

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5th November

Members: Cllr. C Van Weerdenburg (Chair), Cllr. S Waltho (Vice Chair), Cllr. C Harrison, Cllr. I Goodwin, Cllr. N Thorpe, Cllr. S. Cook

Clerk of the Council: Elizabeth Worrall

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The minutes can be accessed by application to the above or the website
<http://www.eatoncheshire.co.uk/>

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There will be an opportunity for public participation at the start of the meeting at the discretion of the Chairman. This period will last for no longer than 15 minutes.

There were no members of the public present.

2026 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies had been received by Cllr. M Cohen.

2027 To receive any declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

2028 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the meeting held September 2024](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes. Councillors asked the Clerk for a longer period (1 week) to review the minutes, following Press interest in some of the affairs of the Parish Council, and to allow all Councillors to review the minutes prior to the Draft Minutes being published.

Note: The minutes were signed by Cllr. Waltho as Cllr. Van Weerdenburg was running late.

2029 To review and adopt [Standing Orders](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders. These will be reviewed by all members and discussed more formally in January 2025.

2030 To review and adopt [Financial Regulations](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations. The Clerk will prepare the Financial Risk Assessment ahead of the meeting in January 2025 for the Council to review.

2031 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

Cllr. Smetham shared a financial update regarding Cheshire East's Finances. The Boundary Commission Consultation was discussed, specifically the south end of the Ward changing to potentially include Hulme Walfield. It is being suggested by Cheshire East that parishes will cover their own election costs; this could be a potential charge to consider in the future.

2032 To discuss the Ward budget and possible applications for this.

The Ward budget was discussed with Cllr. Smetham. Councillors discussed various footpaths that could be sided out using the budget. The Clerk will re-circulate Councillor Smetham's e-mail. Following this, Councillors will decide actions to be taken.

2033 To receive an update on broadband and digital provision within the village.

Cllr. Cook has contacted Cheshire East Digital for an update. The fibre connections are still due to be delivered to Eaton. They have appointed BD UK to manage this – the likely installation date is 2027. Cheshire East Digital are hoping to use temporary technology to help households access fibre temporarily. An update will be provided to Cllr. Cook as this progresses.

2034 To receive an update on known flooding and drainage issues within the village and discuss any new occurrences

There were no updates; it was noted that the weather has been relatively dry. There has been one issue with flooding in a farmer's field, but the farmer has been made aware of this by a neighbour. Cllr. Smetham confirmed that individuals have the responsibility to maintain any drains that are on their land and Cllr. Waltho shared some of the history of the flooding within the village with Cllr. Smetham. The fire hydrant is now fixed and no longer "gushes" after heavy rain; the concern from the residents is the uncertainty to the end location of the water (i.e. when it comes out of the hydrant, where does the water go?)

2035 To consider the Council's response, if any, to the Boundary Commission Consultation

After discussion, the Parish Council decided not to submit a comment.

2036 To consider the Council's response, if any, to Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a brief comment of support stating: *"Eaton Parish Council support Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan and particularly support the policy for developing brown field sites within the town."*

2037 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

There were no planning applications to comment on. Cllr. Waltho made Cllr. Smetham aware of a potential Planning Enforcement issue; Cllr. Smetham will investigate this and will provide a further update at the next meeting.

2038 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting:

There were no comments to ratify.

2039 To receive an update on boundary signs and whether the Council will seek to gain quotations and install them in the near future

Cllr. Waltho has no update from Highways regarding a site visit to select suitable sites. Councillors felt that, given the lack of authorisation for suitable sites, they would not increase the Precept to cover the costs of these signs. They will continue to seek authorisation from Highways, and, if needed, will cover the cost of these from their reserves.

2040 To receive an update on the Parish Council's liaison with the Plough Inn, including related liaison with the Police and Cheshire East Council

Cllr. Cook and Cllr. Waltho were invited to a meeting with one of the Directors of The Plough. The meeting was felt to be very positive. The Plough have taken expert advice and are placing the speakers on acoustic mats to try and avoid sound and vibrations travelling through the ground. Cllr. Cook is now liaising with the Director, and the resident DJ, who have run some informal decibel testing to help them better understand at what level the noise starts to affect residents. Further discussions may be had as to how to manage this with live bands and external DJs. Cllrs. Cook and Waltho will continue to liaise with The Plough on this.

