

CHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Thursday 8th August, 2024 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub, Elmstead Road, Chelford.

Present Councillors B. Brindley (Chairman), J. Fielding, C. Howlett, C. Montaldo, D. Wilson,
S. Wilson.
Members of the public (1).
Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. A. Harrison.
Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor T. McCrum.
Councillor C. Wright – Personal reason.

205/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and approve the apologies for absence.
(All in favour)

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor B. Brindley – Item 6(d) – Association with Chelford Bowling Club
Councillor J. Fielding – Item 6(e) – Member of Chelford Social Committee
Councillor C. Montaldo – Item 6(e) – Member of Chelford Social Committee

206/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the declarations of interest.
(All in favour)

3. Public forum for questions

(a) **Questions from residents** – A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding internet speeds within Chelford. The resident considered that internet speeds were detrimentally affecting those who wished to work from home. It was reported that, whilst a scheme previously proposed by a commercial company was understood to no longer be proceeding, there may be opportunity to secure improvements to local infrastructure through Digital Cheshire. Digital Cheshire is able to lobby on behalf of communities to secure delivery of schemes where there is local demand for improved services. It was suggested that more information should be made available to residents and that Esther McVey MP should be approached to add further support to progressing improvement work.

207/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive the comments and queries from the resident.
(b) That the resident provide an article for inclusion within the next newsletter outlining the proposal.
(c) That the resident invite the representative of Digital Cheshire to Chelford to provide information to residents.
(All in favour)

7:58p.m. - One member of the public excused themselves from the meeting and left.

(b) **Issues raised via social media** – It was reported that no issues had been raised on social media. It was reported that a resident had expressed concern about a dead tree at Dixon Drive.

208/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk report the dead tree to Cheshire East Council for attention.
(All in favour)

4. **Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. A. Harrison – report on matters of interest** – Borough Councillor A. Harrison reported that Cheshire East Council was in the process of responding to the findings of the Corporate Peer Review. A new Leader of the Council had been appointed following the resignation of the previous Leader. Cheshire East Council is experiencing significant challenges at present across a number of

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service areas.

209/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report of Borough Councillor A. Harrison. (All in favour)

5. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th June, 2024 had been previously circulated to all Members.

210/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th June, 2024 be confirmed as a correct record. (All in favour)

(b) Meeting scheduled for 11th July, 2024.

211/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that the meeting scheduled for 11th July, 2024 had been cancelled. (All in favour)

6. Finance

(a) **Financial Statement 2024/25 as at 8th August, 2024** – Members considered the financial statement 2024/25 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)
A Member expressed disappointment regarding the floral displays and requested that these be reviewed.

(b) **Receipts** – The Chairman noted the receipts since the last meeting at Appendix B.

(c) **Payments** – The Chairman outlined the basis of payments listed at Appendix C.

212/24 RESOLVED (a) That the financial statement as at 8th August, 2024 be received and observations duly noted. (Appendix A)
(b) To note the receipts at Appendix B.
(c) That the schedule of payments at Appendix C be approved and duly authorised. (All in favour)

(d) **Release of s.106 funds for use within Parish** – It was reported that no response had yet been received from the s.106 Monitoring Officer.

213/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(e) **Grant application** – Members considered a grant application from Chelford Social Committee.

214/24 RESOLVED (a) That Chelford Social Committee make approaches to local businesses for a donation of, or a discount towards, a new shed at The Hub.
(b) That, subject to the outcome of (a) above, Chelford Parish Council provide a grant, of up to £710, to meet any shortfall in funding for a new shed at The Hub. (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)

215/24 RESOLVED (a) That the recent planning decisions be received and duly noted. (All in favour)

(b) **Planning applications for consideration**

- i. **24/2186M**: Foxfields, Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AL
Demolition of an existing extension and the construction of a single-storey rear swimming pool extension, including amendments to the existing terrace.

216/24 RESOLVED (a) That the following comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of application 24/2186M: Chelford Parish Council supports the comments made by United

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Utilities which seek to promote sustainable development; secure proper drainage; manage the risk of flooding and pollution; and protect the local water environment.

The Parish Council requests that all relevant policies of the Chelford Neighbourhood Plan are taken into consideration during the determination of the application, including those relating to materials. (All in favour)

ii. Any planning applications received since the last meeting: None.

