

Chelford Parish Council

Notice of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Thursday 13th March, 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 March, 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 Parish Council meeting held 13th February, 2025 as a correct record and approve signing by the Chairman.
- 6. Finance**
 - (a) To receive and consider the Financial Statement 2024/25 as at 13th March, 2025 (Appendix A)
 - (b) To note receipts as listed at Appendix B.
 - (c) To approve the payments listed at Appendix C.
 - (d) To reconfirm earmarked reserves (approved Dec. 2024) as at 13th March, 2025 as listed at Appendix D:
 - (e) To record the outcome of the 2024/25 quarterly bank reconciliation verification checks.
 - (f) To receive and consider quotations for tree inspection at Chelford Activity Park. (Appendix E)
 - (g) To receive and consider quotations for provision and watering of floral displays within the Parish.

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- (h) To review and approve the updated Investment and Treasury Management Strategy. (Appendix F)
- (i) To review savings opportunities available to the Parish Council. (Appendix G)
- (j) To receive updates relating to s.106 funds available to Chelford parish.

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 H)
- (b) To consider the following planning applications:
 - i. None.
 - 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. (Appendix I)
- (c) To receive suggestions for possible improvements to the bike track.

9. Assets and Parish Council projects

- (a) To note that the initial maintenance of the bus passenger shelter at Knutsford Road has been completed. (Appendix J)
- (b) To note that the refurbishment of the notice board at Station Road has been completed. (Appendix K)
- (c) To receive an update relating to the usage of the dog poo bag dispensers. (Appendix L)
- (d) To receive updates relating to ongoing Parish Council projects. (Appendix M)

10. Highway matters

- (a) To receive new highway defects for attention from Members.
- (b) To receive updates relating to ongoing highway matters. (Appendix N)
- (c) To receive updates relating to ongoing highway priority issues. (Appendix O)

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 and Warrington Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation.
[Link to information:
<https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cheshire-and-warrington-local-nature-recovery-strategy-consultation>]
 - ii. Cheshire East Council: Local Transport Plan consultation.
[Link to information:
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/local_transport_plan/local_transport_plan.aspx]
 - iii. ChALC: Invitation to discussion regarding Cheshire East Council Local Transport Plan. (13/03/25, 6:30pm, online)
 - iv. Cheshire East Council: Invitation to Online Network Meeting. (18/03/25, 6:00p.m., online)

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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 24 and trades directory.
- (d) To receive and consider updates from David Wilson Homes relating to the proposed development of land to the east of the railway line.
- (e) To receive and consider updates relating to proposed development of land west of Cricketers Green.
- (f) To receive and consider updates relating to broadband upgrades within Parish.
- (g) Railway 200 (200th anniversary of the railways)
 - i. To receive and consider updates relating to the proposed Chelford Primary School arts and poetry project.
 - ii. To receive and consider information relating to the proposed Rail Ale Trail. (Appendix P)
 - iii. To receive and consider updates relating to any other proposed activities/events to mark Railway 200.
- (h) To receive and consider an update relating to the transfer of the custodian trusteeship of Chelford Parish Hall.
- (i) To record that the issues raised by the Cheshire East Council Anti Social Behaviour Team regarding unauthorised activities on amenity land within the Parish have been resolved.

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:

- (a) Thursday 10th April, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at The Hub.
- (b) Thursday 8th May, 2025 at 7:30p.m. at Chelford Primary School.
(Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting)

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)

- (a) Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer – Matters relating to employment.

E.M.Maddock

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

Dated 8th March 2025

Chelford Parish Council

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2024/25 as at 13 th March, 2025					
Actual 2023/24 £	Details	2024/25 Budget £	Actual to Feb. 25 £	Agenda Mar. 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	3,334.17	64.89	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	1,650.00	118.75	0.00
0.00	Unpresented cheque (2023/24)	0.00	1,250.00		0.00
2,698.09	VAT refund		2,009.79		4,265.44
54,819.03	Total receipts	55,624.00	64,389.88	183.64	4,265.44
	Payments				
13,797.21	Salary (Clerk)	15,994.00	13,991.89	1,271.99	730.12
689.07	National Insurance (Employer)	530.00	817.16	74.29	-361.45
3,049.16	Pension contributions (Employer)	3,254.00	3,092.18	281.11	-119.29
815.26	Allowances (Clerk)	930.00	708.76	76.65	144.59
139.19	Administration	300.00	99.16	128.18	72.66
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	1,404.57	198.08	-135.65
98.14	Street lighting	330.00	103.29		226.71
64.98	Website	126.00	89.50	8.50	28.00
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	70.00	355.00
4,348.42	Chelford Activity Park maintenance	7,175.00	7,635.96	50.00	-510.96
2,619.50	Chelford Village maintenance	6,100.00	2,697.50		3,402.50
2,015.06	Assets – purchase	5,000.00	10,932.92		-5,932.92
815.00	Assets – maintenance	3,825.00	213.15	227.19	3,384.66
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		4,222.60	42.84	
37,076.62	Total payments	55,624.00	48,777.36	2,428.83	8,683.25

