

**MINUTES OF CHOLMONDESTON & WETTENHALL PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD AT ST DAVIDS CHURCH ON 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs John Woodward (**JW**), Heather Pope (**HP**), Sonia Peacock (**SP**), and Philip Hollinshead (**PH**)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Becky Posnett (Cheshire East) (**BP**)  
Dr M Bailey (Parish Clerk) (**MB**)  
Members of the public

**PART A**

**186. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr David Lane.

**187. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests were made by Members at the meeting.

**188. MINUTES – 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 (PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were presented to Members for approval.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

**189. MATTERS ARISING**

The following matters were raised at the meeting from the above minutes. –

- Delphic Transport – no issues were raised – will take off the agenda.
- Boot and Slipper Site – the site looks good – will liaise with Cllr Lane on employing a gardener to look after the site. The Chair said that he would approach potential candidates.
- Village Green – no further updates will merge with Boot and Slipper issue. Members **AGREED** to get quotes for a bench and for a bin on the site.
- Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Richard Strachan (Darnhall PC) agreed to attend the next meeting.
- Planning – it was reported that the Long Lane application had been refused.

**190. CASUAL VACANCIES**

Two vacancies exist on the Parish Council following the elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. As per the Parish Council's Standing Orders, the vacancies have been

advertised. The Council considered individuals to fill the vacancies via co-option.

**RESOLVED: -**

Members nominated Ian Greaves to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council (to represent Cholmondeston). The Clerk reported that one vacancy remained on the Parish Council.

**191. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**192. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Members considered the following financial matters.

**192.1 Ledger (1.4.23-30.09.23)**

Members are asked to note the ledger for the period 1.4.23-30.09.23).

**192.2 Budget Monitoring Report (Quarter 2 – April 2023-Sept 2023)**

Members noted the budget monitoring report for the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year. Also attached was a summary of receipts and payments for the same period.

**192.3 Internal/External Audit 2022/23**

Members noted that both the internal and external audits for 2022/23 have been completed. In terms of the external audit, the Parish Council declared itself exempt from audit and this was accepted.

In terms of the Internal Audit report, the following was stated: -

- Accounts were fine and well-presented.
- The Parish Council needs to claim back VAT for the past two financial years.
- There was a small error on the fixed assets register.

Members noted and **APPROVED** the above internal audit report for 2022/23.

**192.4 Budget Report/Draft Budget 2024-25**

Members are asked to note the attached budget report and draft budget for 2024/25. Based on this information, Members **RESOLVED:**

- That a budget of £5,415.00 be approved; and
- That the Clerk be authorised to request a precept of £5,000.00 from Cheshire East Council

**192.5 Payments for Authorisation**

Members are asked to authorise the following items for payment.

- Mark Bailey £500.00 (Clerk Salary Oct-Dec 2023)
- HMRC £125.00 (Tax Months 7-9 2023/24)

- Wettehall PCC £200.00 (Room Hire – St Davids Church)
- John Edwards £210.00 (Internal Audit 2022/23)

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

**193. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cheshire East Councillor Becky Posnett attended to update the meeting on issues affecting Cheshire East Council. The following points were raised: -

- Green Bin subscription – payments start in January 2024.
- Car Parking – Cheshire East seeking to bring in uniform charging across the area – has resulted in some resistance from different areas.
- Green Spaces – consulting on areas maintained but not owned by the Borough Council.
- Strategic Leisure Consultation – around 900 responses received, and main message is that there is resistance to closing sites.
- Bunbury Medical Practice – there will be a meeting (20<sup>th</sup> January 2023) on the future of the practice as it is run by CWAC but covers Cheshire East residents.

*Cllr Posnett left the meeting.*

**194. HIGHWAY MATTERS/SPEED WATCH**

The following matters were raised under this heading: -

- Speed Gun – all those using the gun need to be re-trained.
- Speeding – still an issue, but some impact via use of signs – Members discussed the matter, including drivers using the area as a short cut, issues with horseboxes and larger forms of transport. Cllr Peacock said that she would contact the local PSCO about these matters.
- Potholes – it was reported that some repairs had been made to the Nantwich Road.

**195. PLANNING MATTERS**

No issues were raised by those present.

**196. COMMUNICATION/SHARED INFORMATION**

No issues were raised by those present.

- Police Cluster Meetings – Members were asked for their views. The Parish Council was generally supportive of the idea. The regular meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner were also mentioned.

**197. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 7.30pm – St David’s Church.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed 8.55pm.

**Chair**.....