217/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that no further applications had been received. (All in favour)

8. Chelford Activity Park

(a) **Issues identified during routine inspections** – Councillor B. Brindley reported that there had been a small amount of litter at the site. It was also noted that a new basketball net had been installed by a resident.

218/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(b) **Tennis net post ground sleeves** – It was reported that Cheshire East Council had provided information regarding the proposed installation of replacement tennis net ground sleeves. The proposed work was not, however, consistent with the manufacturer's recommended installation instructions.

219/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk submit a complaint to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council regarding the situation relating to the tennis net post ground sleeves. (All in favour)

(c) **Maintenance of the cableway** – It was reported that a quotation had been received for a maintenance inspection of the cableway. This work also included the replacement of the damaged cableway seat. Further information had been requested from the manufacturer which may impact the quotation, therefore, final consideration of the quotation was deferred to the next meeting.

220/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(d) **Chelford Activity Park refurbishment works** – It was reported that no updates had been received regarding remedial work to the play area or delivery of Phase 2.

221/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk submit a complaint to Cheshire East Council regarding the quality of phase 1 work. (All in favour)

(e) **Chelford Activity Park booking** – It was reported that an expected booking request had not yet been received.

222/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

9. Highway Matters

(a) **Updates relating to reported highway defects** – It was reported that notification had been received that the chevron at the roundabout had been repaired. Unfortunately, upon inspection this was not the case. A request for an update on the situation had been submitted, however, no response had yet been received. Notification had also been received that the street light at Knutsford Road (near to junction with Dixon Drive) had been repaired, however, this had not yet been verified. Updates in respect of other defects had not been received.

223/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the updates. (All in favour)

(b) **Highway defects requiring attention** – It was noted that the surface of Dixon Drive was deteriorating. Also, the bollard at the railway bridge on Alderley Road was currently obscured by vegetation.

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- 224/24 RESOLVED** (a) That the Clerk report the above issues to Cheshire East Council for attention. (All in favour)
- (c) **Village gateways** – Members considered the draft designs which had been previously circulated.
- 225/24 RESOLVED** (a) That Borough Councillor A. Harrison continue to pursue the delivery of the village gateways. (All in favour)
- (d) **Speed Indicator Device** – It was reported that the damage to the speed indicator device had been referred to the Parish Council insurers.
- 226/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)
- (e) **Updates relating to highway priorities** – It was reported that no updates, other than those includes elsewhere on the agenda, had been received.
- 227/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
- (f) **Verge maintenance** – It was reported that limited information had been received from Cheshire East Council regarding verge maintenance. Unfortunately, requested information relating to the mowing specification and mowing schedule could not be provided.
Quotations had been received in respect of providing grass collection vessels, however, the Parish Council insurers were unable to provide cover for such an activity.
- 228/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the updates.
(b) That the Parish Council will not provide waste containers for the collection of grass cuttings. (All in favour)
- (g) **Road closure** – Members noted the following planned road closure:
- i. Peover Lane, Chelford from outside of Ivy Bank Cottage to outside Mere Hall on 1st October, 2024 for works by Electricity North West.
- 229/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

10. 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. Manchester Airport: Consultation on Draft Noise Action Plan.
- 230/24 RESOLVED** (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)
- ii. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system.
- 231/24 RESOLVED** (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

11. Community Matters

- (a) **Chelford Ward Policing Team** – It was reported that the latest police update indicated that there had been a tree obstructing traffic on Holmes Chapel Road. Police surgeries continue to be advertised on the Local Policing Team Facebook page.
- 232/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)
- (b) **Community Speed Watch** – It was reported that volunteer training had now taken place and that activities would recommence in the near future.
- 233/24 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

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(c) **Newsletter** – Newsletter edition 18 had been previously circulated to all Members.

234/24 RESOLVED (a) **That the content of newsletter edition 18 be approved.**
(All in favour)

(d) **Installation of benches** – It was reported that an order for the benches had now been placed with installation expected within approximately eight weeks of delivery.

235/24 RESOLVED (a) **To receive and note the update.** (All in favour)

(e) **Parish Broadband** – The discussion at item 4 was noted.

236/24 RESOLVED (a) **To receive and note the update.** (All in favour)

12. Co-option of Parish Councillor – It was reported that no expression of interest forms had been received from residents.

