

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22nd JULY 2024 AT HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Nigel Dibben, Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Ally Williams, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Gerald Laxton

In attendance

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

24/55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr James Du Pavey and Cllr Rob Tindall.

24/56 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24/57 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Clowes stated that as per minute ref 24/50, the peer review was conducted after the General Election, and not before.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Laxton and agreed that the minutes from 28th May 2024 are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24/58 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, section 1d, members of the public were able to ask a question of the Parish Council or make a statement.

There were members of the public present.

24/59 MATTERS ARISING

Item 24/45: Cllr Sansom confirmed that the Public Rights Notice is no longer displayed on the Parish Noticeboard.

Item 24/37:

Parish Clerk will complete a VAT claim this FY. To amend the Parish Council Financial Regulations to state that a VAT return will be completed on an annual basis. **RESOLVED.**

S137 Spend per elector: Ensure this is itemised in the annual end of financial year review. **RESOLVED.**

Cloud storage: Parish Clerk to use One Drive to back up folders and archive website documents. **RESOLVED.**

Website Update: Completed. **RESOLVED.**

Gov.uk domain: Owing to the fact this domain would still need to go through a 2nd party, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to keeping the current domain as there wouldn't be any added security. **RESOLVED.**

24/60 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Cllr Clowes updated the Parish Council that there was no progress on the Neighbourhood Planning before the General Election due to not enough people on the Committee and therefore it was not quorate. There would need to be 8 members of the Committee in order to make this quorate, and is looking for 2 Committee members per Parish in the Wybunbury Ward. Cllr Clowes reassured that only local knowledge is a prerequisite of being a

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committee member. Cllr Clowes will resume Neighbourhood Planning in September. Cllr Knibbs agreed to being a committee member.

24/61 FINANCE MATTERS

A) The Finance Report (Appendix 10) was presented by the Clerk.

Cllr Clowes noted that the electricity charges were higher than the budget for this FY. She explained that this was also the case for Doddington Parish Council and suggested that the two Parish Clerks compare costs and write jointly to Scottish Power to ascertain the reason behind the increased costs. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk

Cllr Clowes also explained to the Parish Council about two projects that she is involved with that may be of benefit to the Parish Council and if the Council would consider in the future any potential help with funding. There were:

The planting of trees along Bridgemere Lane to prevent parking.
Phase 2 of the Sally Clerk field play area.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to review the financial situation at the end of the FY.

B) The following payments were authorised:

- Parish Clerk wages £363.72
- Parish Clerk HMRC contributions £91.00
- Webhosting UK £42.70
- ChALC Training: £30.00

24/62 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors received the Planning Report (Appendix 11), and the following planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 28TH May 2024:

24/1564N	Three Acre Wood, Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton, CW5 7PL	Householder - Glazing and doors to existing open, timber framed porch and installation of ground based solar panels. Approx overall height of installed solar panels 1.6m	Approved with conditions – 28/06/2024
24/1554N	Bank Farm, London Road, Walgherton, CW5 7LB	Householder - Two storey and single storey rear extension to existing house	Approved with conditions – 17/06/2024

24/62.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/2299N	Birchall Moss Farm, Audlem Rd, Hatherton CW5 7PJ	Householder - Remodel of front elevation to suit internal modifications and replacement roof to create an additional 2 bedrooms.	Parish Council Response : The Parish Council have concerns with regards to the design and the potential impact on the setting of a Grade II listed building, it's not in
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			keeping. There are also concerns that a raise in the height of the roof will make this property more visible from the road.
24/2407N	Land adjacent to Broomlands Lodge, Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton CW5 7PL	Full Planning - Erection of one self-build dwelling and associated works	<p>Parish Council Response:</p> <p>The Parish Council adamantly object to this planning application. This is a green field site and not a brown field site as stated in the application. There is some old concrete on the site but this is in a very poor state and is not structurally sound. The caravan located at the site has been uninhabitable for over 30 years. Other observations are that it's too large, and concerns that it will be seen, the design is inappropriate for the area. There needs to be a lot more clarity on access. It also does not meet the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan and is not in keeping with design policies. There are also concerns that a number of trees were removed from the site a few months ago.</p>

24/63 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Dibben & Cllr Du Pavey have carried out an extensive survey of the conditions of Crewe Road and have compiled a report for Cheshire East Highways including photographs showing depths of potholes and clogged gulleys. A reply was received from Highways stating that a special visit will be made by that team to inspect the road.

Mr Mike Heler from Heler's Cheese Factory has also expressed his concern to Cllr Knibbs. This is in the light of the poor condition of Crewe Road and two serious accidents that have recently occurred in the Parish, one of which involved a local milk tanker.

Cllr Clowes stated that she would send all the issues to the Head of Highways, and will forward his email address so that Mr Heler could also write and express his concerns.

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Cllr Dibben also reported that Oakes Corner had been hit with an agricultural vehicle that had knocked the fence down. And that the 'Take your litter sign' on the A52 layby had been mown down by CE contractors.

Cllr Dibben also informed the Council that he had sent the design for the new Parish road name signs to the sign maker company.

24/64 HATHERTON LODGE SOLAR FARM

Cllr Knibbs and Cllr Clowes attended the Public Consultation meeting and reported the following:

- Pegasus Planning are the consultants and Noventum Power are the backers of the project.
- They are looking at the residents' concerns of a solar farm at Hatherton Lodge.
- They need the assistance of the local residents if planning permission is to be granted.
- The planning application from 2014 has been replicated.
- The lifespan of the solar panels is 40 years and are much more efficient.
- The power generated will contribute to the National Grid.
- The Public Right of Way won't be affected.
- There will be a lot of local upheaval due to the cabling that will be required to go under the road. This will mean up to 6 months of temporary traffic lights or a 1-way system. This will require a robust traffic plan.
- Screening from local properties will be important
- There will be a temporary amenity building for the workers.
- A face-to-face meeting with Noventum will be held on Tuesday 27th August at 1000hrs at Dagfields Café.

24/65 UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST WARD COUNCILLOR

Cllr Clowes informed the Parish Council that she had submitted a Vote of No Confidence in the leader of Cheshire East council who has subsequently resigned. There is now a new leader.

Cheshire East has had to submit a transformation report to the Government in light of the scale of Cheshire East Council rising debts. This involved an OFSTED Improvement Plan as the Council has failed the OFSTED report. The Council are also submitting a report to the Department for Education regarding the overspend on the SEND loan.

Cllr Clowes thought it likely that the Government would enact Section 114, which is a Government takeover of the Council in order to control spend and costs.

24/66 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT AND PROGRESS

Cllr Williams reported that the Committee was focussing on the installation of the new village road signs. The Committee are also getting quotes for Remembrance soldier silhouettes and poppies. No new improvement project quotes came forward for the Parish Council's ratification.

ACTION: Cllr Clowes agreed to find out if plastic remembrance poppies can be attached to road signs.

24/67 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

RESOLVED: Cllr Clinton agreed to complete all current Cheshire East Council consultations.

24/68 (ALL) MEMBERS REPORTS TO RAISE TO COUNCIL (FORMERLY AOB)

Cllr Williams provided an update on the Crime Cluster meeting she had attended:

- Key crime concerns for the area are –
- Speeding
- HGV Traffic

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- Fly tipping

Police advice is if anyone has dashcam footage of what they think is a road crime, to upload this to Road Policing Unit, as these are being looked at and acted upon.

Ensure caravans are well secured and locked and to keep a note of serial numbers.

Cameras may be required to record instances of fly tipping.

24/69 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 23rd September 2024

Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at 21:58 pm.

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