

Chelford Parish Council

Notice of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Thursday 13th February, 2025

Time: 7:30p.m.

Venue: The Hub, Elmstead Road, Chelford.

E.M.Maddock

Dr. E. M. Maddock PSLCC, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Dated 8th February, 2025

In order to keep councillors and other members of the public safe, please do not attend the meeting if you are feeling unwell for any reason or if you have been in contact with anyone who has Covid, flu or Covid/flu symptoms.

All attendees will be expected to respect social distancing preferences of other attendees.

Agenda

To Members of Chelford Parish Council,

You are hereby summoned to attend the Parish Council Meeting, as shown above, to consider and determine the following business:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
 - (a) To receive Declarations of Interest in any items on the agenda.
- 3. Public Forum for Questions**
 - (a) To receive questions from members of the public.
 - (b) To receive a summary of issues raised via the Parish Council social media account.
- 4. Cheshire East Ward Member: Cllr. A. Harrison**
 - (a) To receive a report on items of interest to the Parish Council.
- 5. Minutes**
 - (a) To approve the Minutes of the All Member Working Group meeting held 9th January, 2025 as a correct record, confirm the decisions made at the meeting and approve signing by the Chairman.
- 6. Finance**
 - (a) To receive and consider the Financial Statement 2024/25 as at 13th February, 2025 (Appendix A)
 - (b) To note receipts as listed at Appendix B.
 - (c) To approve the payments listed at Appendix C.
 - (d) To confirm approval for the transfer of £5,000 from the business reserve account to the current account as shown in Appendix A.
 - (e) To approve the updated service level agreement, for maintenance services, with Northwich Town Council.

Chelford Parish Council

7. Planning Matters

- (a) To receive and consider recent planning decisions issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish and any updates relating to outstanding applications. (Appendix D)
- (b) To consider the following planning application:
 - i. 24/5231/TPO: 3 Mere Court, Chelford. SK11 9EB
Tulip Tree (T1) - Fell. Tree in question is displaying a degree of heave at the root plate. Root system is heavily girdled with a number of basal cavities. Root system stands excessively proud out of the ground. Historically it has been poorly/severely pruned and is now displaying an uneven / more top heavy crown. Client would like to replant two good quality (9ft/15Litre pot) Tulip trees in its place on the right hand side of the garden.
 - ii. Any planning applications received following the issue of the agenda may be included for discussion if required.

8. Chelford Activity Park

- (a) To receive a summary of issues identified during routine inspections of the site.
- (b) To receive and consider updates relating to the delivery of the refurbishment work and associated phase one remedial work.

9. Assets and Parish Council projects

- (a) To receive an update regarding the installation of the replacement speed indicator post.
- (b) To receive updates relating to ongoing Parish Council projects. (Appendix E)

10. Highway matters

- (a) To receive new highway defects for attention from Members.
- (b) To receive and consider information relating to car parking issues associated with Chelford Surgery.
- (c) To receive updates relating to ongoing highway matters. (Appendix F)
- (d) To receive updates relating to ongoing highway priority issues. (Appendix G)

11. 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. Cheshire East Council: Polling Place Review outcome. (Appendix H)
 - ii. Police & Crime Commissioner: Invitation to meeting for Town & Parish Councils. (19/02/25)
 - iii. Cheshire East Council: Notice that the Cheshire and Warrington region has been confirmed as part of the Government's devolution priority programme. The region's plans to hold mayoral elections in May 2026 have been accepted by government.
 - iv. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Consultation on Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England. (Closing date: 26th February, 2025)
[Link to information:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england#strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework>]

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12. Community Matters

- (a) To receive a report from the Chelford Ward Policing Team on matters of interest or concern within the Parish.
- (b) To receive an update on community speed watch activities.
- (c) To confirm approval for the content of newsletter edition 23.
- (d) To receive and consider updates from David Wilson Homes relating to future development within the Parish.
- (e) To receive and consider updates relating to broadband upgrades with Parish.
- (f) To consider updates relating to possible activities and/or events to support the national celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the railways (Railway 200).
- (g) To note that the Annual Parish Meeting 2025 will take place on Thursday 8th May, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at Chelford Primary School. The Rt Hon Esther McVey MP has accepted an invitation to hold a question and answer session at the meeting.
- (h) To receive an update relating to s.106 funds for indoor sports uses.
- (i) To receive notice from Connecting Chelford of their nomination for The King's Award for Voluntary Service.
- (j) To receive information from the Cheshire East Council Anti Social Behaviour Team regarding unauthorised activities on amenity land within the Parish.