237/24 RESOLVED (a) **To receive and note the update.**
(b) **That Councillor C. Montaldo advertise the councillor vacancies via forthcoming local events.** (All in favour)

13. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

(a) Consideration of grant application received from Chelford Parish Hall on behalf of Chelford Indoor Bowls Club.

(b) Review of Parish Council policies.

(c) Review of subscriptions to other bodies, insurance and earmarked reserves.

(d) Update relating to the application to discharge secondary treated sewage effluent to surface water at Wild Shore Chelford, Alderley Road, Chelford, Cheshire, SK11 9AP.

(e) Motion relating to the effectiveness and quality of Cheshire East Council monitoring of output from contracts and contractors.

(f) Installation of dog poo bag dispensers and additional notice board.

(g) Replacement telephone kiosk and renovation of telephone kiosk near roundabout.

(h) Transfer of custodian trusteeship of Chelford Parish Hall.

14. Dates of next meetings – Members reviewed the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2024/25:

(a) Thursday 12th September, 2024 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(b) Thursday 10th October, 2024 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(c) Thursday 14th November, 2024 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(d) Thursday 12th December, 2024 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(e) Thursday 9th January, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(f) Thursday 13th February, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(g) Thursday 13th March, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.

(h) Thursday 10th April, 2025 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.

238/24 RESOLVED (a) **That a resolution to exclude the public and press from the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information is not required as there are no items to discuss.** (All in favour)

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15. Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items – None.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9:32p.m.

Signed:.....

Approval date: 12th September, 2024

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APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2024/25 as at 8 th August, 2024					
Actual 2023/24 £	Details	2024/25 Budget £	Actual to Jun. 24 £	Agenda Aug. 24 £	Budget Balance £
	Receipts				
47,498.00	Precept	50,949.00	25,474.50		25,474.50
0.00	Balances	3,000.00	0.00		0.00
2,971.19	Investment interest	0.00	421.98	821.90	0.00
0.00	Sale of assets	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds	0.00	0.00		0.00
1,651.75	Newsletter advertising	1,675.00	112.50		0.00
0.00	Unpresented cheque (2023/24)	0.00	1,250.00		0.00
2,698.09	VAT refund		2,009.79		709.49
54,819.03	Total receipts	55,624.00	29,268.77	821.90	26,183.99
	Payments				
13,797.21	Salary (Clerk)	15,994.00	3,680.82	2,453.88	9,859.30
689.07	National Insurance (Employer)	530.00	204.21	136.14	189.65
3,049.16	Pension contributions (Employer)	3,254.00	813.45	542.30	1,898.25
815.26	Allowances (Clerk)	930.00	177.27	126.94	625.79
139.19	Administration	300.00	0.00		300.00
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
435.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	565.00	264.00		301.00
629.44	Insurance	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
70.00	Donations (inc. s.137)	370.00	0.00		370.00
200.00	Grants	3,000.00	0.00		3,000.00
1,539.15	Newsletter	1,467.00	442.98	122.45	901.57
98.14	Street lighting	330.00	40.45	32.12	257.43
64.98	Website	126.00	21.50	13.50	91.00
1,986.00	Professional services	2,143.00	0.00	293.00	1,850.00
0.00	Advertising	100.00	0.00		100.00
574.25	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	695.00	551.72		143.28
347.50	Room hire	420.00	330.00		90.00
270.00	Training	550.00	0.00	125.00	425.00
4,348.42	Chelford Activity Park maintenance	7,175.00	2,370.32	875.00	3,929.68
2,619.50	Chelford Village maintenance	6,100.00	30.00	1,115.00	4,955.00
2,015.06	Assets – purchase	5,000.00	0.00		5,000.00
815.00	Assets – maintenance	3,825.00	0.00		3,825.00
499.88	Community Events	500.00	0.00		500.00
0.00	Neighbourhood Plan	250.00	0.00		250.00
64.62	Contingency	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
2,009.79	VAT		283.18	426.31	
37,076.62	Total payments	55,624.00	9,209.90	6,261.64	40,861.95

Cash/Bank reconciliation	01/04/24	13/06/24	08/08/24	31/03/25
Balance B/Fwd	119,404.95	119,404.95	139,463.82	134,024.08
Add total receipts	55,624.00	29,268.77	821.90	26,183.99
Less total payments	55,624.00	9,209.90	6,261.64	40,861.95
Balance C/Fwd	119,404.95	139,463.82	134,024.08	119,346.12
Cumulative balances	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	01/04/24	13/06/24	08/08/24	31/03/25
General funds	46,822.19	66,881.06	61,441.32	46,763.36
Earmarked reserves	72,582.76	72,582.76	72,582.76	72,582.76
	119,404.95	139,463.82	134,024.08	119,346.12

