

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Sue Webborn
Cllr. David McGowan
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

Cllr. Nixon and Smetham had sent their apologies in advance of the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Goodwin declared his interest in Sandpit Farm.

3. To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of December 2025

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

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

Cllr. Smetham was not present but had sent a brief report. The new NPPF means more development and queries over the budget. There are also proposals for reducing carbon in concrete production, requiring underground pipes with above ground structures.

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

a) Marton Meadows – 21/6443M – unauthorised tipping

b) Barlows – caravan storage and non-compliance

c) Cherry Barrow Farm – tipped soil and debris

d) Marton Church – removal of hedgerow and access

No update had been received on the first three items.

Cllr. McGowan provided a brief history of the Marton Church car park alterations.

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Signed

Dated

Following the alterations, Cllr. Nolan was informally approached to suggest that the Parochial Council should be aware that the alterations may require Cheshire East planning permission. Cllr. Nolan confirmed the helpful way the advice was offered but, as MPC will be aware from previously circulated correspondence, another member of the Parochial Council has expressed concerns which MPC discussed. During the correspondence, MPC had incorrectly referred to the hedge at Marton Church as being an ancient hedge. Whilst this does not negate or otherwise the potential requirement for planning permission for the car park alterations, the Chair noted that he had apologised for any resulting confusion. Cllr. Nolan expressed frustration that Cheshire East had not progressed this issue, a frustration shared by Cllr. McGowan who noted that feedback was awaited from Cheshire East on several issues. Cllr. Smetham would be asked to use her good offices to encourage Cheshire East to address these outstanding issues. Cllr. Smetham had earlier advised that neighbouring Parish Councils are faced with similar delays.

e) Marton Meadows – 25/0269 – VOC

This was refused and has gone to appeal. The appeal has not been decided.

f) Brookside Farm – 25/1233/FUL

This is undecided.

g) Church Farm – 25/3366/FUL

This is undecided.

h) Sandpit Farm – 25/3368/CLPUD

This was undecided.

i) Sandpit Farm – 25/4032/PRIOR-3MA

This has been refused and will be removed from the agenda ahead.

Cllr. McGowan attended a meeting on the new Cheshire Local Plan; the slides from this meeting will be circulated.

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

No comments had been made between meetings.

7. To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

The Clerk will circulate the draft habitat map received from the Wildlife Trust, which can be presented at the village meeting. The Environmental Plan, and a speech encouraging residents to get involved, will be discussed at the village meeting in March.

b) Planters

The planters have been planted. Thanks were extended to John Purcival for his hard work. Cllr. Cheetham mentioned the roadworks taking place in the village and that this could potentially cause damage to the planters. The Clerk will write to United Utilities via their online contact form. The choice of the wallflowers were commended by the Parish Council – thanks were extended to Cllr. Cheetham.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

There was no update.

d) Village Green

The plans for the Village Green are on hold, pending a review of the budget and the CIL funds. A working party will be convened shortly after the Village Meeting to complete routine maintenance.

e) Wildflowers

Cllr. Cheetham plans to stake some individual cornflowers and poppies to improve the appearance of the wildflower area to improve the colour and the overall aesthetic. This will be undertaken later this spring.

f) Litter pick

The Clerk and Cllr. Rylands will liaise with Cllr. Nixon to arrange a date for the next litter pick in April. This can then be advertised at the village meeting.

g) Litter signs / litter bin

The matter of emptying the dog waste bin will still be deferred to the Village Meeting to discuss with the whole village. Cllr. Rylands will arrange for the bin to be emptied fortnightly in the meantime. Further litter bins will be discussed at the Village Meeting.

Cllr. McGowan will contact Arien signs to arrange for the purchase of 6 additional litter signs to be installed within the village by John Purcival later this spring.

h) Dog mess

This was discussed in the item above.

i) The Spinney / Capesthorne donation

The tree at the Spinney will be taken down on the 11th and 12th February. Cllr. Webbhorn will inform the residents.

Further to the last meeting, Cllr. Rylands has spoken to residents and has not received a strong response. Cllr. Rylands will continue to raise the matter with residents and will create a plan to share at the village meeting.

j) Highways

All Councillors will report the damaged sign (30 yards to the south of School Lane, on the bend adjacent to Pump Cottage) through TRACE. The Clerk will raise the matter with Cllr. Smetham to get her to intervene.

Cllr. Goodwin will share a list of proposed road sign replacements with

Councillors. Suggestions included Messuage Lane and Bunts Lane.
The Clerk will write to Cllr. Smetham to let her know that the siding out work has not been completed.

