

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Sue Webborn
Cllr. David McGowan
Cllr. Lucy Nixon
Cllr. Barrie Nolan
Cllr. Phil Cheetham
Cllr. Alistair Goodwin
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no public and press present.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies of absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To elect the Vice Chairman for 2025 / 2026

This matter will be deferred until the December meeting.

4. To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of July 2025

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes and these were signed by the Chair.

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

Cllr. Smetham shared a brief update on health and social care changes at Cheshire East Council. Cllr. McGowan asked Cllr. Smetham if she had received any update from Planning Enforcement – Cllr. Smetham will follow this up. Cllr. McGowan also asked regarding the signage within Marton – Cllr. Smetham said she had raised this with Planning Enforcement but had not received a response. One Councillor commented that the signs are enforcing viewpoints on individuals, which may cause upset. Councillors feel that the signs are an eyesore. This will be followed up again by Lesley, who will check on the legality of the matter and will ask Planning Enforcement for actions that should be undertaken.

Cllr. Smetham confirmed that devolution has been approved by Cheshire East Council – elections for the Mayor will take place in 2027.

6. To consider planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

Cllr. McGowan shared an update on the Planning Enforcement Matters first as these had been discussed with Cllr. Smetham.

Marton Meadows – 21/6443M – unauthorised tipping

There has been no further action by Cheshire East Planning Enforcement. The tipping does seem to have stopped.

Barlows – caravan storage and non-compliance

There has been no update on the matter, despite both the Clerk and Cllr. Smetham chasing.

Cherry Barrow Farm – tipped soil and debris

There has been no further action by Cheshire East Planning Enforcement.

Marton Church – removal of hedgerow

There has been no further action by Cheshire East Planning Enforcement.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. McGowan will draft and circulate a letter to the leader of Cheshire East Council regarding the above Planning Enforcement Matters and the Head of Planning. Cllr. Smetham will mention the matter at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting in October and will pass the message on to the other Councils.

The meeting moved on to discuss non-enforcement planning applications.

Marton Meadows – 25/0269 – VOC

This has been refused by Cheshire East. Marton Meadows has appealed this decision.

Brookside Cottage – 25/1223/FUL

This is not decided.

Mere Barn – 25/2368

This has been approved and can be removed from the minutes next time.

7. To ratify any comments on planning applications made between meetings

No comments had been submitted between meetings.

8. To discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy funds and possible items that this could be spent on / to receive an update from the Village Improvements sub-committee

Cllr. McGowan shared his idea that the Spinney could be improved to act as the Village Green. This could include a playground and benches but would need

some work – both to liaise with the neighbours and to ensure the electrical substation is suitably fenced off. Cllr. McGowan and Rylands met with the land agent from Capesthorpe to ask if a longer-term lease could be negotiated, ahead of any improvements. There has been no response. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Rylands would draft a formal letter to request an update on the matter.

9. To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

An update will be provided at the next meeting. Cllr. McGowan asked for an update on the sewage issues, and this was provided by the Clerk. The Clerk will circulate the number for the Environment Agency to the village mailing list and will re-send the e-mail received to Councillors.

b) Planters

The planters have been reinforced and should last at least one more year. The school have donated £50.00 to the Parish Council, for the Parish Council's work maintaining and updating the planters. A budget figure of £100 was **RESOLVED** by the Parish Council, for the purchase of suitable winter plants, to be decided by Cllrs. Cheetham and Nolan.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

These will continue to be monitored by the Parish Council.

d) Village Green

The back end of the Village Green will be cut shortly. Individuals are welcome to pick apples from the community fruit trees if they would like to – this will be circulated to the village mailing list.

e) Wildflowers

Councillors raised concerns about lack of wildflowers being grown in the patch. Cllr. McGowan reminded the Parish Council that Cheshire East had promised to do some work on the meadow, following the accidental cutting of the meadow last year. Cllr. Rylands will follow this up.