Cash/Bank reconciliation	01/04/24	13/02/25	13/03/25	31/03/25
Balance B/Fwd	119,404.95	119,404.95	135,017.47	132,772.28
Add total receipts	55,624.00	64,389.88	183.64	4,265.44
Less total payments	55,624.00	48,777.36	2,428.83	8,683.25
Balance C/Fwd	119,404.95	135,017.47	132,772.28	128,354.47
Cumulative balances	Balance	Balance	Balance	Balance
	01/04/24	13/02/25	13/03/25	31/03/25
General funds	46,822.19	64,829.15	62,583.96	58,166.15
Earmarked reserves	72,582.76	70,188.32	70,188.32	70,188.32
	119,404.95	135,017.47	132,772.28	128,354.47

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Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 13th March, 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	64,573.52
Less payments	51,206.19
Balance carried forward 13/03/25	<u>132,772.28</u>

Bank (NatWest)

Business Reserve Account 24,675.31 03/01/25

Add receipts/transfer since above statement	
	-5,000.00
	<u>18.75</u>
	-4,981.25

Less unrepresented cheques	
	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>

19,694.06 13/03/25

Current Account 15,977.41 05/03/25

Add receipts/transfer since above statement	
	<u>0.00</u>
	0.00

Less unrepresented cheques	
Approved	-13,241.95
For approval	-2,428.83
Less payments already issued	<u>6.00</u>
	-15,664.78

312.63 13/03/25

Liquidity Manager Account 31,165.36 28/02/25

Add receipts/transfer since above statement	
	<u>0.00</u>
	0.00

Less unrepresented cheques	
	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>0.00</u>

31,165.36 13/03/25

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 13/03/25

Total bank balances 13/03/25 132,772.28

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APPENDIX B

Receipts

Patron J	£100.00	Newsletter Advertising Fee 2024/25
Trader Z	£18.75	Trades Directory Fee 2024/25
NatWest Bank plc	£64.89	Gross interest – January, 2025 (LM)

APPENDIX C

Payments for approval

Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£6.00	Web hosting: Feb.-Mar. 2025
Cheque No 001653	E. M. Maddock	£1,360.93	Salary and allowances: Mar. 2025 Expenses 2024/25
Cheque No 001654	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£137.36	PAYE payments
Cheque No 001655	Northwich Town Council	£60.00	Grounds maintenance: Feb. 2025
Cheque No 001656	Cheshire East Council	£198.08	Newsletter printing: Mar. 2025
Cheque No 001657	Home Assist	£227.19	Maintenance of notice board and bus passenger shelter
Cheque No 001658	SLCC Enterprises Ltd.	£84.00	Training fees
Direct Debit	1&1 IONOS	£4.20	Email accounts: Mar. 2025
Standing Order	Cheshire Pension Fund	£351.07	Pension contributions: Mar. 2025

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APPENDIX D

Earmarked reserves as at 13th March 2025

The following earmarked reserves were confirmed on 12th December, 2024:

i. Democratic Services Fund:	£5,000.00
ii. Mere Court Park Improvements (Grant):	£345.52
iii. Multi-use games area maintenance (Grant):	£1,000.00
iv. Neighbourhood Plan:	£1,222.95
v. Tree maintenance fund:	£3,000.00
vi. Chelford Activity Park refurbishment:	£10,000.00
vii. Chelford Activity Park boundary:	£5,000.00
viii. Asset refurbishment fund:	£8,000.00
ix. Telephone kiosk (insurance):	£2,745.00
x. Highway safety projects:	£10,000.00
xi. Community Project Fund (Compensation):	£18,132.57
Sub Total:	£64,446.04

The following additional earmarked reserves are recommended:

i. Speed indicator device (insurance):	£5,196.92
ii. Bike Track maintenance (work order issued)	£1,000.00
Total:	£70,642.96

