

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7th July 2026.

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

Clerk of the Council: Elizabeth Worrall

22 Wesley Avenue, Alsager, Cheshire, ST7 2NG

Email: clerk@eatoncheshire.co.uk Tel: 0777 951 8959

There were no members of the public present.

2238 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received in advance from Cllr. Van Weerdenburg, Cllr. Waltho and Cllr. Garton.

2239 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

2240 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 2026

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

2241 To receive a report from the Ward Councillor if present.

Cllr. Smetham shared an update. There are a lot of staff changes at Cheshire East which is proving costly for Cheshire East.

The recent Devolution meeting had to be cancelled due to issues with the facilities at the venue (the lift broke shortly before the event was due to start). This will be rearranged for the autumn.

Peak Cluster is still proving unpopular and there will soon be a motion for this to go to the full Cheshire East council for debate and a decision.

There is a request for individuals who would be willing to sit on the audit committee (to externally review Cheshire East's finances) – if anyone is interested, please contact Cllr. Smetham (via the Clerk if needed).

The cabinet or committee system is still under review. Cllr. Smetham hopes to have an update soon.

Cheshire East are reporting an increase in funding, meaning that more work is able to take place on Highways. Cllr. Smetham assumes this is from Devolution.

2242 To consider the following planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

There were no planning applications.

2243 To ratify the comments submitted for the following applications which required comments before this meeting:

No comments had been submitted between meetings.

2244 To discuss Broadband and digital provision within the village

There was no update. Cllr. Smetham offered to get in touch with Dean Burrows for a more comprehensive update to be provided at the next meeting.

2245 To receive any update on known flooding and drainage issues within the village and discuss any new occurrences

There was no update.

2246 To discuss any urgent parking or Highways matters within the village

Residents have reported to Councillors that the new signs, near the Plough, have led to an improved situation. Two signs were damaged shortly after installation, but no further issues have been reported. The Parish Council would like to extend thanks to Cheshire Constabulary in approving the wording and design of the signs so promptly.

2247 To receive an update on the Parish Council's liaison with the Plough Inn

There was no update. Cllr. Cook was expecting a quote from the Plough for the repainting of the phone box (using their painter and decorator). Cllr. Cook will follow this up.

2248 To receive an update on the Council's ongoing liaison with TARMAC

The next TARMAC liaison meeting is scheduled for the 27th July. Cllr. Cook and representatives from other local organisations will attend. TARMAC have offered another open evening for residents of the village – Cllrs. Cook and Waltho will distribute leaflets to residents and will then post in the village Whatsapp group if there are still spaces.

2249 To receive an update on village maintenance (including Council owned asset maintenance)

Following the most recent ROSPA report, the Council have purchased two new swing seats and have removed the old, damaged seats, from the swing sets. The Parish Council plan to backfill the area under the swing, using topsoil donated by TARMAC and will then top with grass seed. Once the grass has taken, the new swing seat will be installed. This will be arranged by Cllrs. Waltho and Harrison.

The cracks in the swing frame have been measured by Councillors and do not appear to be penetrating more than 50% of the way through the frame. As such, the Parish Council will continue to monitor this.

The rear of the bus stop, which backs immediately on to the Plough, is damaged, with slats missing and an unsightly appearance. Councillors have noted that this may be unsafe for patrons of the Plough. Cllr. Cook will discuss the matter with the Plough and agree who will complete the maintenance. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget figure of £50.00 for timber, should the Plough wish for the Parish Council to complete the maintenance – suitable timber will be purchased by Cllr. Harrison, who will also arrange for the work to be completed.

The potentially dangerous tree on Beechwood Drive was reported to Cheshire East via TRACE and a Cheshire East tree surgeon has been out to assess. The tree is dead (or dying) but is not an imminent danger to residents. The tree surgeon will complete his report and submit to Cheshire East, who will arrange for the tree's removal as budgets allow. If any change is noted in the tree, the Parish Council will report this again, via TRACE.

2250 To discuss and consider whether the Parish Council should adopt individual e-mail addresses for Councillors

It was **RESOLVED** for Councillors to adopt personalised e-mail addresses, as these are available free of charge via the Parish Council's current website provider. It was **RESOLVED** that the format would be *firstname.lastname@eatoncheshire.co.uk*. The Clerk will produce a list for Councillors to check prior to arranging.

2251 To note the payment for new swing seats, authorised by the Clerk, on the grounds of safety

This was noted by the Parish Council and there were no objections made to this payment or the Clerk's reason for processing this.

2252 To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT – £9,235.21 (as of 1st June 2026)

Payments in italics made after the bank reconciliation and not included in above figure

PAYMENTS MADE	
IONOS - website (Apr)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (Apr)	£152.16
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Apr)	£13.00
S Cook Expenses (plaques)	£84.60
Adam Keppel Green (internal audit)	£180.00
PlaySafety Ltd. (ROSPA)	£118.80
CHALC	£127.60
TCS Management	£64.80
Zurich (insurance)	£378.00
S Cook Expenses (swing seat x 2)	£179.76
IONOS - website (May)	£8.40
Clerk Salary (May)	£151.76
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (May)	£13.00
<i>IONOS - website (June)</i>	<i>£8.40</i>
<i>Clerk Salary (June)</i>	<i>£151.76</i>
<i>Clerk Homeworking Allowance (June)</i>	<i>£13.00</i>

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED	
Clerk Salary (Jul)	£151.76
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Jul)	£13.00
Clerk Salary (Aug)	£151.76
Clerk Homeworking Allowance (Aug)	£13.00
IONOS - website (Jul)	£8.40
IONOS - website (Aug)	£8.40
TCS Management	£67.50
HMRC	£329.60

C Harrison Expenses - Timber / repair materials	£50.00 budget
---	------------------

PAYMENTS RECEIVED	
Cheshire East Precept	£3,000.00
Interest (end Apr)	£4.60
Interest (end May)	£4.45

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

2253 Any other correspondence, including any matters to be included in the Parish Magazine

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would submit a short article confirming the maintenance the Parish Council are completing to the park and thanking Cheshire Constabulary for their support with the new parking signs.

2254 To note the date of the next meeting 1st September 2026

Action Points

- Cllr. Smetham will get in touch with Dean Burrows for a more comprehensive update on broadband / digital to be provided at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Cook to follow up with the Plough for a quotation for painting the phone box.
- Cllrs. Cook and Waltho will distribute leaflets to residents and will then post in the village Whatsapp group regarding the TARMAC open evening.
- Cllrs. Waltho and Harrison will complete maintenance on the swings, as described above.
- Cllr. Cook will liaise with the Plough regarding maintenance of the rear of the bus stop.
- If the Plough would like the Parish Council to complete the above maintenance, Cllr. Harrison to arrange for the purchase of materials and for the work to be completed.
- The Clerk will produce a list of new e-mails for Councillors to check prior to arranging.
- The Clerk will submit an article to the Parish Magazine.