

# HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 AT HANKELOW METHODIST CHAPEL

**Present:** Cllr James Du Pavey, Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Nigel Dibben, Cllr Joy Sansom

### **In attendance**

Abbi Miller (Clerk), Janet Clowes (Ward Councillor)

### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Ally Williams, Cllr Rob Tindall, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Gerald Laxton

### **2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr Dibben and seconded by Cllr Mitchell and agreed that the minutes from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3.0 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

### **4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman presented his annual statement which outlined the Council's activities in 2023/24. This covered the appointment of a new Councillor Gerald Laxton, making the Council still a 10-member strong Council. The Neighbourhood Plan continues to be supported by the Parish and look forward to it being updated this Council year.

This year the Council reviewed and considered 14 Planning Applications, several of them needing comments in between Parish Council Meetings, so thanks was given to Cllr Bennion for allowing us to host the necessary Planning Committee meetings at Dagfields.

The Chairman noted the poor state of the roads, highlighting the numerous potholes, and encouraged councillors and residents to keep reporting them, in particular any that are more than 4cms deep.

Crewe Road was the centre of attention this year as Cheshire East were conducting a safety review asking residents and the Council for their views and experiences. There was an excellent response from the Parish but unfortunately Highways team have had to use the money elsewhere. This road remains in a poor and dangerous condition. HGVs using the road continue deepening the potholes by demolishing strategically placed protective cones to protect road users.

Other long term highways issues have been escalated by the Council and we continue to push for road safety improvements to the Parish.

Flood prevention work had been completed this year on Bridgemere Lane, Audlem Road and Hunsterson Road end. Mostly with successful outcomes to date.

The Chairman noted that from May 2023 all work near the Parish relating to HS2 ceased with the cessation of this leg of the project. Much of the mitigation work completed by the contractors appears to have been substandard with ponds not holding water and new hedgerows poorly planted. Should it re-commence, these issues will be reported.

A switch to a new internal auditor this year has proved that the accounts and internal controls of the Parish Council have been found to be better than satisfactory.

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We have received small amounts of Community Infrastructure Levy money from Cheshire East which is being well spent on village improvements.

Your Parish Council has this year given donations to

- Audlem and District Community Action a service for the more vulnerable community members.
- North West Air Ambulance, a further service which provides urgent medical response.

The Chairman also highlighted that Local health initiatives continue to be advertised via the noticeboards. Regarding the support for older people in the community local charity ADCA has just been successful in obtaining more funds from the National Lottery, ourselves and Audlem Charity Shop and has enabled activities to be started for ADCA.

The Friday Coffee Afternoon at Hankelow Methodist Chapel from 2-4pm continues to be supported by the Parish Council, we do the 3rd Friday of each month.

The Improvements Group is now chaired by Cllr Williams and has been achieving great things. We've got new parish entry signs, extra thanks to Cllr Dibben, a planted-up planter thanks to Cllr Clinton, and a new litter bin at the A51 junction.

We have a tidier parish with the roadsides emptied of litter several times over the winter months. The Chairman thanked residents and spouses who go that one step further and clean up the verges around their properties and others who take a litter bag with them on their parish perambulations.

We look forward to more improvements this year and we very much welcome any input from residents for potential improvements that we can handle.

The Chairman shared the news that the Hatherton Footpath No1 Bridge over the River Weaver is now passable and usable, but is still at risk from further flood damage due to the floating debris stuck under and around the bridge.

The local PSCO Nick Jarvis continues to provide us with monthly updates and we are grateful for his speed checks and regular visits to the Council meetings. Homewatch continues to operate in some areas of the parish giving early warning of anti- social activities, scams etc and the Clerk currently circulates relevant policing and Homewatch alerts as they arise to those residents in email contact.

The Parish Council continue to respond to all relevant Cheshire East policy and strategy consultations, and encourage residents to do the same and make their voices heard.

The Chairman thanked all the Parish Council members for their time and contributions during the last twelve months and the Parish Clerk for her contribution over the year.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk presented a Receipts and Payment Summary and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2024. The end of financial year bank balance was £5,190.86.

## **6.0 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

There were no questions or comments.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7:30 pm.