

## Final Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

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### Part 1: Public and press present

Present:

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

### Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

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**1647 To receive and approve apologies for absence** An apology was received from Peter Wain.

**1648 To receive any declarations of interest** There were no declarations of interest.

**1649 To receive and resolve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held September 2025**

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

**1650 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.**

Cllr. Smetham was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a brief written report: The Green Party have won the central by-election. Cheshire East is struggling for Children

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Signed

Dated

and Families funding, which continues to struggle with high levels of outgoings. PCSOs are to be reduced in number and the service revised.

### **1651 To receive an update on Village Maintenance Projects**

Following on from the siding out work completed in 2025 and our discussions around increasing the frequency of weedkiller spraying to twice a year. Pete Davies has confirmed he's able to accommodate this.

Thanks were extended to the Clerk's husband, who worked with the Chair to complete installation of various signs around the village. The Lower Withington boundary sign has now been re-sited on the other side of the road following a request by Highways. Councillor Furness has obtained a quote for the powder coating of the milestone and village sign – it was noted that several businesses had been contacted and had refused or had gone out of business. However, a business in Cheadle is willing to undertake the work and have quoted in the region of £280. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget figure of £300 for the powder coating to be undertaken.

### **1652 To receive an update on Highways, including siding out work**

The crossroads in Siddington have been noted by residents as dangerous due to lack of markings. The work is still planned to be undertaken in this financial year, and an update has been put onto the Parish Council website.

There is no update regarding the Monk's Heath footpath. Cllr. Smetham has raised this with Cheshire East and is continuing to pursue this. An update will hopefully be available at the January meeting.

Regarding motorhomes parking at Redesmere, the Clerk had contacted the police. The police have confirmed that they cannot enforce the matter if there are no parking rules in place. Cheshire East are currently reluctant to introduce a parking restriction as there is no evidence of anti-social behaviour or any negative impact of overnight parking. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk were to put a notice on the website, saying that the Parish Council are not aware of issues regarding motorhomes parking overnight at Redesmere and that any anti-social behaviour should be recorded and sent to the Clerk. Cllr. Smart will also ask the local neighbourhood watch to monitor this.

Councillor Peter Wain has placed a comment on TRACE highlighting the issue with queuing traffic leading up to the traffic lights at Monks Heath. There were already two similar comments. There are several comments on TRACE highlighting the issues with traffic in the village leading up to the traffic lights. There is no response to any of the comments on the website. Councillor Wain will check to ensure a response is received. Flooding on the A34 is an ongoing problem. The Parish Council have flagged the issue with Cheshire East Highways on numerous occasions. They are fully aware of the issue and accept that it requires an extensive programme of works to resolve the issue. There is currently no capital budget available and so they are only able to provide a temporary fix by clearing the silt build up from the soak away tanks. We know this provides only limited benefit and is therefore far from ideal. It therefore remains a risk to road users

during heavy rain. We will continue to consult with Highways to ensure the matter remains live.

**1653 To receive an update on the Parish Council Liaison Group**

The Liaison Group had discussed planning applications and issues with the Planning Portal. The group have submitted a letter to the Head of Planning regarding this (via Councillor Smetham) and an update should be provided in January 2025. The Liaison Group had also discussed flyposting. There are no current issues in Siddington, but the Parish Council will monitor this.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust have commenced their desktop study, and an update will be provided at the next liaison group meeting in February.

TRACE was discussed - it would appear not all old records were imported.

Several Parish Councils are struggling with Councillor recruitment and are concerned ahead of the elections in 2027. Cllr. Meadowcroft thanked Councillors for their hard work and says he hopes to continue to work with them ahead.

**1654 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:**

There were no planning applications. Cllr. Smetham is continuing to liaise with Enforcement on the timber yard; there has been no further update.

**1655 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting.**

There were no comments submitted.

**1656 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment**

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT (as of 31<sup>st</sup> October) - £9,699.57

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (Sept)	£98.40
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Sept)	£26.00
Siddington Village Hall	£45.00
Pete Davies (maintenance)	£284.40
HMRC	£202.40
A Meadowcroft Expenses (Arien/RSD)	£385.20
Mark Hall	£30.00
A Meadowcroft Expenses (Shenton's)	£30.00
Clerk Salary (Sept)	£98.00
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Sept)	£26.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

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Powder coating of milestone (budget)	£300.00
Clerk Salary (November)	£98.00
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Nov)	£26.00
Clerk Salary (December)	£98.00
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Dec)	£26.00
Siddington Village Hall	£25.00
TCS Management	£64.80
Clerk Salary (Jan)	£98.00
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Jan)	£26.00
HMRC	£202.40

#### RECEIPTS

Precept (second payment)	£2,250.00
Interest (end Sept)	£12.68
Interest (end October)	£11.90

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Bank Reconciliation and approve the above payments. It was noted that the payment to Mark Hall was an emergency payment, related to Health and Safety of residents in the village. The Parish Council noted the Q2 budget report and **RESOLVED** to make no amendments. There is an overspend in maintenance, but the Parish Council are aware of these costs.

#### **1657 To discuss any amendments to be made to the Parish Council's reserves**

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following changes to reserves:

- To increase RES002 (Village Maintenance) by £1,000.00 to now total £3,000.00

#### **1658 To formally review, and resolve to adopt, the budget for 2026 – 2027**

Cllr. Meadowcroft outlined the budget. Most of the costs that are increasing are likely to be inflationary costs (Clerk salary, insurance, payroll etc.) – the challenge of running a small budget is that inflationary costs can hit the Parish Council harder than other larger Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget with no amendments.

#### **1659 To discuss and approve the Council precept application for 2026 – 2027**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a precept application of £4,900.00 for 2026 – 2027. It was noted that this level of precept continues to leave only a modest annual surplus after our necessary expenses but there remain sufficient reserves to call upon to undertake necessary additional works. The intention is that over time the reserves can be slowly replenished

#### **1660 To appoint the Council's internal auditor for the 2026 audit**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint John Henry as the auditor at a price of £250 + VAT.



### **1661 Any other correspondence**

The latest check of the defibrillator has been completed. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Forster for doing this.

Cllr. Smart noted that the noticeboard needs some maintenance as the door is hard to open and has partially sealed shut. This will be completed ahead of the next meeting. The railings opposite the mill may need some maintenance in the near future; this will be considered at the January Parish Council meeting.

Lapland will be discussed in January – following the closure of the event. To date, there has been no feedback from residents and Councillors have noted only the occasional traffic queue and the extensive lighting visible from the A34

Dan Price, the Police and Crime Commissioner, has sent several e-mails. The first one noted that the PCC role will be retired in 2028 and the second one was relating to the reduction of PCSOs in Cheshire.

Cllr. Meadowcroft will complete the CHALC survey on future planning.

### **1662 To consider moving the April meeting, to better coincide with the end of the financial year**

It was **RESOLVED** to move the following two meetings to the below dates:

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **1663 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

#### **Action Points**

- Cllr. Furness will arrange for the powder coating of the milestone to be completed.
- The Clerk will post an update on the website, relating to motorhomes at Redesmere.
- Cllr. Smart will liaise with the neighbourhood watch, regarding motorhomes at Redesmere.
- Cllr. Meadowcroft will draft an update on the A34 and this will be published on the website by the Clerk.
- The Clerk will update the reserves and publish on the website.
- The Clerk will confirm John Henry as the internal auditor for spring 2026.
- The Clerk will confirm the changes to meeting dates with the Village Hall.
- All Councillors to consider what projects / improvements could be undertaken in 2026 – to be discussed at the February meeting.