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APPENDIX E

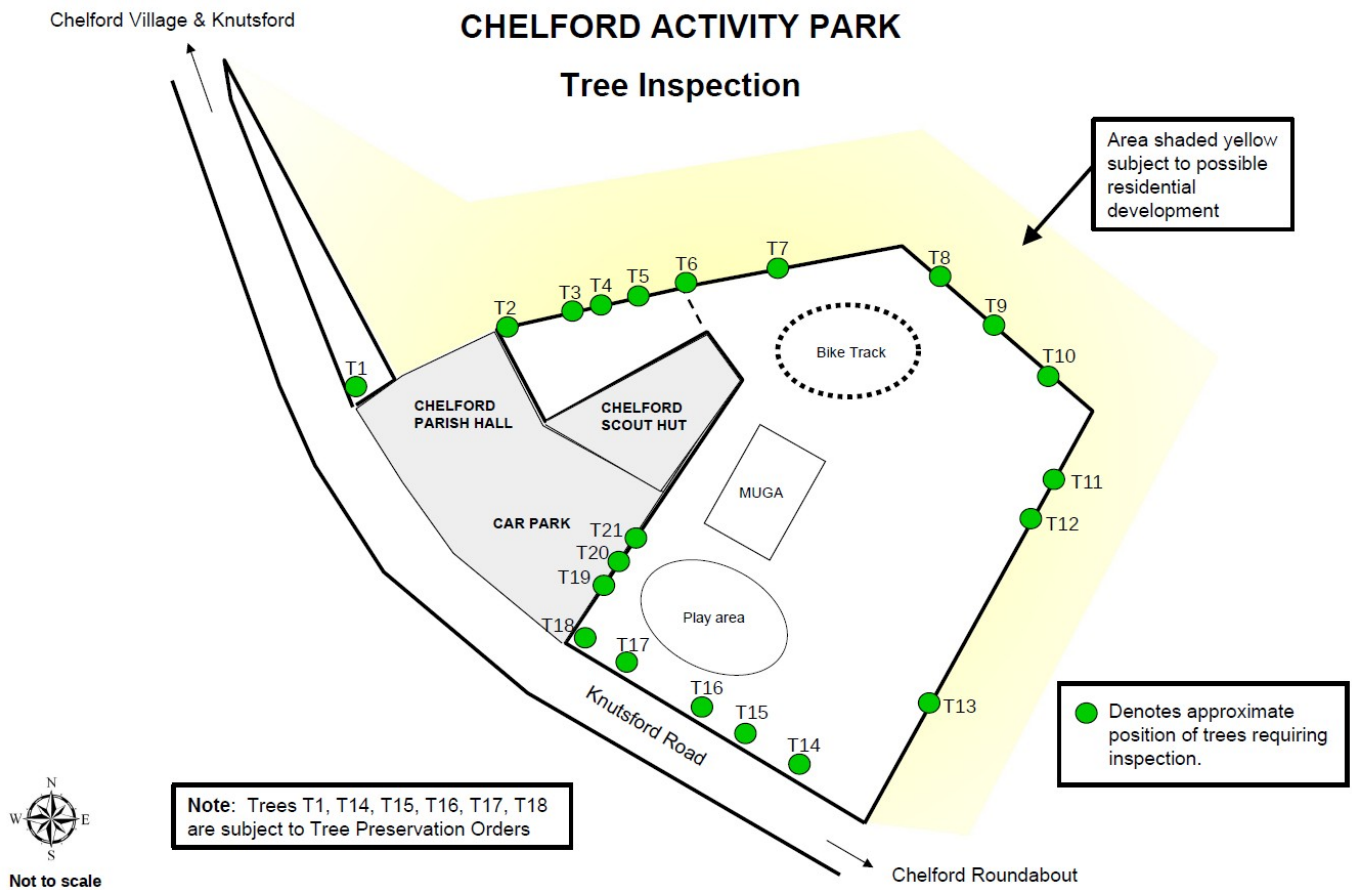
Quotations for tree inspection at Chelford Activity Park

Quotations have been sought from a number of tree inspection providers.

Quotations requested inclusion of the following:

- A full tree safety inspection, for insurance purposes.
- Information advising the likely root protection areas required to ensure the long term future of the trees.

A site sketch plan (as below) was provided to support the quotation request.



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The following quotations are listed in order of receipt.

	Description of works included within quotation	Quotation (ex. VAT)
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree site survey: includes for identification and assessment of existing trees and green infrastructure include tree category, dimensions, vigour and amenity value. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas: where practical a review of any local authority constraints will be included. Site plan: general overview of site including tree location and ID using OS Masterplan. 	£432.00
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree safety survey. Assess the condition of the trees for safety requirements. Issue approximate measurements for the root protection areas for trees T1 – T13. [Further information: The survey includes all trees on site with a girth above 100mm. Trees will be grouped by location, targets or risk of harm value. Groups will be plotted and given a reference number, average group age, height (in metres) of maximum height for the group, maximum stem diameter for the group (in MM), a measure of vitality, target type, identification of part or parts most likely to fail with a probability of failure, comments, recommended works, a priority of works and a frequency for future inspections. Individual trees will only be plotted where they are stand alone trees or they have a higher risk of harm than the group around them. They will have the same details logged as for the groups as well as the species. The trees will be risk assessed using quantified tree risk assessment QTRA. This will require targets to be assessed and will give a risk of harm output. The survey will be carried out from ground level and no decay detection equipment will be used.] 	£580.00
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To visit the site and undertake Visual Tree Assessments of all trees within the site boundary map as supplied. To determine root protection areas of all trees that may be impacted by future developments on surrounding land. To digitally map survey areas and tree positions. To produce summary report in digital and 'hard copy'. Survey and inspection data will be made available online, in spreadsheet format and as a GIS compatible file. Risk assessments to be carried out using QTRA which provides a structured approach to tree risk management allowing the tree owner to make cost effective decisions on tree management. [More information on QTRA: www.qtra.co.uk] 	£300.00
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit and assessment of the subject trees: All trees over 100mm trunk diameter at 1.5m from ground level are individually inspected, tagged, plotted and detailed within the report. Provision of report in respect of the risk associated with trees or other woody vegetation growing on the site for safety purposes. [Further information: The report is preliminary in nature and therefore all observations are made from ground level only and are visual in nature unless otherwise stated. Full aerial inspection using a rope and harness for access, ultra-sonic decay detection, root collar excavation, or any other form of intensive investigation are not carried out as part of this survey.] 	£695.00
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake survey of trees on site. Provide report on requirements to preserve root systems. 	£500.00

