

**Final Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting** held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Eaton Community Hall

**Members:** Cllr. C Van Weerdenburg, Cllr. S Waltho, Cllr. C Harrison, Cllr. I Goodwin, Cllr. N Thorpe, Cllr. M Cohen, Cllr. S Cook

**Clerk of the Council: Elizabeth Worrall**

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**2088 To elect the Chairman for 2025 / 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Waltho to the position of Chair.  
There were no members of the public present.

**2089 To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Cllr. Cohen had sent apologies in advance of the meeting.

**2090 To receive any declarations of interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2091 To elect the Vice Chairman for 2025 / 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Cook to the position of Vice Chair.

**2092 To receive and resolve to approve the [minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held March 2025](#)**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of March 2025.

**2093 To receive a report from the Cheshire East Ward Councillor, if present.**

Cllr. Smetham has shared the most recent Cheshire East Press release regarding Transformation. There are lots of structural changes regarding staffing, committees and positions. The Council has a loan which they are repaying. Services are being “pruned” across the Council – for example, this includes leisure centres, as well as a review of provision of children’s homes. The Sandbach Council offices have now been closed – the Parish Council asked questions regarding the reallocation of these offices.

Devolution is still being worked on – the final proposals are being compiled. The Parish Council extended their concerns that any Mayor will focus their funding on more built-up areas and that rural areas will see little or no benefit. The Mayor will be elected in May 2026, if plans go ahead. Lane charges are currently under consultation as are pharmaceutical needs and local listed building consents.

Councillors asked Lesley if she had received any update on the quarry footpath. Cllr. Smetham said that she thought she had sent this but will double check. Cllr. Smetham will discuss this with Marton Parish Council next week, as they have offered to liaise with the landowner previously. Councillors extended their thanks to Highways for the work completed siding out the pathways. This has been gratefully appreciated by residents.

**2094 To receive the [internal audit report for 2024/25](#)**

**If applicable, to discuss any recommendations and improvements to be made**

The Council noted the internal auditor’s report and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Parish Council’s response, as drafted by the Clerk.

**2095 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement Section 2024/25 of the [AGAR](#)**

*To receive and approve section 1 annual governance statement section 2024/25 of the AGAR and that the chairman and Clerk/RFO sign to confirm*

It was **RESOLVED** to sign Section 1 of the AGAR.

### **2096 Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25**

*To receive and approve section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25 and that the chairman sign to confirm approval.*

It was **RESOLVED** to sign Section 2 of the AGAR.

### **2097 Certificate of Exemption 2024/2025**

*To confirm that the council meet the criteria to declare themselves exempt from an external audit.*

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Certificate of Exemption.

### **2098 To confirm the [Public Inspection Period \(Notice of Public Rights\)](#).**

It was **RESOLVED** to start the public notice period on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, in line with the recommended dates from PKF. A copy of this form will be sent Cllr. Waltho to post on the noticeboard.

### **2099 To review and adopt [Standing Orders](#)**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders, with no amendments.

### **2100 To review and adopt [Financial Regulations](#)**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations, with no amendments.

### **2101 To adopt the General Power of Competence for 2025 / 26, providing the Council is still eligible**

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence for 2025 – 2026, noting that they had two thirds elected members and a suitably qualified Clerk.

### **2102 To review and consider any improvements to be made to the Asset Register**

It was **RESOLVED** to update the asset register to include the value of the Council's leaseholdings, in line with the Internal Auditor's recommendations. Councillors confirmed that this was £99.00 (for a 99-year lease, ending in 2100).

It was **RESOLVED** to add the value of the most recent assets – the road signs at £1,421 replacement value (cost of signs, additional materials and labour) and the new compost bin, located at Millennium Park, at a value of £275. The compost bin has been donated to the Council, so is based on replacement value only. The Council will cover any maintenance costs ahead. Thanks were extended to all the volunteers who joined Councillors in installing the signs.

Volunteers came from as far afield as Alsager to assist.

The Council noted that a piece of fencing has not been included in the asset register and should be ahead. Cllr. Waltho will try and get a value and a measurement for the July meeting. The Clerk will update the asset register to clarify that two of the benches are picnic benches and that the "cauldron" is a rocker.

### **2103 To review and approve the Council's insurance policy for 2025 – 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the insurance as per the circulated quotation from Zurich.

### **2104 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:**

There were no planning applications for the Council to discuss at the meeting.

### **2105 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting.**

[25/0908/HOUS](#) - Dwelling refurbishment and loft conversion including new dormers *The Parish Council have examined this application and feel that whilst the renovation of the property is to be expected, it should be carried out in a manner that is sympathetic to both the existing building and that of the adjoining property, which we feel the application submitted is not, and as such should be refused. Any such renovation should ensure that the materials used are generally in line with and are sympathetic to those of the existing buildings, and that the visual impact of the modifications should also be kept to a minimum and be in keeping with the surroundings. Our opinion is that the proposed use of cladding, and PVC/Aluminum windows is generally not in keeping with the structure of the existing buildings, and that the scale of the proposals, particularly the dormer windows on the side elevation, would have a detrimental visual impact,*

especially as these would be clearly visible from the A536. We are also concerned that if this application is approved in its current format, it would set an undesirable precedent for any possible future redevelopment that may occur of the adjoining outbuildings.

