#### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 7:30p.m.

#### at The Hub, Elmstead Road, Chelford.

Present Councillors B. Brindley (Chairman), J. Fielding, T. McCrum, C. Montaldo,

O. Reeves, D. Wilson, S. Wilson.

Members of the public (0).

Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Councillor C. Howlett – Personal reason.

Councillor C. Wright – Work reason.

#### **292/23 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and approve the apologies for absence.

(All in favour)

#### 2. Declarations of interest

#### (a) Declarations of interest in items on the agenda -

Councillor D. Wilson – Item 6(f) – Husband of committee member of Connecting Chelford.

Dr. E. M. Maddock – Item 17(a) – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

#### **293/23 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the declaration of interest above.

(All in favour)

#### 3. Public forum for questions

(a) **Questions from members of public** – No questions had been received from or were presented by members of the public.

294/23 RESOLVED (a) To note that no questions had been received from Members of the public. (All in favour)

#### (b) Summary of issues raised on social media accounts

- i. It was reported that several residents had reported that their bins had not been emptied. Information explaining how to alert Cheshire East Council to a missed bin collection had been provided to the residents.
- 295/23 RESOLVED (a) To note that the issue raised by residents had been addressed. (All in favour)

#### 4. Reports from external organisations

- (a) Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. A. Harrison report on matters of interest Borough Councillor A. Harrison was not present at the meeting to report.
- 296/23 RESOLVED(a) To note that Borough Councillor A. Harrison was not<br/>present at the meeting.(All in favour)
- 7:35p.m. Councillor J. Fielding joined the meeting.

#### 5. Minutes

- (a) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 had been previously circulated to all Members.
- 297/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

(All in favour)

#### 6. Finance

- (a) **Financial Statement 2023/24 as at 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023** Members considered the financial statement 2023/24 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)
- (b) Receipts The Chairman noted the receipts which had been received since the

last meeting. (Appendix B)

- (c) **Payments** The Chairman outlined the basis of payments listed at Appendix C.
- 298/23 RESOLVED (a) That the financial statement as at 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 be received and observations be duly noted. (Appendix A)

(b) That receipts listed at Appendix B be received and duly noted.

(c) That the schedule of payments at Appendix C be approved and duly authorised. (All in favour)

- (d) **External Audit 2022/23** It was reported that the external audit report had been received. The report stated, "On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".
- 299/23 RESOLVED (a) That the external audit report be received and duly noted.
   (b) That the actions of the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, in displaying the statutory notices on the website and the notice boards, be confirmed. (All in favour)
  - (e) **Webmail services** It was reported that the fees associated with the webmail service were to increased from £2.00 per month to £3.50 per month.
- 300/23 RESOLVED (a) That the increased fees for webmail services be received and duly noted. (All in favour)
  - (f) **Grant award** Further information relating to the grant awarded to Connecting Chelford had been previously circulated to all Members.
- 301/23 RESOLVED
- (a) That the information be received and duly noted and that the awarded grant, in the sum of £200, be reconfirmed.

(All in favour)

- (g) **Replacement table tennis padels** It was reported that prices for table tennis padels had been obtained from three suppliers.
- 302/23 RESOLVED(a) That approval be given for the purchase of 12 table tennis<br/>padels at a cost of £18.41 (ex. VAT).(All in favour)
  - (h) Asset maintenance It was reported that quotations had been obtained from three contractors for work to refurbish the notice board at Station Road; to carry out initial maintenance to the bus passenger shelter at Knutsford Road (vegetation and debris clearance) and to refurbish the bike track at Chelford Activity Park. Members considered the quotations.

303/23 RESOLVED

(a) That the quotation, in the sum of £75.00 plus materials, be accepted for the refurbishment of the notice board at Station Road.

(b) That the quotation, in the sum of £125, be accepted for the initial maintenance to the bus passenger shelter at Knutsford Road.

(c) That the quotation, based on £25 per hour plus weed treatment costs, be accepted for the refurbishment of the bike track at Chelford Activity Park.

(d) That the Clerk request the contractor to ensure that any weed treatments used at Chelford Activity Park are not hazardous to visitors of the site. (All in favour)

(i) **Savings opportunities** – Information relating to possible savings opportunities had been previously circulated to all Members. Members considered options to maximise interest yields from funds currently held.

