

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 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. B. Smart
- Cllr. Paul Wain
- Cllr. Peter Wain
- Cllr. L. Smetham – Ward Councillor
- Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

Public Forum

One member of the public was present.

An issue was raised, again, regarding the safety of a hedge within the Parish (on the boundary between Siddington and Lower Withington). This has been passed on to John Denwood in Highways, to the Ward Councillor (Cllr. Smetham) and to Cheshire East by FixMyStreet. The owners have also been contacted.

The hedge is on the boundary between Siddington and Lower Withington. Lower Withington Parish Council has also been contacted by the member of the public. Cllr. Smetham confirmed that the liability depends on ownership. She will raise this through member enquiries if there is no response.

It was **RESOLVED** by Councillors that the Clerk would write to the Lower Withington Clerk with a copy of the letter that has been sent and confirming the actions had been taken. Councillor Smetham will report to Member Enquiries in roughly one week.

1535 To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

1536 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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Signed

Dated

1537 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes for the meeting of 28th May 2024](#)

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

1538 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Councillor Smetham shared that some new traffic lights would be installed in Gawsorth later in the year. This has taken several years to progress and is due, in part, to a bursary from the previous Government. Cheshire East is still financially struggling; there is an unofficial embargo on spending, although some ring-fenced projects are still taking place.

Cllr. Meadowcroft asked regarding the background of Highways decision to send out a customer satisfaction survey when funds are so low and could be better directed; Councillor Smetham noted this comment, but did not have a response to this.

1539 To receive updates on village maintenance projects (railings, bench) and painting of the lake platform

The railings have now been repaired and painted. The Clerk has processed the pre-agreed payments as agreed by Councillors early on this year. Councillors agreed that this is best completed approximately every five years, so the Council will revisit this again when setting the budget for financial year 2028 – 2029.

A local joinery firm has been contacted to repair the damaged village bench and an update will be given at the November meeting.

The boundary signs have all been delivered. The Siddington sign at Capesthorne has been knocked down by a driver and this has been reclaimed via the insurance. The new sign will be installed by Peter Davies, at a time to be confirmed. It was **RESOLVED** to approve this, as well as Pete's quotation for installation of the other signs.

1540 To receive an update on the Village First Aid meeting

This is arranged for the 16th October and will be advertised in the Parish Magazine. Cllr. Forster asked if any Councillors knew of anyone with a projector and screen – Councillors will make enquiries. The event starts at 7pm and will last for approximately 2 hours. There is no ticketing for this event, so all individuals are welcome. The Clerk will add this event to the Parish Council website as well.

Councillors commended Cllr. Forster for her hard work in arranging the event.

1541 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

[24/3183D](#) – Hazelwall Cottage, Pexhill Road, Siddington – Discharge of Conditions re: the construction of domestic stables

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a comment of no objections.

[24/3279M](#) - Henshaw Hall, HENSHAW LANE, SIDDINGTON, SK11 9JW - Demolition of existing domestic high-bay outbuilding and replacement building (garage, covered bays)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a comment of no objections.

1542 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting.

[24/2412M](#) – Capesthorne Hall, Congleton Road, Siddington – listed building consent
The Parish Council would like to support this application as it is helping to preserve a key historical asset in our Parish.

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

Councillor Meadowcroft asked the Clerk to add the timber yard to the next agenda as the appeal against the Enforcement Notice remains outstanding at the Planning Inspectorate.

1543 To [review the Council's budget](#) (through to 31st July 2024 – end of Quarter 1) and consider any amendments to be made to the budget

Councillors noted the budget. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should count the village maintenance projects completed this year (painting of railings, fence etc.) as exceptional spend and should remove these from the Q1 report. The Clerk will complete this and will re-circulate to Councillors.

The final Q1 budget report is attached here - [link](#)

1544 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE - £7,900.54

PAYMENTS MADE

£59.40	TCS Management (payroll) – due 1st May
£59.40	TCS Management (payroll) – due 1st August
£214.00	Zurich Insurance
£180.00	Shona Amies – three months website support
£350.00	Shona Amies – initial charge for website build
£108.68	CHALC Membership
£446.40	Peter Davies – village maintenance (spraying)
£270.00	Internal Audit Charge – John Henry
£91.00	HMRC – Q1 – due end June
£121.36	Clerk Salary – end May
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end May
£121.36	Clerk Salary – end June
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end June
£91.36	Clerk Salary – end July
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end July
£91.36	Clerk Salary – end August
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end August
£22.50	Village Hall Hire
£896.16	Midland Signs
£2,500.00	Nick Martin (Painting)
£23.80	Andy Meadowcroft Expenses

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Signed

Dated

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

£181.20	HMRC – Q2 – due end September
£91.36	Clerk Salary – end September
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end September
£91.36	Clerk Salary – end October
£26.00	Clerk Homeworking Allowance – end October
£25.00	Siddington Village Hall – hire for extraordinary meeting
£25.00	Siddington Village Hall – hire for September meeting
£70.00	Training for Barbara Smart and Sharon Forster (Planning)
£360.00	Pete Davies – installation of new signs – budget cost
£120.00	Pete Davies - installation of sign (damaged via insurance)

RECEIPTS

£47.77	Bank Interest (four months)
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[Bank Reconciliation](#) to be reviewed and signed by the Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments. The Clerk noted that the VAT claim had been submitted, although the timeline to get this, is around 5 – 6 months. The funds will be expected in around March 2025.

1545 Any other correspondence

Including e-mail from resident regarding placement of a plaque on a bench within the Parish (specifically, near to the Lake)

The Clerk noted correspondence regarding the placement of a plaque. Councillors said that their previous policy has been to ask individuals to fund a bench on which a plaque could be placed. The Clerk will contact the individual to see if this is of interest. Councillors discussed the need to formalise this; the Clerk will circulate a draft policy. Councillors will discuss this at the next meeting.

Councillors asked Cllr. Smetham to apply for the Cheshire East budget for footpath clearance / tree pruning alongside the A34. Councillors will need to submit a plan to Cllr. Smetham to assist with the application. This will be completed by Cllr. Peter Wain.

It was noted that Cllr. Wain has been in touch with John Denwood regarding some other maintenance within the Village.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Meadowcroft will move open a 35-day notice account and will transfer in a year's precept (£4,000). This will allow the Council to take note of better interest rates.

1546 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 26th November 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to move the meeting to Part B to discuss a confidential matter.





Action Points

- Cllr. Peter Wain will send the Clerk sent to the local landowner re: the hedge. The Clerk will contact the Lower Withington Clerk to discuss the hedge located on the boundary.
- The Clerk will add the details of the First Aid Event to the Parish Council website.
- The Clerk will amend the Q1 budget and will re-circulate to Councillors.
- The Clerk will contact the individual re: the donation of a bench.
- The Clerk will circulate the memorials policy as used by another local Council.
- Cllr. Peter Wain will submit an application to Cllr. Smetham for funds to improve the footpaths in the Parish.