[25/0638/FUL](#) - Retrospective construction of building and proposed use as an independent residential dwelling

*Eaton Parish Council have examined this latest application for a change of use to a dwelling a would once again object to the proposals. As the planning authority are aware, this site has been the subject of many previous applications, and, except for the original application for an ancillary building, all have either been refused or withdrawn. Whilst this application is smaller in scale to the previous "change of use" applications and is generally the same overall size of the originally approved ancillary building, the principal of why this should not be a residential property remain. The original planning application reference 20/4059M, on this site was for an ancillary building for the use of the adjacent Oak Cottage. which was duly granted with conditions. Condition No 3 of that approval states that "The Residential Ancillary Building hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Oak Cottage. Reason: To ensure the proposed use remains ancillary to the principal use on the site." In our opinion and that of the case officer for the previous application reference 23/3374C the building that has been constructed has never been used for the originally approved purpose and has never had any genuine association with the adjacent Oak Cottage. The case officers report on the previous application reference 23/3374C went into detail regarding the planning exceptions to policy PG6 and concluded that the building subject to the application "does not fall into the exceptional criteria for new development in the Open Countryside and therefore the principle of this retrospective development is not accepted." We on the Parish Council do not see any reason as to why those comments should also not apply to this application. The property remains in the open countryside and as such we are of the opinion that policy PG6 should still apply. Ward Councillor Lesley Smetham has also reviewed this planning application and has confirmed that she strongly supports the parish response. In view of these comments and the many comments previously submitted for this application site we would once again request that this application be refused.*

It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the Parish Council's comments.

#### **2106 To consider Councillor roles and responsibilities for 2025 / 26**

Cllr. Watho asked all present to consider what roles they would be happy to take on. Suggested roles were planning, community liaison including police and environment, Parish liaison, Highways, HR and finance. Councillors will give this more thought, and these will be discussed and allocated at the July meeting. Some roles may be completed on an ad hoc basis and assigned by the Chair and/or Vice Chair.

#### **2107 To discuss the Council's [ROSPA report](#) and any actions that should be undertaken**

The Council discussed the recent ROSPA report. It was agreed that the gate needed fixing, and the Parish Council will look to complete this work shortly. No other items had deteriorated substantially enough to warrant any maintenance. The work to re-level the ground will be discussed with TARMAC.

Cllr. Harrison will fix the noughts and crosses, as some of the pieces have seized. The Clerk will send a message to the Park Check Volunteer WhatsApp group asking for all individuals who check the park to also check for bird fouling and to clean up any particularly bad fouling.

#### **2108 To receive an update on the [Council's liaison with The Plough](#)**

Cllr. Cook had circulated the minutes of her latest meeting. The noise issues seem to have improved, other than when a live band is playing. This will be monitored, and no further meetings are planned.

#### **2109 To discuss any urgent parking or Highways matters within the Village**

The Parish Council noted several instances of poor parking. The Clerk will speak to the Police again to see if they have managed to find any suitable signage to dissuade individuals from doing this. The Parish Council will endeavour to report any instances that they note of poor parking to the Police, as a non-emergency matter.

**2110 To consider the proposed increase in charges from TCS Management (payroll)**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve this increase.

**2111 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:**

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT – £9,689.51 (as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025)

PAYMENTS MADE

IONOS (Website)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (March)	£197.19
Clerk Expenses Allowance (March)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (April)	£144.79
Clerk Expenses Allowance (April)	£13.00
HMRC	£166.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (May)	£197.19
Clerk Expenses Allowance (May)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (June)	£197.19
Clerk Expenses Allowance (June)	£13.00
Millward and Keeling – postcrete	£114.00
CHALC Membership	£124.41
Zurich	£378.00
PlaySafety Limited (ROSPA Report)	£115.20
TCS Management	£61.92
Adam Keppel Green (Internal Audit)	£157.50
Defibrillator pads (S Waltho)	£140.00
IONOS (May - Website)	£8.40
IONOS (June - Website)	£8.40

RECEIPTS

Interest (March)	£6.92
Interest (April)	£6.54
Precept (First Payment)	£2,800.00
VAT Refund	£323.42

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments and sign Bank Reconciliation (year opening) and Bank Reconciliation (end April).

**2112 Any other correspondence**

The Parish Council discussed VE Day – the proclamation will be read by the Chair at just before 9am. At the Lighting of the Lamp in the evening, a suitable poem will be read by Cllr. Cook or another volunteer. The Church is also open in the early evening for the ringing of the bells.

The Parish Council resolved to submit the below items as their magazine article – a thank you to the outgoing Chair and a welcome to the incoming Chair, an update on the siding out and pictures from VE Day. The Clerk will submit this once the pictures have been submitted to the Clerk.

**2113 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**