304/23 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given for the opening of a 30 day notice savings account at NatWest Bank plc.

(b) That approval be given for the opening of a one year fixed term account at Skipton Building Society.

(c) That £30,000 be transferred to the NatWest Bank 30 day savings account.

(d) That £50,000 be transferred to the one year fixed term account at Skipton Building Society. (All in favour)

(j) **Donations to Royal British Legion** – Members considered making donations to the Royal British Legion both directly and via the Chelford street poppy initiative.

305/23 RESOLVED (a) That a donation, in the sum of £25, be made direct to the Royal British Legion.
(b) That a donation, in the sum of £45, be made to the Royal British Legion via the street poppy initiative.
(c) To confirm that the Chairman will attend the

Remembrance Service to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. (All in favour)

#### 7. Planning Matters

(a) Recent planning decisions – Members noted the planning decisions which had been issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish since the last meeting. (Appendix D)

# 306/23 RESOLVED(a) That the recent planning decisions be received and duly<br/>noted.(All in favour)

#### (b) Planning application for consideration

i. 23/3183T: Amenity Land, Dixon Drive, Chelford. Lift 3rd order branches over Broomfield Close highway to 6m affecting Oak Tag 3995 Birch Tag 3954 and Alders (multi stems) G1 group x2 trees. Cut Back from Street lightings Broomfield Close Alders and Oak Tag 3955 to clear by up to 2m. Lift of 3rd order branches to 3m over FP to Goat Willow Tag 3958 on Dixon drive and cut back from streetlight to clear by up to 2m.

# 307/23 RESOLVED (a) That no comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of planning application 23/3183T. (All in favour)

ii. Planning applications received following the issue of the agenda – None.

308/23 RESOLVED (a) To note that no new planning applications had been received. (All in favour)

(c) **s.106 funds for community facilities** – It was reported that, following assistance from Jones Homes, a response had been received from Cheshire East Council regarding the re-allocation of the community facilities funds. It appears, at this time, that the process to re-allocate the funds is not likely to commence for several months.

#### **309/23 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update.

#### (All in favour)

#### 8. Chelford Activity Park

(a) **Issues identified during routine inspections** – Councillor B. Brindley reported that issues relating to litter and moles continue to be monitored. There does appear to be an increase in the number of residents using the site. The Clerk

reported that confirmation had been received from the insurance company that dogs at the site are the sole responsibility of the owners.

310/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report.

(All in favour)

- (b) **Tree work** It was reported that the work to a beech tree at the site together with clearance of debris had now been completed.
- 311/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)
  - (c) Refurbishment work at Chelford Activity Park It was reported that information relating to quality control processes at Cheshire East Council had still not yet been received.
- 312/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
  - (d) **Grounds maintenance specification** Members reviewed the existing grounds maintenance specification in readiness for inviting quotations.
- 313/23 RESOLVED (a) That the existing grounds maintenance specification be re-confirmed subject to the inclusion of a clause requiring care to be taken around the new play area to avoid damage to the safety surfacing.
   (b) That expresses he given for the Clerk to proceed to invite

(b) That approval be given for the Clerk to proceed to invite quotations based upon the updated specification.

(All in favour)

#### 9. Assets

- (a) **Notice board at Peover Lane** It was reported that the new notice board had now been installed.
- 314/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update.

(All in favour)

- (b) **Parish Council height barrier** It was reported that the repair to the height barrier had now been completed and that a minor adjustment, to allow easier operation, had been completed earlier today.
- 315/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
  - (c) Additional benches and dog poo bag dispensers It was reported that a complaint had been submitted to ANSA Environmental Services regarding the excessively long delay in securing relevant quotations and information to proceed with the work. Grant funding was being pursued to support the project.

316/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update.

(All in favour)

(All in favour)

- (d) **Regular asset cleaning programme** Members noted that the regular cleaning of assets had improved their appearance.
- 317/23 RESOLVED (a) That existing cleaning allocations remain unchanged at this time. (All in favour)

#### 10. Highway Matters

- (a) **Updates on reported highway defects** It was reported that no updates had been received.
- 318/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update.
  - (b) **Highway defects requiring attention** It was reported that the LEDs on the zebra crossing post may not be working.