Cllrs. Rylands and Cheetham will meet with the individual who manages the Environmental Plan to discuss plans for next year.

f) Litter pick

There was no update on this item. Interest in the litter pick seems to have dwindled. It was **RESOLVED** to have another litter pick – Cllr. Nixon will confirm a date.

g) Litter signs / litter bin

The litter bin has been successfully installed. The bin has not been emptied regularly – Cllrs. Goodwin and Nolan will review this and will provide an update at the next meeting.

h) Dog mess

Cllr. Nolan shared that this is less of a problem than it used to be – the signs that the Parish Council have put in place are working. The bin in the Spinney is being used for other waste – Cllr. Rylands has purchased and will install a sign showing that this is a bin for dog waste only.

i) The Spinney / Capesthorne donation

This will be removed from the agenda ahead and will be merged with the Community Infrastructure Levy matter.

10. To discuss adoption of a formal donation policy, including potential donations to be made to the Church

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the donations policy. The Clerk will send a copy to the individual who raised the matter on behalf of the Church and Cllr. Nolan will discuss with the PCC at their next meeting.

11. To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £14,595.96 (as of 1st August 2025)

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (Q1)	£224.16
HMRC	£149.20
John Rylands Expenses (Leaflets)	£71.25
Phil Cheetham Expenses (plants)	£114.86
Cheshire Community Action	£20.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Q2)	£224.16
HMRC	£149.20
Zurich Insurance	£214.00
DM Payroll	£52.00
John Rylands expenses (dog waste sign)	£5.18
Plants (budget figure)	£100.00

RECEIPTS

Interest	£13.85
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It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and for the Chair to sign the bank reconciliations.

The Clerk will circulate the Insurance schedule to Councillors for will review and will ask Zurich to ensure the employer's liability is at least £10,000,000. The Clerk will send a copy of the asset register to all Councillors for review.

12. To discuss the Council domain names and any improvements required for the Council website

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would get a quotation from Parishes Online for discussion at the December meeting.

13. To consider increasing the Clerk's salary to SCP13, following two year's employment by the Parish Council

It was **RESOLVED** to increase the Clerk's salary to the new SCP13 (£15.06) from October 1st 2025.

14. Any other correspondence

Thanks were extended to the individual who has completed the spraying within the Village. It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the Village Coffee Mornings – Cllr. Rylands will circulate a list of proposed dates and the Clerk will include in the village mailer.

15. To note the date of the next meeting on the 2nd December

2nd December – Parish Council Meeting

Monday 26th January - Parish Council Meeting

10th March – Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting)

12th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting

Action Points

- Cllr. Smetham to follow up with Planning Enforcement.
- Cllr. McGowan will draft and circulate a letter to the leader of Cheshire East Council regarding the above Planning Enforcement Matters and the Head of Planning.
- Cllr. Smetham to liaise with other local Parish Councils and the Parish Liaison Group to advise that Marton are pursuing Parish Enforcement.
- Cllr. Rylands to draft a formal letter to request an update from Capesthorpe on the purchase of or extended lease of the Spinney.
- The Clerk will write a village e-mail to include: the number of the Environment Agency hotline, the offer of picking apples from the community fruit trees, a list of coffee morning dates.
- The Clerk will re-send out the email received from Tim Roca.
- Cllrs. Cheetham and Nolan to arrange for the purchase of suitable flowers for the planters.
- Cllr. Rylands and Cheetham will meet with the individual who manages the Environmental Plan to discuss the wildflowers.
- Cllr. Rylands to liaise with Cheshire East regarding the issue with the wildflowers from last year, where rectification work was offered.
- Cllr. Nixon will confirm the date for the next litter pick.
- Cllrs. Goodwin and Nolan will review the situation with the litter bin in the lay-by and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Rylands will install a dog poo sign on the bin at the Spinney to try and dissuade other waste being thrown in the bin.
- The Clerk will contact Parishes Online for a quotation for website hosting and a gov.uk e-mail address, for discussion at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Rylands to circulate a list of proposed coffee morning dates.
- The Clerk will send the list of future meeting dates to the school.