13. Co-option of Parish Councillors

- (a) To consider the co-option of new parish councillors (3).

14. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

- (a) Several carried forward from previous meetings.

15. Dates of next meetings: To note dates of meetings for the remainder of the civic year.

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

16. Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items (as required)

E.M.Maddock

Dr. E. M. Maddock PSLCC,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Dated 8th February 2025

Chelford Parish Council

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2024/25 as at 13 th February, 2025					
Actual 2023/24 £	Details	2024/25 Budget £	Actual to Jan. 25 £	Agenda Feb. 25 £	Budget Balance £
	Receipts				
47,498.00	Precept	50,949.00	50,949.00		0.00
0.00	Balances	3,000.00	0.00		0.00
2,971.19	Investment interest	0.00	2,929.65	404.52	0.00
0.00	Sale of assets	0.00	0.00		0.00
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds	0.00	5,196.92		0.00
1,651.75	Newsletter advertising	1,675.00	1,175.00	475.00	0.00
0.00	Unpresented cheque (2023/24)	0.00	1,250.00		0.00
2,698.09	VAT refund		2,009.79		4,222.60
54,819.03	Total receipts	55,624.00	63,510.36	879.52	4,222.60
	Payments				
13,797.21	Salary (Clerk)	15,994.00	12,719.90	1,271.99	2,002.11
689.07	National Insurance (Employer)	530.00	742.87	74.29	-287.16
3,049.16	Pension contributions (Employer)	3,254.00	2,811.07	281.11	161.82
815.26	Allowances (Clerk)	930.00	651.77	56.99	221.24
139.19	Administration	300.00	99.16		200.84
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
435.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	565.00	579.00		-14.00
629.44	Insurance	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
70.00	Donations (inc. s.137)	370.00	70.00		300.00
200.00	Grants	3,000.00	710.00		2,290.00
1,539.15	Newsletter	1,467.00	1,282.12	122.45	62.43
98.14	Street lighting	330.00	103.29		226.71
64.98	Website	126.00	77.50	12.00	36.50
1,986.00	Professional services	2,143.00	293.00		1,850.00
0.00	Advertising	100.00	0.00		100.00
574.25	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	695.00	636.72		58.28
347.50	Room hire	420.00	355.00		65.00
270.00	Training	550.00	125.00		425.00
4,348.42	Chelford Activity Park maintenance	7,175.00	7,535.96	100.00	-460.96
2,619.50	Chelford Village maintenance	6,100.00	2,697.50		3,402.50
2,015.06	Assets – purchase	5,000.00	0.00	10,932.92	-5,932.92
815.00	Assets – maintenance	3,825.00	213.15		3,611.85
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		2,013.62	2,208.98	
37,076.62	Total payments	55,624.00	33,716.63	15,060.73	11,069.24

Cash/Bank reconciliation	01/04/24	09/01/25	13/02/25	31/03/25
Balance B/Fwd	119,404.95	119,404.95	149,198.68	135,017.47
Add total receipts	55,624.00	63,510.36	879.52	4,222.60
Less total payments	55,624.00	33,716.63	15,060.73	11,069.24
Balance C/Fwd	119,404.95	149,198.68	135,017.47	128,170.83
Cumulative balances	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	01/04/24	09/01/25	13/02/25	31/03/25
General funds	46,822.19	79,010.36	64,829.15	57,982.51
Earmarked reserves	72,582.76	70,188.32	70,188.32	70,188.32
	119,404.95	149,198.68	135,017.47	128,170.83

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Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 13th February, 2025

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
	<u>119,404.95</u>
Plus receipts	64,389.88
Less payments	48,777.36
Balance carried forward 13/02/25	<u><u>135,017.47</u></u>

Bank (NatWest)