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APPENDIX F

Investment & Treasury Management Strategy

1 Introduction:

- 1.1 Chelford Parish Council (the Council) acknowledges the importance of prudently investing surplus funds held on behalf of the community.
- 1.2 The Local Government Act 2003 states that a local authority may invest:
 - For any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment
 - For the purpose of prudent management of its financial affairs
- 1.3 This Strategy complies with the requirements set out in:
 - The Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments
 - Section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003
 - Guidance within Governance and Accountability for Local Councils Practitioner's Guide.
- 1.4 The Council defines its treasury management activities as the management of the Council's investments, cash flows, its banking and money market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of best value performance consistent with those risks

2 Policy:

- 2.1 This strategy establishes formal objectives, policies and practices and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of the Council's treasury management activities and the associated risks.
- 2.2 The Council holds approximately £130,000 of funds as at March 2025 representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 15 months the Council's fund balance has been in the region of £135,000. Over the coming year fund balances are expected to range between £100,000 to £150,000.

3 Investment Objectives:

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 15(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council will have regard to
 - such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue, and
 - such other guidance as the Secretary of State may by regulations specify.
- 3.2 Both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security (protecting the capital sum from loss) and liquidity (ensuring funds are easily available/available when required) of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return/yield.
- 3.3 The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. The Council will therefore aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with appropriate levels of

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security and liquidity.

- 3.4 The Council's investment priorities therefore are, in order of importance:
- the security of its reserves
 - the adequate liquidity of its investments
 - the return (yield) on investments
- 3.5 All investments will be made in sterling.
- 3.6 The Department for Communities and Local Government maintains the borrowing of money purely to invest or to lend and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.
- 3.7 Investment limits are set by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's. Credit ratings may be obtained and monitored by employing the services of a treasury adviser, who as part of the services provided would advise the Council on appropriate credit criteria and will also notify changes in credit ratings as they occur. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.
- 3.8 The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types below, subject to applicable cash limits (per counterparty) and time limits:
- Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities or other public authorities.
 - Other approved public sector investment funds.
- 3.9 The Council will monitor the risk of loss on investments by regularly reviewing credit ratings across the three main agencies. The Council will only invest with institutions deemed to be of 'high credit quality' based on rating agency information (see 4.2 below).
- 3.10 Credit ratings will be obtained and monitored by the Responsible Financial Officer. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:
- no new investments will be made
 - any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be
 - full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty
- 3.11 The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other information, including credit default swaps, financial statements, information on potential government support, and reports in the financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet credit rating criteria
- 3.12 Investments will be spread over different providers where possible in line with agreed limits in order to reduce counterparty risk.
- 3.13 Where external investment managers are used, they will be contractually required to comply with this Strategy.

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4 Specified Investments:

- 4.1 The CLG Guidance defines specified investments as those denominated in pound sterling due to be repaid within 12 months of arrangement not defined as capital expenditure by legislation, and invested with one of:
 - the UK Government
 - a UK local authority, parish council or community council, or
 - a body or investment scheme of 'high credit quality'
- 4.2 The Council defines 'high credit quality' organisations and securities as those having a credit rating of A- or higher that are domiciled in the UK or a foreign country with a sovereign rating of AA+ or higher. For money market funds and other pooled funds 'high credit quality' is defined as having credit rating of A- or higher.
- 4.3 Specified Investment are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and with a maturing of no more than a year. Such short term investments made with the UK Government or a local authority or town parish council will automatically be Specified Investments.
- 4.4 For the prudent management of its treasury balances, including maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, the Council will place deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities and other public authorities/bodies.
- 4.5 The choice of institution and length of deposit will be at the discretion of the Council.
- 4.6 Chelford Parish Council's current investment is with Skipton Building Society. However, additional new investments will be spread across different counterparties with higher credit ratings in order to reduce counterparty risk.
- 4.7 Day-to-day banking will remain with NatWest Bank.