# 319/23 RESOLVED (a) That, subject to confirmation, the Clerk report the above defect to Cheshire East Council for attention. (All in favour)

(c) **Zebra crossing, Knutsford Road** – It was reported that the beacons at the crossing had been repaired and that the posts had been reduced in height. No response had yet been received regarding the review of the crossing.

#### 320/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update.

(All in favour)

(d) Speed Indicator Devices – It was reported that speeding continues to be a key issue for Chelford residents. At a recent meeting information was shared from a nearby Parish about speed indicator devices which can collect traffic data (including number of vehicles and speeds). It was considered that use of this style of device may be helpful in Chelford to gather detailed data regarding traffic habits. The Clerk shared indicative costs based on information from a nearby Parish.

# 321/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk make enquiries regarding the purchase and installation of two speed indicator devices along Knutsford Road. (All in favour)

#### 11. Chelford Community Newsletter

- (a) **Newsletter Edition 9** Members considered the content of Newsletter Edition 9.
- (b) **Newsletter advertising** It was reported that invoices had been issued to all new traders.
- (c) **Newsletter policy** Members considered the existing newsletter policy. Upon reflection of the past year a small number of amendments to the policy were identified.

322/23 RESOLVED

- (a) That approval be given for the printing and distribution of Edition 9 of the Chelford Community Newsletter.
- (b) To receive and note the update regarding advertising.

(c) That Councillor C. Montaldo and the Clerk arrange for the amendments to be made to the newsletter policy.

(All in favour)

#### 12. Correspondence

- (a) To consider specific correspondence received by the Parish Council since the date of the last ordinary meeting and determine such actions as Members consider appropriate thereto –
  - i. NALC Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms.

#### 323/23 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation.

(All in favour)

ii. Cheshire East Council – Consultation on Housing Allocations Policy.

#### 324/23 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

iii. Cheshire East Council – Consultation on Final Draft Sustainable Drainage Systems SPD.

#### 325/23 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation.

(All in favour)

iv. Cheshire East Council – Consultation on FlexiLink: Service Proposals.

#### 326/23 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation.

#### (All in favour)

v. Cheshire East Council – Future consultation on proposed changes to car parking charges.

#### 327/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

- Vi. Cheshire East Council Future consultation on proposed changes to street lighting.
- 328/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

ChALC – Notice of Annual Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Helsby vii. Community Sports Club. 329/23 RESOLVED (a) That any Members interested in attending contact the Clerk so that places can be booked. (All in favour) viii. ChALC – Notice of Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership and Cheshire & Warrington Local Authorities Sustainable & Inclusive Economic Plan consultation event on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. 330/23 RESOLVED (a) That any Members interested in attending contact the Clerk so that places can be booked. (All in favour) Congleton Town Council – Congleton Climate Festival and Green Fayre on ix. 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. 331/23 **RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour) ChALC – Updated guidance on D-Day anniversary events in June 2024. Χ. 332/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour) Chelford Parish Hall – Notice of Annual General Meeting and '200' Club xi. Draw 333/23 **RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (b) That no appointment to the Management Committee be made by the Parish Council at this time. (All in favour) Knutsford Community First Responder Trust – Invitation for a new volunteer xii. to support regular defibrillator checking in Chelford, Great Warford and Over Peover. 334/23 RESOLVED (a) That any Members interested in volunteering contact the Clerk so that details can be shared with the Knutsford **Community First Responder Trust.** (All in favour) xiii. Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioner's Community Action Fund reopens. (a) To receive and note the information. 335/23 **RESOLVED** (All in favour) xiv. Police & Crime Commissioner – Purchase of new speed monitoring devices for each of Cheshire's nine policing teams. (All in favour) 336/23 **RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. Community Rail Partnership – Relaunch of The Community Rail Integrated XV. Sustainable Transport fund. 337/23 **RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour) 13. Community Matters (a) Chelford Ward Policing Team – It was reported that the Chelford Ward PCSO has now moved to a new role. No monthly report had been received. 338/23 **RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour) (b) Community Speed Watch i i **Community Speed Watch activities** – There was nothing to report. 339/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour) (c) Knutsford Area Parishes Forum – Councillor D. Wilson reported that he and the Clerk had attended the meeting at which several issues were raised by local Parishes. Discussions relating to poor engagement by the Police; speeding;

Cheshire East Council planning department – delays with applications and enforcement action; general performance of Cheshire East Council; issues with

gullies and invasive weeds; HS2 and Manchester Airport airspace review had taken place. The forum aims to share experiences and to co-ordinate collective action where required.

