

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5th May 2026

Members: Cllr. S Waltho, Cllr. C Harrison, Cllr. I Goodwin, Cllr. N Thorpe, Cllr. S. Cook, Cllr. C Van Weerdenburg, Cllr. R Garton

Clerk of the Council: Elizabeth Worrall
22 Wesley Avenue, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2NG

2209 To elect the Chairman for 2026 / 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Steve Waltho to the position of Chair for 2026 – 2027.

2210 To receive and approve any apologies for absence

Cllr. Goodwin had sent apologies for absence.

2211 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2212 To elect the Vice Chairman for 2026 – 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Sue Cook to the position of Vice Chair for 2026 – 2027.

2213 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held March 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 2026.

2214 To receive a report from the Cheshire East Ward Councillor, if present

Cllr. Smetham shared a brief report.

Cheshire East is still struggling financially but have managed to find some funds to support several projects. The Council voted against the Adlington proposal to create a new town at the north end of the county. There have been several planning enforcement issues, and Cllr. Smetham warned all rural communities to stay aware of this and report any infractions to the relevant authorities as and when needed. The Peak Cluster project is continuing with several local Parish Councils opposing this – Cllr. Smetham will continue to provide updates.

Cllr. Harrison asked Cllr. Smetham if there was any update on the enforcement issues at Ladera – Cllr. Smetham did not have an update on this other than the Enforcement Team at Cheshire East feeling that they need to assess this further in case of vulnerable residents living on site.

2215 To receive the internal audit report for 2025 / 2026 and, if applicable, to discuss any recommendations and improvements to be made

The Parish Council noted the internal audit report and thanked the internal auditor for their hard work. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Parish Council's response to the internal auditor report.

2216 To receive and approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025 / 2026 and that the chairman and Clerk/RFO sign to confirm

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement and that the Chairman and Clerk sign to confirm.

2217 To receive and approve Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025 / 2026 and that the Chairman sign to confirm approval

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 of the Accounting Statement and that the Chairman and Clerk sign to confirm.

2218 To confirm that the council meet the criteria to declare themselves exempt from an external audit

It was **RESOLVED** to declare the Parish Council exempt and that the Chairman and Clerk sign to confirm.

2219 To confirm the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights)

It was **RESOLVED** to commence the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights) to commence on Wednesday 3rd June.

2220 To review and adopt Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders.

2221 To review and adopt Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations.

2222 To adopt the General Power of Competence for 2026 / 2027, providing the Council is still eligible

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence for 2026 / 2027, as the Parish Council is still eligible.

2223 To review and approve the Council's insurance policy for 2026 – 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the proposed cover at the quoted amount.

2224 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

26/1288/TDC – Technical details consent application pursuant to permission in principle application reference 25/3317/PIP, for the application for the construction of one new dwelling – Land North of Moss Lane, Eaton, Cheshire East CW12 2PQ

It was **RESOLVED** to not submit a comment for this application.

2225 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting

There were no comments to ratify. Cllr. Waltho is still in the process of drafting a letter of support for White House Farm, regarding their planning application, and this will be circulated by e-mail for Councillors to review ahead of the July meeting.

2226 To consider Councillor roles and responsibilities for 2026 / 27

This was discussed. Councillors will consider this after the meeting and will e-mail the Clerk with which areas they would be willing to take on.

It was **RESOLVED** that HR would continue to be the responsibility of the Chair and Vice Chair. Broad areas that Councillors may consider are Highways, Police, Community, Environment, Planning, Asset Management, liaison with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, liaison with the Plough, liaison with TARMAC and the Parish Council liaison group.

2227 To discuss the Council's ROSPA report and any actions that should be undertaken

Cllr. Harrison confirmed that, since the report, was received, he and Cllr. Garton had installed new fence posts to shore up and support the fencing. The fencing is low to the ground, which does cause rotting, but does also stop small animals getting into the park. Further work will be done to this over the next few weeks by Cllr. Harrison and Garton. Pending the 2027 inspection, this matter is considered resolved.

The Clerk will contact ROSPA and ask for a quotation to complete resistance penetration testing. The Clerk will also contact Congleton Town Council and see if they have anyone on team who can assist. Cllrs. Harrison, Waltho and Garton will complete groundworks under the swing. Cllr. Harrison will also visually assess the swings and will report back to the Parish Council on his findings.

Cllr. Cook will look to purchase a new toddler seat and will provide a quotation at the next meeting in July.

2228 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's Data Protection Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Data Protection Policy.

2229 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's Health and Safety Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Health and Safety Policy.

2230 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's Freedom of Information Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Freedom of Information Policy.

2231 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's IT policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the IT Policy. Following discussions, the Clerk will make enquiries to the cost of Councillor e-mail addresses through the website / e-mail provider.

2232 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's Financial Risk Assessment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Risk Assessment.

2233 To review and resolve to approve the Parish Council's Asset Register, post amendments made by the Clerk and Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Asset Register.

2234 To discuss any urgent parking or Highways matters within the Village

There were no urgent parking or Highways matters to discuss. Cllr. Harrison has purchased the parking notices for display adjacent to the Plough – the installation of these temporary signs will be completed this week by Cllr. Harrison and Cllr. Waltho.

2235 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £7,706.44 (as of 1st April 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE

IONOS – website (Feb)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (Feb)	£179.34
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Feb)	£13.00
Richard Garton Expenses – park	£70.09
Clerk Expenses (ICO)	£52.00
HMRC	£345.37
IONOS – website (Mar)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (Mar)	£152.16
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Mar)	£13.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (May)	£152.16
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (May)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (June)	£152.16
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (June)	£13.00
IONOS – website (May)	£8.40
IONOS – website (June)	£8.40
S Cook Expenses (plaques)	£84.60
Zurich (insurance)	£378.00
CHALC	£127.60
TCS Management	£64.80
PlaySafety Ltd. (ROSPA)	£118.80
Adam Keppel Green (internal audit)	£180.00
C Harrison Expenses (posts)	£77.04

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Interest (Feb)	£4.80
Interest (Mar)	£5.09
VAT Return 2025 – 2026	£212.45

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

2236 Any other correspondence, including any items to be included in the Parish Magazine

The Clerk will include a condensed version of the Chair's report from the Annual Parish Meeting in the magazine. The Parish Council will also ask residents to be aware that there is a stop notice on the land adjacent to Hillmoor Farm, for any construction or groundwork. Any issues can be reported to the Police via their non-emergency phone number or web contact form.

2237 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on July 7th 2026

Cllr. Waltho send his apologies in advance of the meeting.