

CHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held

Thursday 13th March, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

at The Hub, Elmstead Road, Chelford.

Present Councillors B. Brindley (Chairman), J. Fielding, T. McCrum, C. Howlett,
D. Wilson, S. Wilson.

Members of the public (7).

Mr. A. Taylor – Representative from David Wilson Homes.

Mr. D. Wenham – Representative from Asteer Planning Consultancy.

Mr. J. Boyce – Representative from DevComms.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor C. Montaldo – Personal reason.

Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. A. Harrison.

073/25 RESOLVED

(a) To receive and note the apologies for absence.

(All in favour)

2. Declarations of interest:

Item 16 – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

074/25 RESOLVED

(a) To note that no declarations of interest were made.

(All in favour)

3. Public forum for questions

- (a) **Questions from residents:** Three residents attended the meeting to request consideration be given to improving the provision of recreation opportunities for teenagers within the Parish. The residents explained that the current design of the bike track at Chelford Activity Park was not suitable for BMX riding leading them to travel to other communities to take part in activities. Members thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

075/25 RESOLVED

(a) To receive and note the information and request from the residents.

(b) That the Clerk explore opportunities to incorporate the request into ongoing improvement works at Chelford Activity Park.

(All in favour)

7:35p.m. – Councillor J. Fielding joined the meeting during item 3(a).

7:38p.m. – Councillor D. Wilson joined the meeting during item 3(a).

7:47p.m. – Three residents excused themselves from the meeting and left.

A resident raised a query regarding a proposed premises licence for the provision of alcohol from the former bank building. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of the proposal in respect of noise and parking.

Four residents raised concerns regarding the proposed development of land to the east of the railway line. A number of concerns were raised relating to impact on local services and infrastructure. Concerns relating to the impact on the local highway network were also raised.

076/25 RESOLVED

(a) To receive and note the comments made by residents present at the meeting.

(b) That the Clerk request information from Cheshire East Council relating to the proposed premises licence.

(All in favour)

Item 12(d) was brought to this point in the meeting.

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8:57p.m. – One resident excused themselves from the meeting and left during item 12(d).

9:02p.m. – Two residents left the meeting room during item 12(d).

9:08p.m. – Two residents returned to the meeting room during item 12(d).

9:30p.m. – Councillor J. Fielding, one member of the public, Mr. A. Taylor, Mr. D. Wenham and Mr. J. Boyce excused themselves from the meeting and left following item 12(d).

A resident raised concern regarding the loss of a tree from land to the east of the railway line.

9:36p.m. – One resident excused themselves from the meeting and left.

(b) **Issues raised via social media:** There was nothing to report.

077/25 RESOLVED (a) **To note no issues had been raised via social media.**
(All in favour)

4. Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. A. Harrison: report on matters of interest:

Borough Councillor A. Harrison was not present at the meeting to report.

078/25 RESOLVED (a) **To note Borough Councillor A. Harrison was not present at the meeting.**
(All in favour)

5. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th February, 2025 had been previously circulated to all Members.

079/25 RESOLVED (a) **That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th February, 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**
(All in favour)

6. Finance

(a) **Financial Statement 2024/25 as at 13th March, 2025:** Members considered the financial statement 2024/25 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)

(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.

080/25 RESOLVED (a) **That the financial statement as at 13th March, 2025 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) **Earmarked reserves:** Members reviewed the earmarked reserves currently held and proposed additional earmarked reserves.

081/25 RESOLVED (a) **That existing earmarked reserves be re-confirmed as listed at Appendix D.**
(b) **That new earmarked reserves, as listed at Appendix D, be approved.**
(All in favour)

(e) **Quarterly bank reconciliation verification:** It was reported that bank reconciliation verifications had been carried out and no issues had been identified.

082/25 RESOLVED (a) **To receive confirmation that bank reconciliation verifications had been completed.**
(All in favour)

(f) **Tree inspection:** It was reported that quotations had been sought for the safety inspection of trees at Chelford Activity Park. Members considered the quotations.