#### 340/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report.

(All in favour)

(d) WhatsApp group for Parish Council – Members considered the merits of starting a WhatsApp group for Members. Reservations were raised regarding the potential nature and volume of such communications.

#### 341/23 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given to set up a trial WhatsApp group subject to messages on the platform being limited to emergency contact and reminders only. (All in favour)

14. Code of Conduct – The Clerk reported that during recent communications with Cheshire East Council it had been suggested that Clerks would be expected to be involved with the monitoring of Register of Interest forms. Following receipt of independent legal advice, the Clerk had informed Cheshire East Council that she was neither willing or obliged to accept such a role. Cheshire East Council had requested that this decision be notified to Members.

# 342/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report of the Clerk. (b) To confirm that responsibility for completing and maintaining the accuracy of register of interest forms rests individually with Members. (All in favour)

#### 15. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

- (a) Several carried forward from previous meetings.
- (b) Co-option of Parish Councillor.
- **16.** Date of next meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

To consider passing a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

# 343/23 RESOLVED (a) That the public and press be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information. (All in favour)

- **17.** Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items (a) Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Matters relating to employment
- 344/23 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given for the annual performance and pay review to be carried out.
  (b) That the Employer Pension Discretions Policy Statements for Employees be approved as at Appendix E. (All in favour)

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9:25p.m.

Signed:..... Approval date: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

#### **APPENDIX A**

	Financial Statem as at 14 <sup>th</sup> Septe				
Actual 2022/23 £	Details	2023/24 Budget £	Actual to Aug. 23 £	Agenda Sep. 23 £	Budget Balance £
	Receipts		2	L	
44,980.00	Precept	47,498.00	23,749.00		23,749.0
0.00	Balances	0.00	0.00		0.0
1,145.78	Investment interest	0.00	42.94		0.0
0.00	Sale of assets	0.00	0.00		0.
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds	0.00	0.00		0.
1,250.00	Newsletter advertising	0.00	60.00	10.00	0.
1,451.63	VAT refund	0.00	2,698.09	10.00	1,163.
	otal receipts	47,498.00	26,550.03	10.00	24,912.
	Payments				
11,847.32	Salary (Clerk)	13,655.00	5,262.50	1,052.50	7,340.
434.38	National Insurance (Employer)	530.00	220.00	44.00	266.
2,677.52	Pension contributions (Employer)	2,855.00	1,163.00	232.60	1,459.
766.79	Allowances (Clerk)	930.00	340.26	91.60	498.
75.21	Administration	295.00	2.60		292.
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.
402.50	Audit fees (internal & external)	540.00	225.00	210.00	105.
591.36	Insurance	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.
70.00	Donations (inc. s.137)	370.00	0.00		370.
0.00	Grants	3,000.00	0.00	200.00	2,800.
318.03	Newsletter	1,467.00	923.49		543.
96.39	Street lighting	280.00	36.16		243.
24.00	Website	50.00	10.00	2.00	38.
270.00	Professional services	2,091.00	1,147.00	839.00	105.
0.00	Advertising	100.00	0.00		100.
562.00	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	665.00	539.25		125.
220.00	Room hire	350.00	347.50		2.
100.00	Training	550.00	195.00	50.00	305.
2,854.15	Chelford Activity Park maintenance	6,175.00	1,514.94	240.58	4,419.
2,033.00	Chelford Village maintenance	4,520.00	1,130.00	350.00	3,040.
19,864.95	Assets – purchase	3,000.00	905.00		2,095.
456.50	Assets – maintenance	3,325.00	0.00		3,325.
1,677.00	Community Events	500.00	499.88		0.
0.00	Neighbourhood Plan	250.00	0.00		250.
47.96	Contingency	1,000.00	64.62		935.
2,698.09	VAT		848.09	315.31	
48,087.15 T	otal payments	47,498.00	15,374.29	3,627.59	29,659.