Cllr. McGowan has contacted the sign company who installed the Marton signs, which have faded, and have found that they have entered administration. Cllr. McGowan will seek a similar quotation from Arien signs to gain a sense of how much replacements would be.

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

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £15,106.32 (as of 31st December)

PAYMENTS MADE

Clerk Salary (Q3)	£234.76
HMRC	£156.80
Clerk Expenses (postage)	£7.20
DM Payroll	£72.00
Phil Cheetham (plants and compost)	£74.40
Barrie Nolan (wallflowers)	£25.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

John Purcival (hedges and guards)	£375.00
Capesthorpe Estate (tree nursery/strip of land by golf course)	£100.00
John Rylands expenses (coffee morning - Dec / Jan)	£64.60

RECEIPTS

Interest	£24.67
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It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and for the Chair to sign the bank reconciliation.

The Council noted the Q3 budget report and made no amendments.

The Parish Council wished to note the below list of possible CIL expenditure.

These include:

- Road signs
- New planters
- A re-work of the Spinney
- A re-work of the Village Green
- Parish Boundary signs

9. To review the Council's asset register and consider any amendments to be made

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the asset register with no amendments. A copy will be sent to Councillors for them to send the Clerk any individual amendments

following a more thorough review.

10. To review and resolve to approve the Council's financial risk assessment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial risk assessment. A copy will be sent to Councillors for them to send the Clerk any individual amendments following a more thorough review.

11. To consider speakers and arrangements for the Village Meeting

Cllr. Rylands proposes that a local artist and member of historic society will give a presentation of around 15 minutes, with a pre-prepared presentation. This will be followed on an update on the Marton Environmental Plan by either John Purcival or Cllr. Cheetham. Cllr. Rylands will then give an informal presentation on the last 12 months and allow for any questions from residents.

Drinks and nibbles will be served at the end.

12. Any other correspondence

The Parish Council discussed the recent Transport Consultation Process. The Clerk noted that Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths Parish Council is in early talks to extend a bus route closer to the Link Road (and hence closer to Marton). The bus improvement plan promises to improve frequency and consistency of buses, which was noted by the Parish Council, who hope to see good services running out of Congleton and Macclesfield. The issue of bus services will be presented at the Village meeting.

The Peak Cluster project is in the early stages of development. Cllr. Rylands has discussed the matter with several local landowners, who are all aware of the matter. A resident has raised concerns about the pipelines potentially leaking and whether there will be a potential hazard. The Clerk will flag this concern under the current consultation. Cllr. Rylands will create a WhatsApp group, for any directly affected residents, and to share any news.

The issue raised by a concerned resident before Christmas will be passed on to Cllr. Smetham.

13. To note the date of the Village Meeting on the 10th March

10th March – Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting)

12th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting

21st July – Parish Council Meeting

8th September – Parish Council Meeting

1st December – Parish Council Meeting

Action Points

- Cllr. McGowan will circulate the slides from the Cheshire East Local Plan.
- The Clerk will circulate the draft map from Cheshire Wildlife Trust to all Councillors.
- The Clerk will write to United Utilities via their contact form, asking them to take care when working near to the planters.
- Cllr. Cheetham to stake some individual cornflowers and poppies in the wildflower area during late Spring.
- The Clerk and Cllr. Rylands will liaise with Cllr. Nixon to arrange a date for the next litter pick in April.
- Cllr. Rylands will arrange for the bin in the Spinney to be emptied fortnightly between the end of January and the Village Meeting.
- Cllr. McGowan will contact Arien signs to arrange for the purchase of 6 additional litter signs to be installed within the village by John Purcival later this spring.
- Cllr. McGowan will gain a quotation from Arien for a replacement boundary sign.
- All Councillors will report the damaged sign (30 yards to the south of School Lane, on the bend adjacent to Pump Cottage) through TRACE.
- The Clerk will raise the above damaged sign with Councillor Smetham.
- Cllr. Goodwin will share a list of proposed road sign replacements with Councillors.
- The Clerk will write to Cllr. Smetham to let her know that the siding out work has not been completed.
- The Clerk will circulate the asset register and risk assessment for any further Councillor comments.
- The Clerk and Cllr. Rylands will arrange for suitable promotion of the Village meeting.
- The Clerk will flag a concern, raised by a resident, regarding the Peak Cluster project.
- Cllr. Rylands will create a WhatsApp group focused on the Peak Cluster project, for any directly affected residents, and to share any news.
- The Clerk will liaise with Cllr. Smetham, regarding the concern raised by the resident.