



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Morgan (PM) - Chairman, O'Donoghue (IOD) – Vice Chairman, Rathbone (TR), Morris (KM), Fagan (PF), Lynch (JL), Beckham (NB), Freeman (AF)

In Attendance: E Bambrook, Clerk to the Council (EB), Cllrs. Andrew Kolker and Russell Chadwick (Ward Councillors, Cheshire East Council)

PART ONE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 4 members of the public present.

07.25.1 Apologies for absence: Cllr. Harvey

07.25.2 Declarations of interest: No declarations of interest were made.

07.25.3 Minutes of the meeting on 24th June 2025:

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24th June 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting and all the decisions therein.*

07.25.4 Cheshire East Council (CEC) Matters: Cllrs. Kolker and Russell were present and reported the following:

- **Devolution:** The Mayoral election has been delayed until May 2027 so that it can be held at the same time as local elections and the costs can be shared.
- **Five Year Housing Supply:** Cllr. Kolker wrote to the Head of Planning, David Malcolm, but has not received a reply. This may be due to a lack of progress. Cllr. Kolker agreed to bring this up at the Southern Planning Committee meeting next week.
- **New Online Reporting Tool:** A new system for reporting issues across the borough will be introduced on 23rd July. The system is called traCE and this will replace the Fix My Street system.
- **New Waste Contract:** A new contract for the running of the borough's household waste recycling centres has been awarded to FCC Environment.
- **Economic Strategy:** CEC are working on a refreshed economic strategy.
- **Tatton Park:** The National Trust owns Tatton Park, but it is run and subsidised by CEC who are looking at ways to increase revenue.
- **New Senior Managers:** The new CEO has brought in a number of new senior managers in the last month.
- **Financial Outturn 2024/25:** Last October the overspend was £26.5 million, by January 2025 it was down to £18.3 million and by the end of the financial year it had reduced to £9.8 million. It should be noted, however, that money has been borrowed from the government to bolster the council's reserves.



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- **Cabinet System:** CEC operates a committee system; however, the government is going to legislate to ensure that councils run a cabinet system.

07.25.5 Committee Matters: To receive reports from the Parish Council Committees:

- a) **Amenities Committee Meeting 2nd July 2025:** Cllr. Rathbone provided an overview of the meeting and its decisions.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2025 as a true and accurate record and all the decisions therein.*

- b) **Finance Committee Meeting 8th July 2025:** Cllr. O'Donoghue provided a brief overview of the meeting and its decisions.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th July 2025 as a true and accurate record and all the decisions therein.*

07.25.6 Planning Matters:

- a) To receive and agree a response to the following planning applications:

25/2178/FUL St. Luke's Church, Church Bank, Goostrey, Crewe, Cheshire East, CW4 8PG. Extension.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to support planning application 25/2178/FUL.*

25/1676/HOUS 77 Main Road, Goostrey, Crewe, Cheshire East, CW4 8JR. Single storey side and front extensions, loft conversion and construction of detached single garage.

Resolved: *The Parish Council resolved to make no comment on planning application 25/1676/HOUS.*

It was noted that an appeal has been lodged relating to planning application 25/1739/FUL Land adjacent to 51 Main Road for change of use and laying out for the provision of caravan storage (Use class B8).

07.25.7 Financial Payments: The council reviewed and approved the payments listed on schedule 7/25.

Resolved: *The Parish Council approved the payments listed on Schedule 7/25.*

07.25.8 Clerk's Report: The contents of the Clerk's report were received and noted.

07.25.9 Highways & Speedwatch

- a) **Speedwatch Report:** Additional sessions took place on 11th July in support of a Cheshire wide Speedwatch initiative by Police. The session on 4th July 2025 monitored five vehicles travelling at 35 mph and above. The maximum speed monitored was 37mph.

The morning session on 11th July 2025 monitored nine vehicles travelling at 35 mph and above. 9.3% of vehicles travelled at 35mph and above. The maximum speed



recorded was 41mph. The afternoon session on 11th July 2025 recorded three vehicles travelling at 35 mph and above. The maximum speed recorded was 37mph, 1.3% of vehicles were travelling at 35mph and above. There may be a case for more sessions at New Platt Lane.

The Speedwatch information is passed on to the PCSO for letters to be sent to drivers breaking the speed limit.

It was noted that Cheshire West Council has issued a notice proposing to introduce a reduced speed limit of 40mph as follows:

- Booth Bed Lane from its junction with A50 London Road to the Cheshire East border.
- Brick Bank Lane – From its junction with New Platt Lane to its junction with Booth Bed Lane.
- Boots Green Lane - From its junction with Booth Bed Lane to the Cheshire East border.

