



Final Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.30pm at Siddington Village Hall

Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

- Cllr. D. Billington
- Cllr. B. Carbutt
- Cllr. S. Forster
- Cllr. D. Furness
- Cllr. A. Meadowcroft
- Cllr. Peter Wain
- Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

1590 To elect the Chairman for 2025 / 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Meadowcroft to the role of Chairman.

Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

1591 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr. Paul Wain and Cllr. Barbara Smart had sent their apologies in advance of the meeting.

1592 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1593 To elect the Vice Chairman for 2025 / 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Peter Wain to the role of Vice Chairman.

1594 To receive and resolve the [minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 25th March 2025](#)

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

1595 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2025

Signed

Dated

Prior to Cllr. Smetham's arrival, Councillors discussed Devolution and resolved to ask

Ward Councillor Smetham for an update and whether a consultation for Parish Councils and members of the public will be made available, when the plans are more developed. The Parish Council were aware of an initial consultation but feel that, when plans are more developed, a second consultation for members of the public would be valuable. Cllr. Smetham expects that Devolution will go ahead and that elections for the Mayor will take place next year. She expects that this will act as the consultation, and that there will be no formal consultation for Parish Councils or members of the public. Clarity around the role is lacking, and much information is still to be revealed.

Cheshire East Council are completing restructuring in several departments to save costs across the local Council. The annual meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th May.

Assets of Cheshire East are being sold – this includes the offices in Sandbach centre and the outskirts of Sandbach. These will be converted into a Special Educational Needs school, but within a different, repurposed department.

The Parish Council confirmed that the siding out has been completed and thanked Cllr. Smetham for her hard work in making that happen.

1596 To receive the [internal audit report for 2024 / 25](#) and, if applicable, to discuss any recommendations and improvements to be made

Thanks were extended by the Parish Council to the Clerk for her hard work throughout the year. The Parish Council has received a “clean bill of health” from the auditor and has taken a lot of work.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft response and to adopt the recommendations. The reserves will be reviewed in Autumn, the asset register will be reviewed once the new road signs are installed and the variance report has already been completed by the Clerk and published onto the website.

1597 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024 / 25 of the AGAR

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this and for the Chair and Clerk to sign.

1598 Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024 / 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this and for the Chair and Clerk to sign.

1599 Certificate of Exemption 2024 / 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this and for the Chair and Clerk to sign.

1600 To confirm the [Public Inspection Period \(Notice of Public Rights\)](#)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Public Inspection Period would commence on 3rd June.



1601 To review and adopt [Standing Orders](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders. Cllr. Forster noted that the Standing Orders referred to a data protection policy. The Clerk noted this and will draft a policy ahead of the next meeting.

1602 To review and adopt [Financial Regulations](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations.

1603 To adopt the General Power of Competence for 2025 / 2026, providing the Council is still eligible

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence for 2025 / 2026, as the Parish Council still has two thirds elected members, and a suitably qualified Clerk.

1604 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[25/0707/FUL](#) – Land At Henshaw Lane, Siddington, Cheshire East – Agricultural Access Track

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to object to the application.

The Parish Council note that the planning application details that “washed hardcore” would be used and that, specifically, the intended finish is stated as agricultural track, despite the planning application supporting images showing a layer of tarmac. There is a history of retrospective planning applications on the site. The Parish Council would ask that Planning investigate these matters and ensure that suitable materials (clean and uncontaminated) and an appropriate track finish for the intended use are used / installed.

Egerton Timber Yard – planning refusal

There was no update on Egerton Timber Yard.

The Parish Council also discussed application [25/1276](#), which they had not received notice of through the Planning Portal. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair and Vice Chair would review this and would draft a comment for submission.

1605 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting.

There were no comments to ratify.

1606 To consider Councillor roles and responsibilities for 2025 / 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the same roles and responsibilities as last year, barring the Chair and Vice Chair roles, which have been allocated as per the above items.

HR – Cllr. Peter Wain and Cllr. Meadowcroft

Finance – Cllr. Peter Wain and Cllr. Meadowcroft



Communities / Village Matters – Cllr. Furness
Highways (2 Councillors) – Cllr. Paul Wain and Cllr. Billington
Planning (2 Councillors) – Cllr. Forster and Cllr. Smart
Rural Matters incld. Policing – Cllr. Carbutt and Cllr. Peter Wain

1607 To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

The bench has been repaired and will be collected shortly. The price is still to be confirmed but once this has been done, it will be bought to the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Meadowcroft will purchase a plaque with the word “In memory of all those for who this was a special place – Siddington Parish Council.” It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with this at a price of £40.00 from a local supplier. This will be reclaimed via the Chair’s expenses.