5 Non-Specified Investments:

- 5.1 Any investment not meeting the definition of a specified investment is classed as non-specified.
- 5.2 These investments have a greater potential risk, such as investment in stocks and shares and the Parish Council will not participate in such investments, which are considered not to offer the level of security and liquidity required.

6 Liquidity of Investments:

- 6.1 The Council uses cash flow forecasting to determine the maximum period for which funds may be prudently committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Council being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet financial commitments.
- 6.2 The Council will determine the maximum periods for which funds may prudently be committed so as not to unacceptably increase liquidity risk.

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- 6.3 Investments will be regarded as commencing on the date the commitment to invest is entered into rather than the date on which the funds are paid over to the counterparty.

7 Long-Term Investments:

- 7.1 Long-term investments are defined in the DCLG Investment Guidance as those due to be repaid in over 12 months from arrangement.
- 7.2 The Council does not currently hold any long-term investments, and none are envisaged as being taken out during the financial year 2025/26.

8 End of Year Investment Report:

- 8.1 At the end of the financial year the Responsible Finance Officer will report on investment activity to the Council.

9 Review and Amendment of Regulations:

- 9.1 The Investment Strategy will be reviewed annually by the Council.
- 9.2 The Annual Strategy for the coming financial year will be prepared by the Responsible Financial Officer and presented for approval at a Council Meeting
- 9.3 The Council reserves the right to make variations to the Investment Strategy at any time subject to formal approval by Council. Any variations will be made available to the public.

10 Treasury Management Advice:

- 10.1 The Council should review its level of investment on an annual basis and assess if there is a requirement to obtain independent, external, expert 'Treasury Management' advice in reviewing the Investment Strategy and the allocations of Specified Investments. Treasury Management advice may potentially be sourced from the principal local authority or a specialist treasury management advisory firms who specialises in local authority and local town and parish councils.

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APPENDIX G

Savings opportunities as at March, 2025

Current savings accounts held by Chelford Parish Council:

- Skipton Building Society – Community Saver (instant access) – 2.90%
- NatWest Bank plc – Liquidity Manager (35 day notice) – 2.75% (2.50% from 24/04/25)
- NatWest Bank plc – Business Reserve (instant access) – 1.25% (1.11% from 24/04/25)

Savings opportunities available for instant access or 95 day (or less) notice accounts with current interest rates greater than those above:

CCLA – The Public Sector Deposit Fund – 4.5039% (as at 07/03/25)

Minimum initial investment £25,000.

This is a charged account and not a guaranteed investment.

Redwood Bank – 95 Day Notice – 4.40%

Minimum account balance £10,000.

Interest paid annually or monthly.

Subject to confirmation of eligibility.

Mixed risk ratings over past years.

United Trust Bank – Business 40 Day Notice – 3.95% (from 20/03/25)

Minimum account balance £5,000.

Interest paid annually.

Subject to confirmation of eligibility.

No credit rating available.

Nationwide – Business 95 Day Notice – 3.95%

Minimum account balance of £5,000 to receive interest.

Interest paid annually or monthly.

Application for new customers not currently being accepted.

Good credit rating.

Dudley Building Society – Business 90 Day Saver – 3.75%

Minimum account balance of £1,000 to receive interest.

Interest paid annually.

Subject to confirmation of eligibility.

No credit rating available.

Dudley Building Society – Business 30 Day Saver – 3.65%

Minimum account balance of £1,000 to receive interest.

Interest paid annually.

Subject to confirmation of eligibility.

No credit rating available.

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Dudley Building Society – Business Saver (instant access) – 3.60%
Minimum account balance of £250 to receive interest.
Interest paid annually.
Subject to confirmation of eligibility.
No credit rating available.

Bank of Scotland – 95 Day Notice Account – 3.52%
Minimum account balance of £10,000 to receive interest.
Above interest rate expires on 20/03/25 – new rate not specified.
Interest paid daily.
Good credit rating.

NatWest Bank – Liquidity Manager Account (95 day notice) – 3.49%
No minimum balance required.
Interest paid monthly.
Good credit rating.

Options:

1. Make no changes to existing banking arrangements.
2. Open a NatWest Bank Liquidity Manager Account (95 Day notice) – 3.49%
Advantages: existing customer, ease of administering deposits/withdrawals alongside existing current account.
Note: Account doesn't offer the highest interest rate on the market, however, rate differences to other providers offering secure investment opportunities are relatively small. Furthermore, there is no minimum balance limit allowing interest to be earned on full amount at all times.
3. Consider monitoring availability of accounts at Nationwide (currently at 3.95%) with view to potentially opening account if interest rates are still favourable.
4. Consider other higher interest providers (e.g. those with no credit rating available) and assess potential risk in context of potential interest receipts.