Business Reserve Account	24,675.31		03/01/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>-5,000.00</u>		
		-5,000.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	<u>0.00</u>		
		<u>0.00</u>	
			19,675.31 13/02/25
Current Account	14,073.44		05/02/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>5,000.00</u>		
		5,000.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
Approved	-1,381.45		
For approval	-15,060.73		
Less payments already issued	<u>10.20</u>		
		<u>-16,431.98</u>	
			2,641.46 13/02/25
Liquidity Manager Account	31,100.47		31/01/25
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>0.00</u>		
		0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	<u>0.00</u>		
		<u>0.00</u>	
			31,100.47 13/02/25
Skipton Building Society			
Community Saver Account	81,600.23		01/04/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement			
	<u>0.00</u>		
		0.00	
Less unrepresented cheques			
	<u>0.00</u>		
		<u>0.00</u>	
			81,600.23 13/02/25
Total bank balances 13/02/25		<u><u>135,017.47</u></u>	

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APPENDIX B

Receipts

Patron H	£100.00	Newsletter Advertising Fee 2024/25
Patron I	£100.00	Newsletter Advertising Fee 2024/25
Trader O	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader P	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader Q	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader R	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader S	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader T	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader U	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader V	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader W	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader X	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
Trader Y	£25.00	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
NatWest Bank plc	£80.30	Gross interest – December 2024 (LM)
NatWest Bank plc	£28.89	Gross interest – December 2024 (BR)
Skipton Building Society	£218.76	Gross interest – December 2024
NatWest Bank plc	£76.57	Gross interest – January 2025 (LM)

APPENDIX C

Payments for approval

Cheque No 001647	E. M. Maddock	£1,196.16	Salary and allowances: Feb. 2025
Cheque No 001648	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£137.15	PAYE payments
Cheque No 001649	Northwich Town Council	£60.00	Grounds maintenance: Jan. 2025
Cheque No 001649	Northwich Town Council	£60.00	Grounds maintenance: Feb. 2025
Cheque No 001650	ANSA Environmental Services	£5,050.04	Provision and installation of notice board and dog bag dispensers
Cheque No 001651	ANSA Environmental Services	£8,069.46	Provision and installation of benches
Cheque No 001652	Cheshire East Council	£122.45	Newsletter printing: Feb. 2025
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£4.20	Email accounts: Jan. 2025
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£6.00	Web hosting: Jan.-Feb. 2025
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£4.20	Email accounts: Feb. 2025
Standing Order	Cheshire Pension Fund	£351.07	Pension contributions: Feb. 2025

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APPENDIX D

(a) Recent planning decisions

24/4924/HOUS 106 Dixon Drive, Chelford. SK11 9BX
Single storey rear extension.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (03/02/25)

(b) Outstanding planning applications

23/1921M New Croft, 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 – Under appeal

24/4781/HOUS 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 – Undecided

APPENDIX E

Review and updates relating to projects identified by Parish Council

Pre-2023/24 (brought forward):

1. Ensure walking provision is considered when strategic plans for Green Spaces are developed.
UPDATE: New pathway at Chelford Activity Park under review with respect to position and design. Awaiting revised proposal details from Cheshire East Council.
2. Consider inclusion of fitness trail when preparing plans for the refurbishment of Chelford Activity Park.
UPDATE: Position of proposed fitness trail and outdoor gym equipment at Chelford Activity Park under review. Awaiting further details from Cheshire East Council.
3. Consider provision of additional benches within Green Spaces.
UPDATE: Picnic benches to be installed at Mere Court Park (date unknown). Bench provision at Chelford Activity Park to be reviewed following finalisation of pathway route. (One bench may need to be relocated to accommodate the pathway.) Awaiting revised proposal details from Cheshire East Council.
4. Repair and refurbish brick bus passenger shelter at Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Initial maintenance work ordered and due for completion in near future. Detailed survey planned to identify any repairs required to the shelter and consider options to improve the appearance and amenity of the shelter (e.g. installation of information boards, review of internal furniture, etc.).
5. Renovate and re-purpose red telephone kiosk at Chelford Roundabout.
UPDATE: Quotations being sought for renovation work. Consideration to be given to possible future uses of the kiosk.
6. Replace and re-purpose red telephone kiosk at Knutsford Road.
UPDATE: Replacement kiosk being sourced together with quotations and permissions for installation. Consideration to be given to possible future uses of the kiosk particularly given the location and limited access to the potential asset.

