

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Sue Webborn
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 elect the Chairman for 2026 / 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to elect John Rylands to the position of Chair.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Goodwin declared his interest in Sandpit Farm.

4. To elect the Vice Chairman for 2026 / 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Alistair Goodwin to the position of Vice Chair.

5. To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of January 2026

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

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

Cllr. Smetham shared a brief report. The main concern for the local parishes is Peak Cluster.

The full council meets tomorrow (13th May) where topics for discussion are likely to include finances, discussions about training of staff and officers, and how better to support vulnerable residents within the area.

The first Devolution meeting will take place later this month, and a follow up meeting for Parish Councils on 1st July. The Parish Council discussed Devolution and agreed that this is something that they need to continue to monitor.

In respect of the potential planning issue, that was raised directly with Cllr.

Smetham, Councillors and Cllr. Smetham discussed Potts Farm briefly – the site has been visited by Cheshire East Planning Enforcement, and they have agreed no further action will be taken. Cllr. Smetham will contact the member of the

public who raised concerns to inform them of this.

- 7. To receive the internal audit report for 2025 / 2026 and, if applicable, to discuss any recommendations and improvements to be made**
There were no recommendations noted in the internal auditor report.
- 8. To receive and approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2025 / 2026 of the AGAR and that the Chairman and Clerk/RFO sign to confirm**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 1 of the AGAR.
- 9. To receive and approve Section 2 Accounting Statements 2025 / 2026 of the AGAR and that the Chairman and Clerk/RFO sign to confirm**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve Section 2 of the AGAR.
- 10. To confirm that the Parish Council meet the criteria to declare themselves exempt from an external audit**
It was **RESOLVED** to sign the Certificate of Exemption for the Parish Council to declare themselves exempt from an external audit.
- 11. To confirm the Public Inspection Period (Notice of Public Rights)**
It was **RESOLVED** to commence the Public Inspection Period on Wednesday 3rd June 2026.
- 12. To review and adopt Standing Orders**
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders.
- 13. To review and adopt Financial Regulations**
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations.
- 14. To adopt the General Power of Competence**
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence for 2026 / 2027.
- 15. To note the Councillor resignation of January 2026, and to consider whether the Parish Council would like to proceed with co-option of a new Councillor**
It was **RESOLVED** to accept David McGowan's resignation from the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the co-option of a new Councillor and for the Clerk to complete the paperwork.
- 16. To consider planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:**
 - a) Marton Meadows – 21/6443M – unauthorised tipping
This will continue to be monitored, and an update provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

b) Barlows – caravan storage and non-compliance
This will continue to be monitored, and an update provided at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Rylands will continue to liaise with the enforcement officer on the matter.

c) Cherry Barrow Farm – tipped soil and debris
This will continue to be monitored, and an update provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

d) Marton Church – removal of hedgerow
This will continue to be monitored, and an update provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

e) Marton Meadows – 25/0269 – VOC
The appeal has been allowed. This will be removed from the agenda ahead.

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 has been approved and can be removed from the agenda ahead.

g) Peak Cluster
This item will be added to the agenda ahead. Cllr. Rylands has submitted a representation to the consultation (in February 2026). There are differing opinions within the village, and it is important that the Parish Council, as a body, remain neutral and open to hearing resident voices, which may both support and oppose the pipeline.

Cllr. Rylands has been contacted by members of the public who wish to display anti-Peak Cluster signs on the Village Green. Cllr. Nixon raised concerns that signs could be displayed for too long and that previous precedent had been for signs to be displayed for a limited time only. It was **RESOLVED** to allow the display of these signs for a period of three months. The Parish Council did not expect that there would be objections from residents to these signs and are happy to hear from residents with contrary points of view to ensure that all views are fairly represented.

The Clerk will draft a policy for signage on the Village Green and how this will be managed ahead. This will be approved at the July meeting.

Cllr. Rylands is in the process of working with the Congleton Chronicle on an article, highlighting a particular case study. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr. Rylands could make a statement on their behalf.

The Parish Council noted that they wished for discussions at Cheshire East level to ensure that further suitable consultations are held. Cllr. Smetham are aware of

the Parish Council's objections.

17. To consider Councillor roles and responsibilities for 2026 / 2027

It was **RESOLVED** to keep all roles the same, with the below changes:

Cllr. Rylands will now take responsibility for Planning.

As Vice Chair, Cllr. Goodwin will manage HR, alongside Cllr. Rylands.