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Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 8th August, 2024

Cash

Balance brought forward 01/04/24		
Current Account	5,333.82	
Business Reserve Account	2,177.90	
Liquidity Manager Account	30,293.00	
Skipton Building Society	81,600.23	
	119,404.95	
Plus receipts	30,090.67	
Less payments	15,471.54	
Balance carried forward 08/08/24:	134,024.08	

Bank (NatWest)

Business Reserve Account	13,147.50		05/07/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	0.00	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	0.00	0.00	
		13,147.50	08/08/24
Current Account	15,946.98		05/07/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	0.00	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
Approved	-952.98		
For approval	-6,261.64		
Less payments already issued	6.00	-7,208.62	
		8,738.36	08/08/24
Liquidity Manager Account	30,537.99		01/07/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	0.00	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	0.00	0.00	
		30,537.99	08/08/24
Skipton Building Society			
Community Saver Account	81,600.23		01/04/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	0.00	0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	0.00	0.00	
		81,600.23	08/08/24
Total bank balances 08/08/24		134,024.08	

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APPENDIX B

Receipts

NatWest Bank plc	£3.14	Gross interest – April, 2024 (BR)
Skipton Building Society	£240.78	Gross interest – April 2024
NatWest Bank plc	£3.27	Gross interest – May, 2024 (BR)
Skipton Building Society	£248.80	Gross interest – May, 2024
NatWest Bank plc	£74.78	Gross interest – June, 2024 (LM)
NatWest Bank plc	£10.35	Gross interest – June, 2024 (BR)
Skipton Building Society	£240.78	Gross interest – June, 2024

APPENDIX C

Payments for approval

Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£6.00	Web hosting: June-July 2024
Direct Debit	npower	£33.73	Electricity: April-June 2024
Cheque No 001610	Northwich Town Council	£1,098.00	Floral display planting/watering, grounds maintenance: June 2024
Cheque No 001611	Cheshire East Council	£122.45	Newsletter printing: June 2024
Cheque No 001612	E. M. Maddock	£1,172.07	Salary and allowances: July 2024
Cheque No 001613	HM Revenue & Customs	£118.93	PAYE payments
Standing Order	Cheshire Pension Fund	£338.63	Pension contributions: July 2024
Cheque No 001614	E. M. Maddock	£1,177.07	Salary and allowances: Aug. 24
Cheque No 001615	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£118.93	PAYE payments
Cheque No 001616	Northwich Town Council	£1,290.00	Floral display watering, grounds maintenance: July 2024
Cheque No 001617	Society of Local Council Clerks	£293.00	Membership fee 2024/25
Cheque No 001618	SLCC Enterprises Ltd.	£144.00	Training fee
Standing Order	Cheshire Pension Fund	£338.63	Pension contributions: Aug. 2024
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£4.20	Email account fee: July 2024
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£6.00	Web hosting: July-August 2024

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APPENDIX D

Outstanding planning applications & recent planning decisions

- 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
- 23/2213M Fishing Lane, Bollington Lane, Nether Alderley.
Provision of two parking areas and three fishing cabins. Retrospective permission for erection of fencing.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided [To be considered by committee]
- 24/0737M Willow Glade, Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AJ
Conversion of pool house to form new dwelling.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (03/07/24)
- 24/1569M Scouts Hall, Knutsford Road, Chelford. SK11 9AS
Small extension to provide new fully accessible sanitary accommodation.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (18/07/24)
- 24/2034M 1 Yewtree Cottage, Alderley Road, Chelford. SK11 9AP
Proposed two-storey side and single storey rear extension. Alterations to existing access to widen driveway.
DECISION STATUS – Refused (17/07/24)
- 24/2010M Willow Glade, Peover Lane, Chelford. SK11 9AJ
New single dwelling to replace existing building.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided
- 24/2603M 16 Broomfield Close, Chelford. SK11 9SL
Non material amendment to application 23/3801M: Single storey rear and side extensions, internal modification, adjusting front window and the installation of new solar panels to the front pitched roof.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (24/07/24)