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2023/24:

1. Review of floral displays (content)
UPDATE: Routine weeding has been added to the current floral display contract.
2. Review of floral displays (provision of additional displays)
UPDATE: Consideration to be given to viability and sustainability of possible additional floral display locations.
3. Identification and review of problematic areas for dog poo
UPDATE: Dog poo bag dispensers installed at four locations and filled with bags. A period of monitoring, to identify usage and impact, will be undertaken. Public feedback following the installation of the dispensers has been very positive.
4. Support The Hub in carrying out work to make the venue more useable for whole community
UPDATE: [Note: The Hub is not within the management of the Parish Council.] Funding opportunities for energy efficiency projects and digital connectivity projects brought to the attention of The Hub. Grant of £710 provided for replacement shed. The Parish Council will continue to forward relevant funding opportunities to The Hub and to respond to requests for support as required.
5. Support Friends of Chelford Station Group to recruit more volunteers to help maintain the green space around the station
UPDATE: Friends of Chelford Station Group invited to submit articles to the newsletter to encourage residents to join the group. Parish Council has supported work by providing floral displays for the southbound platform and annual hedge cutting services.
6. Consider holding an event to address vegetation overhanging footways and encourage a sense of collective community responsibility
UPDATE: Articles periodically included within the newsletter reminding residents to ensure their boundary hedges and other vegetation are not obstructing the footways. Consider the viability of the suggested event, if still required, in the autumn.
7. Consider supporting the 20s Plenty campaign
UPDATE: 20s Plenty campaign continue to lobby nationally for reduced speed limits. Parish Councils are invited to consider whether there is local support for a scheme in their local area. Parish Council may wish to consider inviting a representative of the campaign to speak to the Parish Council and/or a public meeting.
8. Consider options for reviewing accessibility of public rights of way within Parish
UPDATE: [Note: Public Rights of Way are the shared responsibility of landowners and Cheshire East Council (as the Highway Authority).] Chelford FP1 included within the annual strimming schedule (770m). Chelford FP5 included within the annual strimming schedule (370m). Report public rights of way issues to Cheshire East Council when received. Public rights of way information to be added to the Parish Council website.
9. Consider holding litter picking events throughout the year
UPDATE: Previously planned event abandoned due to leader of initiative resigning. Small, informal litter picking activities carried out by volunteers. Undertake periodic reviews to establish whether there are significant litter issues requiring attention.
10. Raise awareness of Neighbourhood Watch schemes
UPDATE: Information relating to Neighbourhood Watch included within newsletter. Four localised Neighbourhood Watch groups listed within the scheme (Dixon Drive, Knutsford Road, Broomfield Close, Burnt Acre). Consider including reminder information in future newsletter.

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11. Explore ways to engage with residents
UPDATE: Parish Council newsletter article endeavours, where appropriate, to include details of consultations on issues which may affect or be of interest to residents. Consultations, invitations to meetings and other information published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. Residents are invited to attend Parish Council meetings. A new notice board at Dixon Drive provides a further information point within the community. List of Parish Councillors is displayed on notice boards. Residents invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to share local issues.
12. Consider entering Britain in Bloom competition
UPDATE: Information relating to competition discussed by Parish Council. Consideration given to the non-competitive scheme 'It's Your Neighbourhood'. Article in the newsletter invited residents to express interest in participating in the scheme – only one expression of interest received.
13. Consider creating a welcome pack for new residents with lists of local trades, latest newsletter and perhaps vouchers from local businesses to encourage people to support local shops
UPDATE: Discussed by Parish Council, however, it was considered that the regular newsletter may supersede the 'welcome pack'. Challenges identified regarding effective administration of such a scheme given the increasing number of properties within the Parish and the lack of a comprehensive method to minimise 'missing' new residents. Discussion concluded to take no further action at this time.
14. Management of unmown areas at Mere Court Park
UPDATE: Cheshire East Council advise that the area acts as a buffer between the open space and neighbouring properties. The area is cut back every few years to prevent it encroaching into the open space. There will be no nettle or bramble control other than strimming back to keep them from the edge of the footpath. Parish Council will continue to monitor and report issues as they arise.
15. New notice board at Dixon Drive (near to Galloway Grange)
UPDATE: Notice board has been installed.
16. Renovation of notice board at Station Road.
UPDATE: Maintenance work ordered and due for completion in near future.