Note: Several well known banks/building societies are not included within the above options due to either (a) they do not provide banking services to Parish Councils or (b) their accounts offer lower interest rates than those accounts currently held by the Parish Council.

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APPENDIX H

(a) Recent planning decisions

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 – Refused (11/02/25)

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.
DECISION STATUS – Consent for works in TPO with conditions
(25/02/25)

(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

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APPENDIX I

Chelford Activity Park: Refurbishment Work Update

A site meeting took place on 5th February, 2025 to discuss issues relating to work previously carried out and proposed future work.

The following outlines key points from the discussion.

1. Play area

- 1.1. ANSA not willing to remove the play area and re-install, however, accept that changes in layout from the design were not communicated.
- 1.2. ANSA will devise a plan to expand the mulch surfacing to create a more visually attractive facility.

2. Multi-use games area

- 2.1. ANSA not willing to resurface the whole area.
- 2.2. ANSA suggested that the multi-use games area may be subsiding in the southern corner which may be contributing to the puddling issue.
- 2.3. Existing ground sleeves have been located using a metal detector and drilling down to check. (Temporary filling of holes carried out to prevent falls.)
- 2.4. Propose to install ground sleeve extenders and reseal surfacing using resin seal.

3. Perimeter pathway

- 3.1. Original design of pathway needs to be revised due to presence of gas line.
- 3.2. Pathway to be constructed as a 'hop path' with wooden edging.
- 3.3. ANSA recommend that a pathway is not installed along Knutsford Road boundary to avoid the tree area (for safety reasons and tree protection reasons).
- 3.4. ANSA suggest that the pathway starts between the multi-use games area and the table tennis table (bench to be re-positioned).
- 3.5. Consideration needs to be given to the positioning of the pathway through the former play area due to maintenance requirements and installation constraints (underground concrete present from former swing and multi-play units).
- 3.6. Consideration needs to be given to whether the fencing to the rear of the former play area should be removed to provide more flexibility for pathway installation. (ANSA also noted that this may also assist routine maintenance of the site.)

4. Gym equipment

- 4.1. Position of gym equipment may need to be reviewed depending on the position of the pathway through the former play area.
- 4.2. Option to include the gym equipment along the perimeter pathway within the main field area.

5. Use of spoil

- 5.1. The construction of the pathway will generate a quantity of spoil which could be repurposed on site.

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- 5.2. Exporting surplus material from the site is likely to be more expensive than using it on site.
- 5.3. ANSA suggest either making an 'ornamental bund' with associated planting or using the spoil to level the main field area (and re-seed).

Information provided by ANSA following the site meeting:

1. Perimeter pathway

A revised route for the pathway has been proposed based on the following considerations:

- Requirement to avoid existing gas line
- Access to site features
- Avoiding the root protection area of the TPO protected trees along Knutsford Road
- 3m distance from hedge to allow tractors to flail hedge

The pathway would be constructed using Hop Path Surfacing and be 1.8m wide.

The material is durable, accessible and allows more footpath to be provided within the budget.



- Red marked Hop Path – 250m in length, 1.8m wide
- Blue marked Hop Path – 50m in length, 1.8m wide
- Purple marked Hop Path – 110m in length, 1.8m wide

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It is suggested that the Red marked Hop Path forms the core part of the pathway. The blue and purple sections are optional extras depending on Parish Council preferences.

The path would be constructed using 'ULTITREC' which is a 100% recycled pathway material, manufactured by Tarmac, which provides a more sustainable approach to footpaths and cycle tracks. Made from selected waste products from highway reconstruction and maintenance works, ULTITREC provides an inexpensive but durable footpath surfacing, especially in rural locations.

ULTITREC should be laid on a well drained, well compacted and stable sub-base. It will provide a dense even pathway material. ULTITREC must be laid with supporting edges and the use of tanalised timber edging is recommended. The target compacted thickness should be 100mm with a minimum of 50mm at any point.



Image of a Hop Path at Windmill Street Playing Field, Macclesfield. SK11 7JY

2. Spoil from construction of perimeter pathway

It is estimated that if all pathway options were constructed it would generate 93m³ of soil.

Option 1: Remove the soil from site – this is likely to be approximately 16 skip wagon loads which will incur disposal costs.

Option 2: Reuse the soil on site by grading into the ground near existing multi-use games area, as marked in green on image.



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3. Play area surfacing

Proposed work to extend the safety surfacing as shown in following images.

The method of works would be:

- Scrape back soil
- Weed kill
- Apply geotextile membrane
- Apply / bond rubber mulch surfacing
- Edging not to be installed with rubber mulch



Image A: Surfacing to be extended to include swing legs



Image B: Surfacing to extend from entry pathway to cableway

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Image C: Surfacing to extend from entry pathway to include table tennis table



Image D: Surfacing to extend from table tennis table to rear of swings

4. Tennis net post ground sleeves

Ground sleeve extenders (as shown in the image) to be installed over the existing ground sleeves to provide the additional height required to be level with the playing surface when closed.