Cash/Bank reconciliation	01/04/23	10/08/23	14/09/23	31/03/24
Balance B/Fwd	101,662.54	101,662.54	112,838.28	109,220.69
Add total receipts	47,498.00	26,550.03	10.00	24,912.40
Less total payments	47,498.00	15,374.29	3,627.59	29,659.52
Balance C/Fwd	101,662.54	112,838.28	109,220.69	104,473.57
Cumulative balances	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	01/04/23	10/08/23	14/09/23	31/03/24
General funds	56,702.28	68,013.02	64,395.43	59,648.31
Earmarked reserves	44,960.26	44,825.26	44,825.26	44,825.26
	101,662.54	112,838.28	109,220.69	104,473.57

#### Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 14th September 2023

<b>Cash</b> Balance brought forward 01/04/23 Current Account Business Reserve Account Skipton Building Society	-	4,687.60 15,908.73 81,066.21 101,662.54		
Plus receipts Less payments Balance carried forward 14/09/23:	-	26,560.03 19,001.88 109,220.69		
Bank (NatWest) Business Reserve Account Add receipts/transfer since above stat		15,951.67		05/07/23
- Less unpresented cheques	0.00	0.00		
-	0.00	0.00	15,951.67	14/09/23
<b>Current Account</b> Add receipts/transfer since above stat	tement	19,297.13		04/08/23
-	0.00	0.00		
Less unpresented cheques Approved 2022/23	-318.03			
Approved 2022/23 Approved 2023/24	-3,148.70			
For approval	-3,627.59			
		-7,094.32	12,202.81	14/09/23
Skipton Building Society				
Community Saver Account Add receipts/transfer since above stat	tement	81,066.21		01/04/23
-	0.00	0.00		
Less unpresented cheques		0.00		
	0.00			
		0.00	81,066.21	14/09/23
Total bank balances 14/09/23		-	109,220.69	

#### **APPENDIX B**

#### **Receipts**

Trader AG

£10.00

Newsletter advertising fee

#### **APPENDIX C**

#### Payments for approval

Cheque No 001552	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	£50.00	Training fee (CM/SW)
Cheque No 001553	E. M. Maddock	£1,079.26	Salary, allowances, expenses: Sep. 2023
Cheque No 001554	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£71.06	Income Tax & National Insurance contributions
Cheque No 001555	Greenfingers Landscape Ltd.	£268.58	Grounds maintenance: Aug. 2023
Cheque No 001556	Northwich Town Council	£420.00	Floral display watering
Cheque No 001557	Geldards LLP	£993.80	Legal fees re: Chelford Parish Hall Trusteeship transfer
Cheque No 001558	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£252.00	External Audit fee 2022/23
Cheque No 001559	Connecting Chelford	£200.00	Grant
Standing Order	Cheshire Pension Fund	£290.49	Pension contributions: Sep. 2023
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£2.40	Email account fees: Sep. 2023

#### APPENDIX D

#### Outstanding planning applications & recent planning decisions

19/2936W	Dingle Bank Quarry, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington. SK11 9DR Variation of Condition 4 on application 16/3064W – Variation of Conditions 2, 4 and 5 of permission 10/3080W. DECISION STATUS – Withdrawn (15/03/21)
19/4049M	Land at former Chelford Agricultural Centre, Dixon Drive, Chelford. Non-material amendment to approved application 18/0171M. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
19/5674M	The Coach House, Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AN Planning permission for replacement of the existing Gardener's Cottage, together with ancillary garaging/store and garden building and associated works. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
20/3607M	Eddie Stobart Ltd, Knutsford Road, Chelford. SK11 9AS Amendment to s106 (release the local connection criteria for the Shared Ownership units) on application 16/0504M – Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following approval 13/4640M. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
22/3348M	Willow Glade, Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AJ Conversion of existing building to form new dwelling. DECISION STATUS – Refused (01/09/23)
22/5050M	Fir Tree Cottage, Carter Lane, Chelford. SK11 9BD

Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of new replacement dwelling.