APPENDIX F

Updates relating to reported highway matters

1. Damaged chevron sign at Chelford Roundabout
UPDATE: Chevron repaired (January, 2025).
2. Overgrown hedge at Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Awaiting response from resident regarding trimming works.
3. Overgrown footway along Alderley Road
UPDATE: Cheshire East Council advises that this location is included in the routine maintenance programme.
4. Request for low level lighting at Dixon Drive
UPDATE: Awaiting response.
5. Pothole at Oak Road (near junction with Knutsford Road)
UPDATE: Work complete.

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6. Signs obscured by foliage
UPDATE: Hedge cutting has been undertaken and improved visibility of several signs. Review to be undertaken to identify any signs which remain obscured.
7. Damaged bollard at Peover Lane (near junction with roundabout)
UPDATE: A job has been raised and scheduled to be carried out by Cheshire East Highways.
8. Damaged sign at Peover Lane (near junction with Knutsford Road)
UPDATE: Cheshire East Highways has assessed the report and aims to carry out a repair in the next 20 working days.

APPENDIX G

Highway Priorities 2023/24

Immediate priorities:

1. Review of zebra crossing at Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Continue to log incidents at the crossing and lobby for crossing improvements. Continue to lobby for improved lighting at the crossing to increase the visibility of pedestrians.
2. Review of yellow lines at junction of Oak Road and Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Response from Cheshire East Council: Cheshire Constabulary data shows that over the last five years there has been one reported injury collision at this location. The data does not include damage-only collisions or near misses. The request has been added to the list of locations for consideration during prioritisation assessments which inform future work programmes.
The Parish Council will continue to lobby for action in order to reduce the number of 'near-miss' incidents at the junction and reduce the impact on traffic flow along Knutsford Road and Oak Road.

High priority issues:

3. Review of options to tackle speeding issues within the Parish
UPDATE: Provision of two new SIDs along Knutsford Road being progressed. Community speed watch now resumed. Potential for average speed cameras to be assessed when initial pilot scheme at Plumley has been completed.
4. Footway surface condition along Knutsford Road from junction with Station Road to railway platform access
UPDATE: Issue logged with Cheshire East Council for attention. Issue referred to Cheshire East Council Walking Champion for attention. Access to footway much improved following removal of debris and overgrown vegetation.
5. Siding out of footways along Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Issue logged with Cheshire East Council for attention. Siding out work completed along Knutsford Road from junction with Station Road to Chelford Parish Hall by Chelford Edging Group.
6. Review of gullies and drainage issues
UPDATE: Gully emptying data being analysed and correlated to any current flooding issues. Drainage issue at Peover Lane addressed (early October, 2024).
The Parish Council continues to monitor flooding issues and report as necessary.

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7. Signage (or other measures) to deter parking on footways (e.g. Elmstead Road, Knutsford Road (near shops))
UPDATE: Knutsford Road: Road Safety Team reviewing impact of commercial businesses on parking issues.
Elmstead Road: The request has been added to the list of locations for consideration during prioritisation assessments which inform future work programmes. Where parked vehicles are causing an obstruction or preventing egress from properties they can be reported to the police. Where parking restrictions exist, enforcement is undertaken by the Cheshire East Council parking services team.

Other highway priorities to be pursued:

8. Re-instatement of worn yellow lines on Dixon Drive
UPDATE: Cheshire East Council has assessed the issue and added it to the improvement programme for repair over the longer term. This means that it is unlikely that any improvement work will take place during the current financial year. The Parish Council continues to press for re-instatement work to be carried out. The issue has also been raised with David Wilson Homes.
9. Review of street lighting provision within the Parish (particularly along Knutsford Road)
UPDATE: Existing defective columns reported to Cheshire East Council for attention. Street lights out at Chelford Roundabout, between Alderley Road and Chelford Road exits are awaiting repair (Repairs have been delayed due to safety concerns and the loss of electricity supply to the columns.).
10. Installation of village gateways
UPDATE: Cheshire East Council plans to refresh the slow markings through the village, install some dragon's teeth lining at the start of the speed limit change into the village and also install a 30mph roundel at the speed limit change, however, the proposed gateway signs do not fall within the scope of items for which Ward Member budgets can be spent. These, therefore, are not being completed as part of the above work. Village gateway proposals being developed following discussion at January 2025 Parish Council meeting.
11. Removal of redundant signage
UPDATE: David Wilson Homes has apologised for the oversight in leaving the signage in place and has removed the signage. National Garden Scheme apologised for signs not being removed and is making relevant individuals aware of need to remove signage following events. Awaiting response from Pear Tree Barns developer.
12. Install more robust bollards at Dixon Drive (no through road point near Galloway Grange)
UPDATE: The Parish Council continues to press for improvements to the bollards and for signage to alert motorists for need for access for emergency vehicles.
13. Enforcement of hedge/shrub/tree cutting adjacent to footways
UPDATE: Individual issues reported to Cheshire East Council as required.
14. Installation of rumble strips
UPDATE: Parish Council to consider possible locations and desirability of rumble strips.

