.016 To approve the Publication scheme.

Resolved that the Publication scheme be approved.

26.017 To consider mobile phone requirements for Gov.notify

Resolved that a mobile phone account be set up for the Parish Council to facilitate the implementation of gov.notify.

26.018 Matters for the next agenda.

Resolved that: -

- update from the Neighbourhood Plan working group.
- room hire for future meetings.
- Litter Pick
- Arrangements for Christmas event
- Newsletter
- Update on requirements for Gov.notify.

be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.

26.019 Future Meetings.

Resolved that the date for the next meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 8th July 2026 be noted.

Signed