**DECISION STATUS – Undecided** 

- 23/1921M Land to the south of Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AJ Construction of two new dwellings and the gifting of the land outlined in blue to the community to enable the re-establishment of the former cricket facilities. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
- 23/2154T 2 Yewtree Cottage, Alderley Road, Chelford. SK11 9AP Yew Tree – reduce stubs back down into live growth. Reason: to produce a solid canopy formation and to improve the overall shape of the tree. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
- 23/2369M Holly Tree House, Pepper Street, Chelford. SK11 9BE
   Extensions and alterations to include a side and rear leisure complex extension to the existing dwelling and alterations to the existing detached garage.
   [Application site within Marthall Parish.]
   DECISION STATUS Undecided
- 23/2425T 1 Highland Drive, Chelford. SK11 9GB T1: Oak tree, by roadside, near the side of the house. Reduce radial crown spread of tree by up to 2m, on South and East face away from building. Thin out remaining tree canopy by up to 20% to balance crown. Tree is very close to building and it is recommended to make minor works now to keep the tree at a suitable size for its location. T2: Oak tree just behind fence at the back of the property. Remove overextended lateral branch that extends over the garden to balance crown and improve aesthetic of tree. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
- 23/2448M 106 Dixon Drive, Chelford. SK11 9BX Renovation of dwelling to include rear extension and conversion of loft. DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (07/09/23)
- 23/2213M Fishing Lane, Bollington Lane, Nether Alderley. Provision of two parking areas and three fishing cabins. Retrospective permission for erection of fencing. DECISION STATUS – Undecided
- 23/2883M 6 Clay Heyes, Chelford. SK11 9ST 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension above garage and conversion of attic. DECISION STATUS – Undecided

#### APPENDIX E

#### Employer Pension Discretions

#### **Policy Statements for Employees**

**REGULATION 16 (2)(e) & (4)(d):** Ability to contribute to a shared cost additional pension contribution (APC) scheme

**Policy statement:** The Council will not contribute to a shared cost additional pension contribution for an employee who is working as normal.

REGULATION 30 (6) & (8): Ability to award flexible retirement & waive actuarial reduction

**Policy Statement:** Chelford Parish Council has a flexible retirement policy that is reliant upon a sound business case being made for the granting of flexible retirement with immediate access to all or part of the member's benefits. To this end Chelford Parish Council will consider requests on a case-by-case basis, but there must be no net cost to the Council. The Council will not waive any reduction that will be applied to the members benefits.

N.B. In determining this policy, the Council is aware that if flexible retirement is agreed for an employee aged 55 or over but under 60 who is subject to the 85 year rule and who, at the date of flexible retirement, has either met the 85 year rule or would have met the rule before age 60, there will be a strain on fund cost to be met by, and paid to the Pension Fund by, the Council in respect of the pension benefits paid, following flexible retirement. Where flexible retirement is agreed for an employee aged 55 or over but under Normal Pension Age the cost of waiving any actuarial reduction, in whole or in part, would have to be met by, and paid to the Pension Fund by, the Scheme employer. (see policy below under Regulation 1 (1)(c) SCHEDULE 2).

**REGULATION 30 (8):** Ability to waive some or all of early retirement reduction on benefits if a member retires before Normal Pension Age (NPA) – For both active and deferred members

**Policy Statement:** As a consequence of flexible retirement there may be a reduction to the benefit paid where the employee does so before the Normal Pension Age. Chelford Parish Council will not fund the reductions applied.

**TRANSITIONAL PROTECTIONS – Regulation 1 (1)(c) SCHEDULE 2:** Power of employing authority to 'switch on' the 85 year rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60

**Policy Statement:** The Council will not consider switching the 85 rule on for this group of members where it will result in a direct net cost to the Council. Switching the 85 year rule back on in full might be a mechanism the Council would wish to consider to encourage members to retire early to, for example, help achieve a balanced age profile within the workforce or to avoid possible redundancies later, which have attendant greater costs.

**REGULATION 31:** Ability to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency

Policy Statement: The Council will not consider awarding additional pension to a member.

In determining this policy, the Council are aware that an implication of the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act (Age Exceptions for Pension Schemes) Order 2010 is that all staff should be treated equally regardless of their age, unless different treatment can be objectively justified and would not wish to be open to challenge on age or gender discrimination grounds. (as those not in the pension scheme tend to be younger employees and part-time female workers). An implication of the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act (Age Exceptions for Pension Schemes).