

WARDLE PARISH COUNCIL

6th January 2025

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 8.30 pm

Present: Councillor Roden (Chair)
Councillors Leftwick, Nelson and Welch

Cheshire East Councillor – Councillor Becky Posnett

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jennings.

2. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Members noted the recent resignation of Councillor John Wright who had served on the Parish Council for many years. The Clerk added that she had notified Cheshire East Council and the process had commenced to advertise the vacancy.

RESOLVED

That on behalf of the Parish Council, a letter be sent by the Clerk to Mr Wright, extending the Parish Council's thanks for his long and valuable service to the community.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the Parish Council.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th September 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Discussions ensued regarding the odour from the popcorn factory, and Councillor Posnett reported that the filter system was compliant. If residents wished to make further complaints, they should contact Cheshire East individually, as this would have a larger impact.

The Clerk reported that she had added a page on the Parish Council's website entitled, Report IT where residents could click on appropriate links to report matters of concern to Cheshire East Council.

5. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Posnett reported on the following:-

- There were no improvements to the financial situation at Cheshire East Council and requests for exceptional financial support (loans) were being requested from the government;
- Budgets were being significantly cut;
- There would be a Council Tax increase of 4.99%. 2% of this increase would be allocated to Adult and Children Social Care;
- The new National Planning Policy Framework would be released indicating that Cheshire East Council was required to build 2500 new houses per year. Cheshire East however, didn't have the infrastructure that was required for this policy;
- A breach of the canal at Bollington had taken a huge amount of flooding resources from Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

6. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk reported that following the purchase of a defibrillator for the Parish, permission had now been obtained to locate the defibrillator in the bus shelter. However, there was a problem with the electricity supply and despite an assurance that this would be resolved, there had been no further responses to numerous emails by the Clerk and the Borough Councillor, therefore the defibrillator had still not been installed.

Councillor Posnett agreed to chase this matter in the next couple of days.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2024-2025

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

(i) Transactions

RESOLVED

That the following transactions, since 1st April 2024 from the Current Account, be approved:-

PAYER/PAYEE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	BALANCE
	Balance at 01/04/2024			£3,055.02
HSBC	Bank Charges		£5.00	£3,050.02
CHESHIRE EAST	Precept	£750.00		£3,800.02
Ian Brooks	Pinfold Maintenance		£400.00	£3,400.02
HSBC	Bank Charges		£5.00	£3,395.02
Calveley Church	Room Hire		£20.00	£3,375.02
A Latham	Lengthsman		£275.00	£3,100.02
HSBC	Bank Charges		£5.80	£3,094.22
Clear Councils	Annual Insurance Premium		£611.87	£2,482.35
Bank charges	Bank Charges		£5.80	£2,476.55
Sevenside Defibs	Cancelled by Bank		£0.00	£2,476.55
Sevenside Defibs	Defibrillator		£2,226.00	£250.55
Bank charges	Bank Charges		£5.80	£244.75
A Latham	Lengthsman		£275.00	-£30.25
CHESHIRE EAST	Compact Payment for Lengthsman	£1,150.00		£1,119.75
Calveley Church	Room Hire		£20.00	£1,099.75
Bank charges	Bank Charges		£5.40	£1,094.35
CHESHIRE EAST	Precept	£750.00		£1,844.35
Bank charges	Bank Charges		£5.00	£1,839.35
Calveley Church	Room Hire		£20.00	£1,819.35
M Clough	Reimbursement for Wreath (£384.49)		£24.49	£1,794.86
M Clough	Office Expenses from 01/04/2024 - 16/09/2024 (£384.49)		£360.00	£1,434.86
A Latham	Lengthsman		£275.00	£1,159.86
HugoFox	Website		£143.86	£1,016.00
Ian Brooks	Pinfold Maintenance		£200.00	£816.00
HMRC	VAT Refund	£375.08		£1,191.08
Bank Charges	Bank Charges		£5.80	£1,185.28

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the payments detailed below, be approved.

DETAILS	PAYMENTS
Alpraham and Calveley Village Hall	£12.00
A Latham	£275.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure to 27th December 2024

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 27th December 2024, be approved.