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APPENDIX J

Maintenance of bus passenger shelter, Knutsford Road



Bus passenger shelter before maintenance work – vegetation growing onto shelter roof, weeds at the entrance to the shelter and debris within the shelter.



Bus passenger shelter following maintenance work – vegetation removed, weeds removed, inside of shelter cleaned.



Maintenance of notice board, Station Road



Notice board before maintenance work – deteriorating wood stain, ivy growing on supporting posts.



⇒ Notice board following maintenance work – woodwork re-stained, ivy removed from supporting posts.



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APPENDIX L

Dog poo bag dispenser update

Four dog poo bag dispensers were installed at the following locations:

1. Dixon Drive (near to Parish Council notice board adjacent to amenity land)
2. Dixon Drive (near to access to footpath by the bollards adjacent to Galloway Grange)
3. Oak Road (near to Parish Council notice board at junction with Knutsford Road)
4. Highland Drive (near to Parish Council notice board)

On 5th February, 2025 the dispensers were filled with 200 bags each.

The dispensers were checked on 5th March, 2025 and the following usage recorded (i.e. number of bags taken from each dispenser):

Dispenser 1: 17 bags
Dispenser 2: 143 bags
Dispenser 3: 9 bags
Dispenser 4: 20 bags

The dispensers will continue to be checked to enable demand trends to be monitored and appropriate budgetary adjustments (if required) to be made in November, 2025.

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APPENDIX M

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.
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 completed. 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.

2023/24:

1. Review of floral displays (content)
UPDATE: Routine weeding added to the 2024/25 floral display contract.
Feb.25 update: Floral display contract terminated.
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.

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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.
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

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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 completed.

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APPENDIX N

Updates relating to reported highway matters

1. Overgrown hedge at Knutsford Road
UPDATE: Awaiting response from resident regarding trimming works.
2. Overgrown footway along Alderley Road
UPDATE: Cheshire East Council advises that this location is included in the routine maintenance programme.
3. Request for low level lighting at Dixon Drive
UPDATE: No update.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Request for loading bay outside Chelford Surgery, Elmstead Road.
UPDATE: No update.

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APPENDIX O

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. Awaiting arrangements for traffic management to enable the re-planting of the post at Knutsford Road.
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.
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.

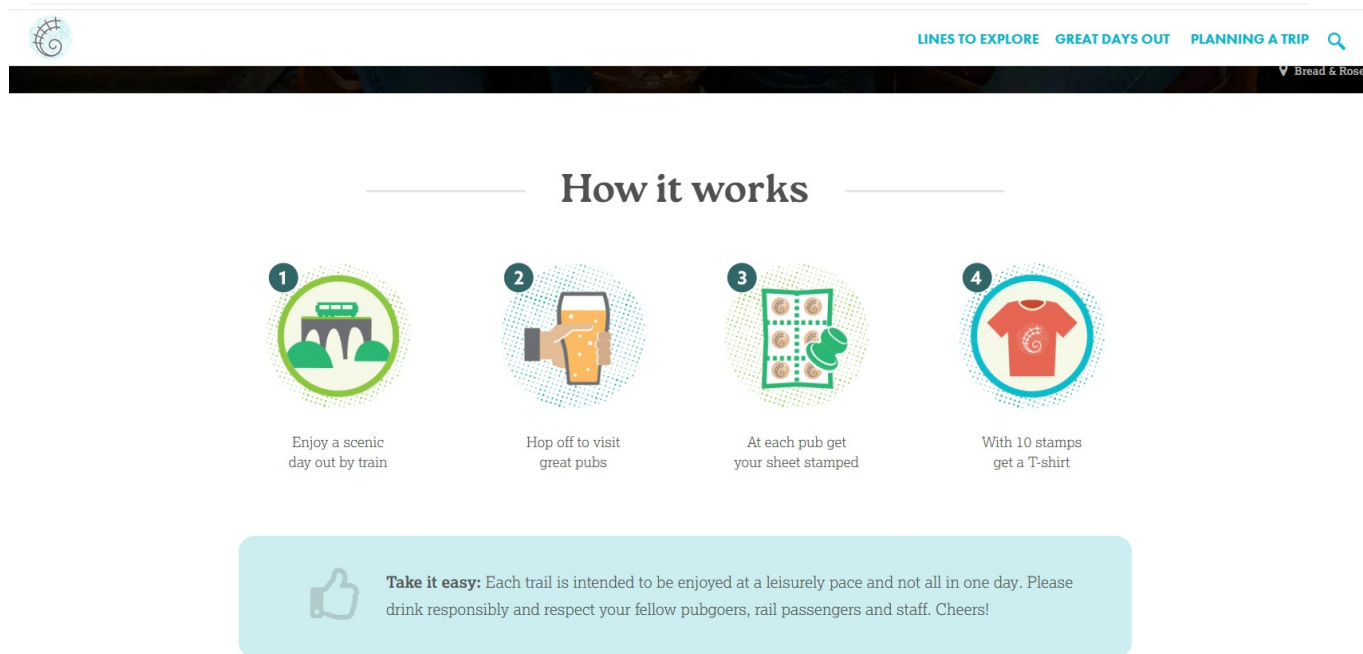
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Other highway priorities to be pursued:

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.