18. To discuss and set a timeline for moving the Parish Council's domain and website to one managed by Parishes Online

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would ask Parishes Online to commence with the build of the website and would copy in Cllr. Nixon for her to liaise with Parishes Online on the content switchover.

The old website will be kept online until 31st May 2027, to allow for the Parish Council to meet their statutory publication requirements.

19. To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

Cllr. Rylands will attend a meeting with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust on the mapping project in June. John Purcival is continuing to plant trees within the village – Councillors asked for an estimate of several of the trees planted so far this year; this will be provided at the next meeting.

b) Planters

The current planting in the planters will be removed in the next few weeks. Cllrs. Cheetham and Nolan will buy some soil and some summer bedding plants. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget price of £150.00 for new bedding plants and soil. The planters will be emptied this coming Saturday 16th May at 10am.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

There was no update.

d) Village Green

There was no update.

e) Wildflowers

John Percival will be asked to continue his work; the wildflowers appear to be taking better this year. Comments from residents have been passed on to John to try and ensure a better variety of colour this year – Cllr. Cheetham has offered to donate cornflowers and poppies to assist with this and these will be installed when the current crop has grown and when this can be assessed.

f) Litter pick

A litter pick was held and ANSA collected the bin bags. Cllr. Nixon asked for more litter pickers and bin bags but ANSA were not willing to donate these. In principle, the Parish Council would be happy to fund these bags if needed.

g) Litter signs / litter bin

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

h) Dog mess

Cllr. Webborn has removed the bin from the Spinney due to misuse. There have been no complaints from residents and no noted issues with dog mess since the bin has been removed. The Parish Council now own two bins (one held by Cllr. Webborn and another held by Cllr. Goodwin) – the Parish Council will consider if there are any local businesses who would like this.

Cllr. Rylands will speak to Cheshire East regarding if a bin collection can be arranged.

i) The Spinney / Capesthorne donation

An update will be provided at the next meeting - Cllr. Rylands is continuing to make enquiries.

j) Highways

Cllr. Goodwin will share a list of proposed road sign replacements with Councillors including a formal specification. The Clerk and the Chair will liaise with Highways on how best to proceed with this.

20. To consider the Parish Council's response to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026 – 2036 Consultation

Cllr. Nixon will fill this in on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £14,821.43 (as of April 1st 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE

John Percival expenses (plants)	£313.71
Rent (Spinney)	£5.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Jan – March 2026)	£235.16
HMRC	£156.40
Clerk's Expenses (ICO)	£52.00
CHALC	£74.40
John Percival expenses (fruit trees)	£32.50
John Percival expenses (compost/trees)	£70.00
John Rylands Expenses (Village Meeting notice)	£9.00
John Rylands Expenses (Peak Cluster notice)	£24.00
John Rylands Expenses (refreshments – Vill meeting)	£20.89
John Rylands Expenses (M&S – DMG gift)	£42.00
John Rylands Expenses (coffee morning – Feb)	£17.45

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 12th May 2026

Signed

Dated

John Rylands Expenses (coffee morning – Mar)	£14.05
Arien Signs	£516.00

RECEIPTS

Interest (Jan)	£11.59
Interest (Feb)	£10.79
Interest (Mar)	£11.44

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

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

22. Any other correspondence

Cllr. Rylands and the Clerk had attended a meeting regarding Devolution at Congleton Town Hall. It was not felt that it was useful to pursue this at this stage. The Clerk will send a polite e-mail to the Clerk at Congleton Town Council letting them know this.

Councillors extended thanks to the organisers and volunteers of the dance held earlier in the Spring (including Cllr. Nolan). Thanks were also extended to the school for hosting this event.

23. To note the date of the Village Meeting on the 21st July

- 21st July – Parish Council Meeting
- 8th September – Parish Council Meeting
- 1st December – Parish Council Meeting

Action Points

- The Clerk will draft a policy for signage on the Village Green and how this will be managed ahead. This will be approved at the July meeting.
- The Clerk will contact Parishes Online to confirm that the Parish Council would like to go ahead with the new website in July 2026.
- Cllrs. Cheetham and Nolan will buy some soil and some summer bedding plants and will arrange for the current plants to be removed from the planters.
- Cllr. Rylands will speak to Cheshire East regarding if a bin collection can be arranged.
- Cllr. Rylands will continue to make enquiries, regarding the Spinney.
- Cllr. Goodwin will share a list of proposed road sign replacements with Councillors including a formal specification. The Clerk and the Chair will liaise with Highways on how best to proceed with this.
- Cllr. Nixon will fill in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026 – 2036 Consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.