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Office Expenses	£360.00	£780.00	£420.00
Room Hire	£60.00	£80.00	£20.00
Insurance	£611.87	£620.00	£8.13
Community Projects	£2,394.35	£2,000.00	-£394.35
Lengthsman	£825.00	£1,100.00	£275.00
Bank Charges	£43.60	£72.00	£28.40
Pinfold Maintenance	£600.00	£1,000.00	£400.00
	£4,894.82	£5,652.00	£757.18

(iv) Bank Reconciliation as at 24th December 2024

RESOLVED

That the Bank Reconciliation as at 24th December 2024, as detailed below, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 24th December 2024	
WARDLE PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2025	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements as at 11th December 2024	£
Current Account (61011375)	£1,199.08
Reserve Account (01011618)	£1,288.91
Less: any unpresented cheques	
Current Account (61011375)	£20.00
Reserve Account (01011618)	
Add: any unbanked cash	£0.00
Net bank balances as at 24th December 2024	£2,467.99
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	
CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance Current at 1st April 2024	£3,055.02

Opening Balance Reserve at 1st April 2024	£1,270.01
Add: Receipts in the year	
Current Account (61011375)	£3,025.08
Reserve Account (01011618)	£18.90
Less: Payments in the year	
Current Account (61011375)	£4,901.02
Reserve Account (01011618)	£0.00
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£2,467.99

(iv) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Statements, as circulated with the report, be received:-

- **Charitable Bank Account (Current Account - 61011375)**

Statement Number 266

Statement Number 267

Statement Number 268

Statement Number 269

- **Business Money Manager Account (Account Number: 01011618)**

Statement Number 191

8. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025-2026

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the Budget and Precept for 2025-2026.

For the benefit of the Members, she highlighted the background to the Precept and explained the Taxbase.

Cheshire East Council had fixed its Taxbase for the financial year 2025/26 and the Taxbase for Wardle Parish Council was 77.88. The previous year's Taxbase and Precept were 80.48 and £1,500.00 respectively. This meant that the 2024-2025 Band D Equivalent property paid £18.64 of its Council Tax for the Precept.

For 2025-2026, the forecasted expenditure was £3,027 for the year. Therefore, if the Parish Council requested another Precept in the sum of £1,500.00, it would have insufficient finances for the year.

Members therefore considered each Budget Head and a Proposed Budget for 2025-2026, to ensure its costs would be met. In doing so, they noted that the Precept had not been increased for a number of years. In order to afford the forecasted expenditure, each Band D equivalent household would be required to pay a sum of £38.87 in the Council Tax, for its Precept, which was an increase of £20.23 for the year, or 39p per week, per Band D household. Whilst Members agreed that a Precept in the sum of £3,027 represented a 102% increase on last year's Precept, they recognised that prices had increased significantly, and 39p per week, per Band D household, didn't represent such a huge increase, in practical terms.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Wardle Parish Council Budget for 2025-2026, as detailed in Appendix 1 to these Minutes, be approved;**
- (ii) That Wardle Parish Council authorises the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to submit a Precept Request for 2025-2026 to Cheshire East Council for the sum of £3,027.00**
- (iii) That A Latham continues to work in his capacity as the Lengthsman for the Parish Council during 2025-2026;**
- (iv) That I Brooks continues to maintain the Pinfold for the Parish Council, during 2025-2026.**

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

RESOLVED

That the Risk Assessment, as appended to these Minutes as Appendix 2, be approved.

10. ASSET REGISTER

The Parish Council discussed its Parish Assets for inclusion on its Asset Register.

These included:-

- 1 x Noticeboard Wardle Avenue - £2,000
- Pinfold - £1.00
- Defibrillator - £2,500
- Laptop - £350.00
- 2 x Planters Wardle Avenue - £600.00
- 2 x Soldier Statues - £350.00
- Plastic poppies – 20

RESOLVED

That the Clerk drafts the Asset Register and submits it to the next meeting of the Parish Council for approval.

11. DATE OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the following meetings be approved:-

- (i) Annual Parish Meeting be held on Tuesday, 6th May 2025 at 7.00 pm**
- (ii) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Tuesday, 6th May 2025 at 7.30 pm**

12. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no items that required consideration as a matter of urgency.