The boundary signs are still to be installed, depending on the workload of the installer. The footpaths are all sided out – the worst pieces have been completed. The weed spraying will take place later this spring.

Following discussions at the last meeting, there is already a “no littering sign” in the lay by that was noted as having particularly bad litter. It was **RESOLVED** to spend £25.00 on one A4 sign to display in the layby. Neither presented design was considered suitable – a simple black and white sign will be procured. Cllr. Meadowcroft will confirm the pricing and will arrange for a pro-forma to be sent through the Clerk.

Councillors decided that they would not install any litter bins, as this seems to make the problem of litter worse within the Parish. Marton Parish Council had offered to install bins alongside Siddington to try and share the cost – Cllr. Meadowcroft will confirm with the Chair of Marton that Siddington are not interested in this.

Councillors noted that several injured and dead ducks have been spotted near Redesmere. Cllr. Meadowcroft will discuss the matter with John Denwood and will provide an update at the next meeting.

1608 To discuss an offering from Cheshire Wildlife Trust

The Council discussed the offering from the Wildlife Trust that had been presented to the liaison group meeting. One option presented was a detailed survey, to discuss wildlife corridors, and this would have had a cost of £1,800 approximately. It was **RESOLVED** to not proceed with this.

It was **RESOLVED** to get a high-level survey completed by the Wildlife Trust, which will be free of charge for all interested Parish Councils. Cllr. Meadowcroft will formally register the Parish Council’s interest in proceeding with the free survey.

1609 To discuss litter bins within the Parish

This was discussed above, under the Village Maintenance Projects.

1610 To review and approve the Council’s insurance policy for 2025 – 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the insurance policy for 2025 – 2026, with the Parish Council’s approval.

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Signed

Dated



1611 To consider the proposed rate increase from TCS Management
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the rate increase to TCS management.

1612 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT – £11,386.44

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (March)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (March)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (April)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (April)	£26.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (May)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (May)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (June)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (June)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (July)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (July)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (August)	£95.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (August)	£26.00
CHALC Membership	£111.54
Zurich	£214.00
TCS Management	£61.92
TCS Management	£64.80
Shona Amies (website support Q1)	£210.00
John Henry (Internal Audit)	£284.40
HMRC	£189.60 (exact amount TBC)
Arien Signs	£25.00 (budget)
Siddington Village Hall (meeting hire)	£25.00

RECEIPTS

Interest (March)	£15.38
Interest (April)	£14.51
Precept (First Payment)	£2,250.00

[Bank Reconciliation \(year opening\)](#) and [Bank Reconciliation \(end April\)](#) to be signed by the Chair.

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Signed

Dated



It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and for the Chair to sign the Bank Reconciliations.

1613 To discuss any outstanding action points from the last meeting, not covered elsewhere in discussions

Cllr. Furness will find a quotation for the powder coating of the milestone. Cllr. Wain will investigate the land ownership of Redesmere. All other actions from the March meeting have been completed.

1614 Any other correspondence

Cllr. Meadowcroft will attend a call tomorrow to hear about Cheshire East's new reporting platform, Trace (which will replace FixMyStreet).

1615 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 29th July 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to add an additional meeting to the calendar, subject to the availability of the hall.

Action Points

- Clerk to submit signed AGAR to external auditor.
- Clerk to send Public Rights Notice to Cllr. Meadowcroft, for display in the noticeboard before 27th May 2025.
- Clerk to draft Data Protection Policy, ahead of the next meeting
- Cllr. Meadowcroft to purchase a suitable plaque, for installation on the repaired bench. • Cllr. Meadowcroft / Clerk to procure one "no littering" sign, for display in the layby.
- Cllr. Meadowcroft to confirm with Marton Parish Council that Siddington Parish Council have no plans to install litter bins.
- Cllr. Meadowcroft to raise the issue of dead ducks (as a result of collisions with vehicles), within the Parish, with Highways.
- Cllr. Meadowcroft to formally register the Parish Council's interest in taking part in the free offering from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.
- Cllr. Furness to find a quotation for the powder coating of the milestone.
- Cllr. Peter Wain to investigate the land ownership of Redesmere.
- Clerk to check if Village Hall is available for additional meeting – 29th July 2025.