2041 To receive an update on village maintenance (including Council owned asset maintenance)

Some small items of maintenance have been completed by Cllr. Harrison including the removal of the bench. There is a small list of slightly more onerous work to be completed. Cllr. Waltho and the Clerk will continue to liaise with TARMAC on this. A web form has been compiled using Google Forms by Cllrs. Harrison, Waltho and Thorpe and has been written in such a way to ensure that suitable comments are included. A set of guidance notes is still being compiled by Cllr. Harrison, intentionally following the format of the ROSPA report.

A short briefing meeting, and to allow the Clerk to meet the volunteers, will take place in December 2024 or early January 2025. The Clerk and Cllr. Harrison will liaise on availability.

A further update will be supplied at the next meeting in January 2025.

2042 To receive an update on the Council's ongoing liaison with Tarmac

The Clerk has still not managed to get the minutes approved of the last Liaison Group meeting, which took place in June. The Clerk will e-mail TARMAC, to chase approval of the minutes and to set up a date for the January 2025 meeting.

2043 To review the [Council's budget for 2024 - 2025](#), through to the end of Quarter 2

The budget monitoring document was noted by Councillors and it was **RESOLVED** that no amendments were needed.

2044 To review the [budget for 2025 – 2026](#)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget, with some minor amendments.

2045 To resolve the precept amount for 2025 – 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a precept of £5,600.00.

2046 To consider the appointment of the internal auditor for 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Adam Keppel-Green as the internal auditor, provided he can arrange a remote audit with the Clerk.

2047 To consider updating the Clerk's pay to be in line with the NALC payscale at pay point SCP12

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this.

2048 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT

£10,028. 36 as of November 1st 2024

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (Sept)	£188.24
Clerk Expenses Allowance (Sept)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (Oct)	£188.24
Clerk Expenses Allowance (Oct)	£13.00
Stephen Oakes Maintenance	£150.00
Clerk's Expenses (Wreath)	£50.00
HMRC	£159.20
Neil Thorpe Expenses	£35.94

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Nov)	£188.24
Clerk Expenses Allowance (Nov)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (Dec)	£188.24

Clerk Expenses Allowance (Dec)	£13.00
Stephen Oakes Maintenance	£120.00
TCS Management	£61.92

RECEIPTS

Interest	£10.35
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It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and sign the Bank Reconciliation.

2049 To consider what may be included in the Parish Magazine article

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will submit a short article, detailing the response to Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan, an update on the Plough (to be drafted by Cllr. Cook) and an update on broadband. In the article, thanks will also be extended to Cllr. Cohen for attending the Remembrance Service and local residents for putting up the Remembrance decorations in the village.

2050 Any other correspondence

An anonymous letter had been received by the Parish Council regarding the boundary of a farmer's field on Bebbington Lane. As the letter was anonymous, the Parish Council had no right of reply to the letter. They would advise the anonymous correspondent to contact Planning Enforcement at Cheshire East (via their website) with their complaint as the Parish Council currently has no power to influence this.

2051 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 7th January 2025

Action:

- Clerk to publish the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations on the website (Clerk)
- Clerk to draft a Financial Risk Assessment for review in January (Clerk)
- Clerk to re-circulate the case studies and list of possible uses for the Ward Budget (Clerk). Following this, Councillors will decide the application for the Ward Budget and submit to Cllr. Smetham and Highways (all Councillors).
- Clerk to submit a comment of support to Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan (Clerk)
- Clerk and Cllr. Harrison to liaise on availability for a briefing meeting with Park Check volunteers (Clerk / CH)
- Clerk to e-mail TARMAC regarding January meeting and approval of June meeting (Clerk). If needed, Cllr. Waltho to follow up with TARMAC (SW).