083/25 RESOLVED (a) **That the quotation from Glendale Services, in the sum of £300, be accepted.**
(All in favour)

(g) **Floral displays:** It was reported that quotations had been requested from a number of providers, however, two had declined the invitation and no other

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providers responded. Members considered options for the 2025 planting season.

084/25 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given to continue with the existing floral display and watering contract with Northwich Town Council.
(All in favour)

(h) **Investment and Treasury Management Strategy:** Members reviewed the updated Investment and Treasury Management Strategy. (Appendix E)

085/25 RESOLVED (a) That the updated Investment and Treasury Management Strategy be approved as presented. (All in favour)

(i) **Savings opportunities:** Members considered the report on savings opportunities available to the Parish Council.

086/25 RESOLVED (a) That approval be given for a Liquidity Manager Account (95 day notice) at NatWest Bank to be opened.
(b) That consideration be given at a future date to opening a savings account at Nationwide. (All in favour)

(j) **s.106 funds:** It was reported that information had not yet been received from Cheshire East Council regarding the release of the s.106 'community facilities' funds. It was noted that the Chelford Bowling Club were interested in accessing funds.

087/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update.
(b) That the Clerk notify the Chelford Bowling Club when the application period opens for accessing the community facilities funding. (All in favour)

7. Planning Matters

(a) **Recent planning decisions:** Members noted new planning decisions that had been issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish since the last meeting. (Appendix F)

088/25 RESOLVED (a) To note the new planning decisions. (All in favour)

(b) **Planning application for consideration:**

i. None.

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

089/25 RESOLVED (a) To note that no planning applications had been received. (All in favour)

8. Chelford Activity Park

(a) **Issues identified during routine inspections:** Councillor B. Brindley reported that he had not visited the site since the last meeting.

090/25 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(b) **Chelford Activity Park refurbishment works:** Members considered the report outlining the outcome of the meeting with representatives of Cheshire East Council.

091/25 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council expressing dissatisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and the proposed actions to address concerns. (All in favour)

(c) **Improvements to the bike track:** It was reported that work to re-establish the current width of the track was underway and should be completed within the next couple of weeks. Subject to final decisions relating to the refurbishment work at the site, there may be a quantity of spoil which could be used to amend the design

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of the bike track.

- 092/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the updates.
(b) That the Clerk investigate possible options to improve the bike track. (All in favour)

9. Assets and Parish Council projects

- (a) **Bus passenger shelter:** It was reported that initial maintenance work to remove vegetation from the shelter and clear debris from the inside had been completed.

- 093/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

- (b) **Notice board at Station Road:** It was reported that the notice board had been cleaned and re-treated.

- 094/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

- (c) **Dog poo bag dispensers:** Members considered a report relating to usage of the dispensers.

- 095/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

- (d) **Parish Council projects:** Members noted the updates in Appendix G.

- 096/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the updates. (All in favour)

10. Highway Matters

- (a) **New highway defects:** No new defects were identified.

- 097/25 RESOLVED** (a) To note that no new defects had been identified. (All in favour)

- (b) **Ongoing highway matters:** Members considered the updates at Appendix H.

- 098/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the updates. (All in favour)

- (c) **Ongoing highway priority issues:** Members considered the updates at Appendix I.

- 099/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

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.

- 100/25 RESOLVED** (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

- ii. Cheshire East Council: Local Transport Plan consultation.

- 101/25 RESOLVED** (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

- iii. ChALC: Invitation to discussion regarding Cheshire East Council Local Transport Plan.

- 102/25 RESOLVED** (a) To note no-one was available to attend. (All in favour)

- iv. Cheshire East Council: Invitation to Online Network Meeting (18/03/25).