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APPENDIX H

Cheshire East Borough Polling Places Review

Extracts from report to the Electoral and Polling District Review Sub-Committee meeting held 27th January, 2025.

Full reports available at:

<https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1099&MId=10743>

4. Section 18 C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to undertake a review of polling districts and polling place by the beginning of 2025. However, the legislation also provides for a further such review to be undertaken after this deadline, should the need to do so, arise.

5. On 13 June 2024, the Corporate Policy Committee empowered the Electoral and Polling District Review Sub-Committee to formally determine all matters relating to the Cheshire East Council Polling District Review, without any further reference to the Corporate Policy Committee.

6. On 6 November 2024, the Sub-Committee authorised the commencement of the Review and authorised officers to undertake a consultation upon proposals for the Council's Polling Districts based upon the preferred option of no changes being made to current arrangements.

7. Whilst the Council was required by statute to conduct the Review by the beginning of 2025, the Boundary Commission's current review of Cheshire East Council's electoral arrangements put the Council in a unique and difficult position. The Commission is currently considering the details of consultation responses received to its draft recommendations for the Council's electoral arrangements. The Commission expects to have done this and to have published its final recommendations by 13 May 2025, following which the Parliamentary process will commence, with the final Order being due to be made in the summer of 2025.

8. Only when the final outcome of the Commission's review is known, will the Council be in a position to make an informed judgement upon all of its polling district matters and undertake a full review upon these matters.

9. For this reason, and given that the Council was not aware of any specific polling district issues which were significant enough to justify polling district changes in the context of the ongoing electoral review by the Commission, consultation has taken place upon the preferred option of making no changes at this time to its existing polling district, place and station arrangements. Feedback was sought on any aspect of the current arrangements and representations were invited from all interested persons, local political parties and Councillors, as well as such persons or bodies as may have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

12. During the consultation period a total of 4 responses were received from external bodies relating to 4 of the 203 current polling buildings. No responses were received in relation to the other 199 current polling buildings. The responses received are summarised below:

- a. Chelford Parish Council suggested an alternative building (The Hub on Elmstead Drive, Chelford) as being a more suitable venue to meet the needs of the electors of Chelford, than the current building Chelford Village Hall.
- e. Each of these responses will be considered in detail, but due to the fact that potentially 3 out of the 4 are in areas which may ultimately be affected by the review of borough ward boundaries, they will all be investigated and the conclusions drawn

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from those investigations will be considered further as part of the next review of polling districts and stations following the conclusion of the review of Borough Ward boundaries.

- f. None of the above consultation responses therefore change the recommendation of officers that there should be no changes to the Council's polling districts and polling places until such time as the LGBCE review of the Council's Borough ward arrangements has been concluded. This report therefore recommends that there should be no changes to polling districts and polling places but that the representations received as part of the consultation will be taken into account when a full polling districts and polling places review is undertaken once the LGBCE review has been completed.

Extract from minutes of the Electoral and Polling District Review Sub-Committee meeting held 27th January, 2025:

RESOLVED:

That the sub-committee:

1. Resolve that no changes will be made at this time to existing polling districts, place and station arrangements.
2. Agree that all responses received during the consultation period be investigated by officers.
3. Agree that the conclusions of those investigations will be considered further as part of the next detailed Polling District Review that will commence following the conclusion of the Cheshire East Borough Ward Boundary Review, currently being undertaken by the LGBCE.