

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025

Members: 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 were no members of the public present. Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham was in attendance.

2071 To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies had been received by Cllr. C Van Weerdenburg and Cllr. M Cohen.

2072 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2073 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 2025

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

2074 To receive a report from Cheshire East Ward Councillor if present.

The Council tax has been approved to go up to 4.99%. The additional increase was refused by the Government.

Several officers have changed role and Cheshire East Council are currently undertaking an internal review to consider improvements to their ways of working.

Devolution is looking likely to go ahead – CHALC are issuing regular communications on this and Cllr. Smetham is aware of the need to support rural parishes and residents.

Cheshire East are undertaking a review of their Local Plan due to changes with the NPPF. It is expected that this will trickle down and that Parish Councils will need to review their Neighbourhood Plans presently – the Clerk and Cllr. Smetham will continue to monitor this. Cheshire East are currently completing a “call for sites” to gain a sense of potential land for development.

A new system (called TraCE) will be launched in Spring, and which will replace FixMyStreet. More information will follow throughout the next few months.

The ward budget has been verbally approved by Highways and Cllr. Smetham will have an update on this at the next meeting.

Cllr. Smetham had no update on enforcement notices, including the development on Moss Lane.

Cllr. Smetham will investigate this.

2075 To receive an update on known flooding and drainage issues within the village and discuss any new occurrences

A minor flooding issue, outside The Plough, has been noted by Councillors. This has been reported to Cheshire East Highways by Cllr. Cook via FixMyStreet. Cllr. Cook had also sent this to the Parish Council’s contact at Highways – this has not received a response. Councillors noted their frustrations at the FixMyStreet reporting system but are still using this so that complaints are noted at the earliest opportunity.

Cllr. Waltho has contacted the local MP, Tim Roca, to provide him with some historical detail of the flooding issues within the village to see what help, if any, he can provide in resolving these, and hopefully a meeting with the MP could be arranged for some time in the future to discuss this further.

2076 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda

There were no planning applications to note.

2077 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before the meeting: No comments have been submitted.

2078 To receive an update on boundary signs and their installation

The signs have been received and are in storage at Cllr. Cook's house. A small working party of volunteers will meet on Sunday 9th March at 9am to install the signage. The Clerk has completed a risk assessment and Cllr. Waltho will be the responsible person on the day. Highways have been informed that the work will be completed this Sunday. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Cook for organising the posts and signs.

2079 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 is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Plough. An update will follow at the next meeting.

There has been no update from the Police or Cheshire East regarding parking within the Village near to the Plough. Cllr. Harrison will send the Clerk images of proposed signs (as seen in Wilmslow), for the Clerk to send to the Police contact to see if something similar can be arranged for Eaton.

2080 To receive an update on village maintenance (including Council owned asset maintenance)

The new system for the Park Check is now working. The Clerk is receiving the reports through to her e-mail. An issue with the fencing has been noted, but this will be repaired by Cllr. Harrison. It was **RESOLVED** that a compost bin would be installed in the park. This will be paid for by Eaton Volunteers Amenity Fund. Installation will be carried out by a team of volunteers. Once installed, an estimate of value will be provided to the Clerk for the insurances and asset register to be updated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the asset register will be reviewed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting once the signs and compost bin have been installed (which will take place between the March and May meetings). For the audit (31st March), the valuation of assets will include the value of the signs, but without a location.

On a recent defibrillator check, Cllr. Waltho noted that the battery was flat. The defibrillator has been sent off for repairs and should be back up and running in the next few weeks. Cllr. Waltho will provide an update once this has been completed.

2081 To receive an update on the Council's ongoing liaison with Tarmac

The permissive right of way around the Quarry is still not resolved. Cheshire East's Rights of Way team have closed the path. Marton Parish Council have liaised with the landowner. Cllr. Smetham will raise this with Cheshire East rights of way.

2082 To consider the Council's arrangements to commemorate VE Day

The Clerk will confirm that the flag will be raised at 9am, the Church bell will be rung in the early evening and the Lamp Light of Peace will be lit on the Village Green at 9.30pm. The Clerk will register this with the VE organisers.

2083 To discuss the Council's communications internally, and how these should be managed ahead

Cllr. Waltho shared his concerns regarding the way the Council respond to consultations and generic messages. The Clerk shared that other Councils have delegated responsibilities between Councillors. This will be revisited at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

2084 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £7,103.41

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Expenses (VE Day Lamp) £55.00

HMRC £151.00

Stephen Oakes (Maintenance)	£30.00
TCS (Payroll)	£61.92
Eric Charlesworth	£93.60
Clerk Expenses (VE Day Flag)	£44.80
Clerk Expenses (TARMAC Mileage)	£8.10
IONOS (website – January)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (Jan)	£231.67
Clerk Expenses Allowance (Jan)	£13.00
Midland Signs	£1,421.76
IONOS (website – February)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (Feb)	£196.99
Clerk Expenses Allowance (Feb)	£13.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (March)	£196.99
Clerk Expenses Allowance (March)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (April)	£196.99
Clerk Expenses Allowance (April)	£13.00
IONOS (website – March)	£8.40
IONOS (website – April)	£8.40

RECEIPTS

Interest (end Jan)	£9.92
Interest (end Feb)	£6.45

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

The Clerk confirmed that there will not be an Accounts Approval Meeting, as in previous years. The Clerk will send the AGAR, accounts and cashbook to the Chair and Vice Chair, for their approval, prior to submission to the Internal Auditor.

The Clerk will complete the VAT return at the end of March.

2085 To discuss any external meetings attended by Councillors, and any actions that should be taken by the Parish Council

Cllr. Waltho shared an update on the TARMAC meeting and the liaison group meeting. TARMAC plan to hold an open evening in June, and information will be circulated to the Village later this spring. Any parties wishing to attend should contact the Clerk to register their interest in attending, as spaces are limited.

2086 Any other correspondence

The Clerk will submit a report to the Parish magazine confirming the events for VE Day.

2087 To note the date of the next parish council meeting to be held on 6th May 2025 (Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting) Cllr. Harrison gave his apologies for the May meeting.

Action:

- Cllr. Waltho will continue to try and arrange a meeting with the local MP regarding concerns over flooding.
- Cllr. Cook will arrange a meeting with The Plough.
- Cllr. Harrison will provide the Clerk with information regarding parking signs. The Clerk will then contact Cheshire Constabulary.
- Cllr. Waltho will arrange the installation of the signs and compost bin and will provide a valuation of the compost bin to the Clerk once installed.
- The Clerk will register the events planned to take place to commemorate VE Day 80. -
The Clerk will complete the VAT return in late March.