- 103/25 RESOLVED** (a) That anyone interested in attending contact the Clerk. (All in favour)

12. Community Matters

- (a) **Chelford Ward Policing Team:** It was reported that the latest police updates had only identified one incident: a report of inconsiderate parking (Police attended but all cars were parked appropriately). It was noted that a Police surgery was

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scheduled to take place on 7th April, 2025 at The Hub, Chelford. Officers had advised that all surgeries in the near future will include a knife amnesty box facility. It was noted that there had been an increase in cars parking on verges within the residential areas of the Parish.

- 104/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update.
(b) That a request be included in the next newsletter for residents not to park cars on grass verges. (All in favour)
- (b) **Community Speed Watch:** It was reported that activities were continuing and drivers were still being caught travelling in excess of the speed limit.
- 105/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
- (c) **Newsletter:** Newsletter edition 24 and the trades directory had been previously circulated to all Members.
- 106/25 RESOLVED** (a) That the content of newsletter edition 24 and the trades directory be approved. (All in favour)
- (d) **David Wilson Homes:** Mr. A. Taylor presented an update to Members regarding the proposed development of land to the east of the railway line. A public consultation had taken place earlier in the week at Chelford Parish Hall. A broad proposed layout of the site was presented indicating possible road layouts, drainage soakaway areas and a play space. Mr. A. Taylor and Mr. J. Boyce also responded to queries and statements made by residents.
- 107/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)
- (e) **Land west of Cricketers Green:** Members noted feedback relating to the proposals that had been received by the Parish Council.
- 108/25 RESOLVED** (a) To note the feedback from residents. (All in favour)
- (f) **Parish Broadband:** It was reported that there had been an increase in the number of residents who had expressed interest to receive faster broadband services. Further efforts are to be made to attract interest in the project to maximise coverage of any improvement works.
- 109/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)
- (g) **National celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the railways:**
- i. **Chelford Primary School art and poetry project:** It was reported that a positive meeting had taken place with a Community Rail Partnership officer. It is likely that funding will be available through the railways to support the project.
 - ii. **Rail Ale Trail:** Members considered the information relating to the Rail Ale Trail project.
 - iii. **Other events/activities:** There was nothing to report.
- 110/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the updates. (All in favour)
- (h) **Custodian Trusteeship of Chelford Parish Hall:** It was reported that the transfer of the Custodian Trusteeship of Chelford Parish Hall to the Parish Council had now been completed.
- 111/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
- (i) **Cheshire East Council Anti Social Behaviour Team:** It was reported that the issues raised by the Cheshire East Council Anti Social Behaviour Team relating to unauthorised activities on amenity land off Dixon Drive had been resolved.
- 112/25 RESOLVED** (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)
- 13. Co-option of Parish Councillors:** It was noted that no formal expressions of interest

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had been received, however, a couple of residents had contacted the Clerk for more information.

- 113/25 RESOLVED** (a) To note that no formal expressions of interest had been received.
(b) To consider the matter further at the next meeting.
(All in favour)

14. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

(a) Several carried forward from previous meetings.

15. Dates of next meetings – Members noted dates of the next 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.

- 114/25 RESOLVED** (a) 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.
(All in favour)

10:33p.m. – The Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting room.

16. Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items.

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

- 115/25 RESOLVED** (a) That the working hours of the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer be increased by 1.5 hours per week from 1st April, 2025.
(b) That the Clerk & Responsible Officer's office allowance payment be increased by £6.50 per month from 1st April, 2025.

10:42p.m. – The Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer re-joined the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 10:47p.m.

Signed:.....

Approval date: 10th April, 2025

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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>	
	0.00	
	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>	
	0.00	
	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>	
	0.00	
	81,600.23	13/03/25

Total bank balances 13/03/25	<u>132,772.28</u>	
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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

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

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

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APPENDIX E

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

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of 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

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comply with this Strategy.

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 it's 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 F

(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 G

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

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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 completed.

APPENDIX H

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 I

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.