Information from Friends of Handforth Station: Proposed C2M CRP Rail Ale Trail

There are a number of Rail Ale Trails around the country, for example the Devon and Cornwall CRP trail on Scenic Railways. Here is an extract from their website dcrp.org.uk



The screenshot shows the 'How it works' section of the dcrp.org.uk website. It features a navigation bar with 'LINES TO EXPLORE', 'GREAT DAYS OUT', and 'PLANNING A TRIP'. Below the navigation bar is a dark header with the text 'Bread & Roses'. The main content area is titled 'How it works' and contains four numbered steps:

- 1** Enjoy a scenic day out by train (Icon: A train on a bridge over a river).
- 2** Hop off to visit great pubs (Icon: A hand holding a glass of beer).
- 3** At each pub get your sheet stamped (Icon: A stamp sheet with several stamps).
- 4** With 10 stamps get a T-shirt (Icon: A red t-shirt with a spiral logo).

Below the steps is a light blue box with a thumbs-up icon and the text: **Take it easy:** Each trail is intended to be enjoyed at a leisurely pace and not all in one day. Please drink responsibly and respect your fellow pubgoers, rail passengers and staff. Cheers!

It is proposed that a similar trail is developed for the C2M line and branded R200. Robinsons Brewery are interested in knowing more and the landlady from our local Railway pub is extremely interested. We have worked with Robinsons in the past and they presented us with the original Railway pub sign which, now restored, is displayed in the pub. However it is envisaged that CAMRA pubs and maybe other local pubs with real ales would be included. TfGM have offered to sponsor a booklet about the trail. CRP will support us but are not prepared to manage the project. While Northern can't promote a drinking initiative, they would be happy with C2M CRP-wide trail. As well as describing the pubs near each station, details of each town or village could be included. For example, things to do in Handforth could include the following:

- The Railway, a Robinsons pub opposite the station for food and real ales.
- Enjoy FoHS "Platform for Art" on the station platforms and concourse.
- Take a ride on Handforth's miniature railway in Meriton Road park, with a wide selection of coffee and wine bars, restaurants and takeaways in out village.
- Take a walk through Handforth's "Tank Track" viewing the Tudor Handforth Hall en route.
- Get some retail therapy at Handforth Dean.
- Be a petrol head viewing showrooms for Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Maclaren, Porche, Aston Martin, BMW and other exotic models.

All the above attractions are within 5 to 10 minutes walk from the station.

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Example page for the booklet:

HANDFORTH



Handforth station first opened in May 1842. Originally the station had staggered platforms. Electrification of the line in 1960 saw alignment of the platforms to the south of the road bridge. The present ticket office dates from 2002. The volunteer group Friends of Handforth Station was founded in 1996. Famous visitors to the station have included Martin Bell OBE and HRH Prince Charles, now our King.

Handforth has a population of approximately 9,800 persons and is now beginning to think of itself as a town rather than a village. It was formerly surrounded by green belt land (principally to the east and west). However, under the latest CEC Local Plan, much of this land is now to be used for housing.



A large area on the east side of Handforth parish was formerly farmland and the site of an RAF Maintenance Unit (RAF 61MU). This area will become the site of one of the 14 national (Government-sponsored) Garden Villages and will include, inter alia, 1500 new homes. Most Handforth residents dwell in the urban area (e. Spath Lane, Knowle Park, Windermere Road, Hallwood Road and Woodlands Road estates) but some live in what currently remains of the rural area (e.g. Blossom's Lane) to the east of the village.

Things to do in Handforth

1. Quench your thirst at The Railway, a Robinsons pub opposite the station – with real ales and food
2. Enjoy FoHS's "Platform for Art" (old railway signs, totems and sculptures) on the station platforms and concourse
3. Take a ride on Handforth's miniature railway in Meriton Road park
4. Enjoy a wide selection of coffee and wine bars, restaurants and takeaways in the village centre.
5. Take a walk through the woods on Handforth's historic "Tank Track" (a wartime military rail spur).
6. Get some retail therapy at Handforth Dean, viewing the historic Handforth Hall en route.
7. Blow your cash in our showrooms for Rolls Royce, Ferrari, MacLaren, Porsche, Aston Martin, BMW and other exotic marques.