This will leave a small section of Booth Bed Lane in Cheshire East as a 60mph zone. Vehicles will approach this section at 40mph, speed up to 60mph and then slow down to 30mph. This section includes the entrance to the playing fields where there is also no pavement. Cllr. Morgan agreed to check the Speed Management Strategies for both councils to see whether the criteria would be met for a reduction. It was also agreed that it would be worth checking whether the same applies to the speed limit on New Platt Lane on the Cheshire West section. Based on the outcome of the research, the council agreed that the Clerk would write to CEC to ask them to co-ordinate with Cheshire West Council so that the entire stretch of road is reduced to 40mph. The chair of the VHPFF agreed to write a letter of support and Cllr. Kolker also offered his support.

- b) SDU at Shearbrook, Main Road:** Data cannot be downloaded from this device but continues to display. The Amenities Committee agreed that the Clerk should continue to attempt to get TWM to resolve the issue with the lack of remote download from the SID at Shearbrook.

07.25.10 Police Matters: There was nothing to report.

07.25.11 Residents' Petition: The council reviewed the road safety petition which 101 residents had signed. It was noted that the parish council recognises that speeding vehicles are a high priority concern for Goostrey residents and has, over the years, taken every opportunity to raise road safety with the appropriate organisations. The following actions were agreed:

- The Clerk to reply to the resident who submitted the petition to include steps the council has taken so far regarding speeding and road safety, confirmation of the council's commitment to road safety in Goostrey, and an invitation for interested residents to attend a meeting with councillors. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the specific areas of concern and identify what actions might be taken.



- Following the meeting the Clerk will write to the appropriate organisations to bring attention to residents' concerns and to support the principles of the petition.
- The Clerk will report on this issue and any progress in the council newsletter.

07.25.12 Strategic Plan: The amendment to include planning for the introduction of more sustainable energy solutions at the Village Hall with a view to improving its carbon footprint and reducing energy costs.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to approve the updates to the Strategic Plan.*

07.25.13 Civility and Respect Pledge: The council noted the contents of the report and agreed to commit to the statements and sign the pledge.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to commit to the eight statements and to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge.*

07.25.14 Devolution Update: Cllr. Freeman attended the devolution community engagement event on 10th June and submitted a report. **See Appendix 1.**

07.25.15 Village Improvement Plan Survey: The draft survey was approved with minor amendments to the wording of two questions. It was agreed that the survey would be available online via MS Forms and in hard copy to be distributed with the January issue of the council newsletter. Vouchers for a prize draw were also approved.

***Resolved:** The Parish Council resolved to approve the Village Improvement Plan Survey, arrangements and timeline.*

07.25.16 Consultations: The council considered and approved the following consultation responses:

- a) Cheshire East Council Farms Service Review:** The council noted the consultation but agreed that there were no members with sufficient subject knowledge to be able to adequately contribute to the consultation.
- b) ACRE/NALC Survey on Planning for Flood Resilience:** It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Rathbone would complete the survey together.
- c) Cheshire East's Active Travel Consultation:** The council agreed that members should respond to this consultation on an individual basis if they wish.

07.25.17 Co-option of Councillor: There have been no applications for this role, the council continues to promote the role in the community.

07.25.18 Minor items and items for the next agenda.

- The Clerk advised that due to recent problems with the door management software, linked to the age of the PC on which it runs, a new PC and associated equipment has been purchased, and the installation of the software has taken place. The Clerk authorised this work in consultation with the Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee in line with Financial Regulations for this level of expenditure. The work has now been completed, and the system is working correctly.
- Cllr. Lynch, in his capacity as the Chairman of the VHPFF, thanked the council for the recent grant. The money has now been spent and everything is in place.



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07.25.19 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 23rd September 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm



Appendix 1

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Report on update from Cheshire and Warrington Devolution Community Event held at Congleton Town Hall on 10th June 2025.

Devolution is about National Government transferring powers and resources away from London and into regions. It is not about merging councils or taking decisions away from councils who would still retain most of their current responsibilities to provide local services for local people.

Any formal devolution agreement would need to be agreed by each council as well as Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee which will be made up of Leaders and Deputy Leaders of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington councils alongside the Chair of the Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board to provide leadership on strategic economic issues for the area.

From May 2026 an elected Mayor would work with the leaders from the three councils promoting more strategic and joint up planning across the area to include:-

- A Champion for our area
- Public transport
- Inclusive growth
- Opportunities for young people
- Caring for older people
- Support for business

Made possible with an anticipated investment fund of around £20million per year for 30 years, plus the control of over £25million per year for adult skills and up to £20million to build homes on brownfield land which is similar to other Mayoral Authority areas.

Timing

From September 2025 Three councils will consider devolution and a Combined Authority with an elected Mayor who does not need to be a member of a political party.

Early 2026 Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority will be created.

May 2026 Mayoral elections will take place.

Other points raised at question and answer session:

- GOVERNMENT CURRENT ACTION - White paper on English Devolution has not yet been passed. Passage expected through Parliament mid 2025



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- COST OF ELECTION - £1million funded by Government.
- IF YOU DON'T HAVE A MAYOR - No funding.
- DEBT OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCILS - No debt transfer.
- THE 3 COUNCILS HAVE NOW WRITTEN TO THE GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK THAT THE ELECTION IS NOW MADE IN MAY 2027.