

# HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 AT HANKELOW METHODIST CHAPEL

**Present:** Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Nigel Dibben, Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Clare Ward, Cllr Richard Thelwell

### **In attendance**

Abbi Miller (Clerk), Janet Clowes (Ward Councillor)

### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr James Du Pavey & Cllr Gerald Laxton

### **2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr Clinton and seconded by Cllr Sansom and agreed that the minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **3.0 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

### **4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman presented his annual statement which outlined the Council's activities in 2025/26.

The Chairman reported that 2025–26 had been an active year for the Parish Council, noting the commitment of all councillors and the valuable support of the Clerk. The Council recorded its thanks to Cllr Rob Tindall, who retired after more than 20 years' service, and welcomed Cllr Richard Thelwell and Cllr Clare Ward, bringing the Council back to full strength.

Work began on the Neighbourhood Plan rewrite, undertaken jointly with other parishes in the Wybunbury Ward due to significant national planning changes. The Chairman has attended multiple workshops, and further volunteer support would be welcomed.

The Council considered 12 planning applications and several appeals during the year, with additional meetings held as required. An enforcement log has been established to support reporting of potential planning breaches.

In relation to Highways, potholes remain a major issue, though Crewe Road has now been fully repaired following persistent reporting. Concerns continue regarding HGV use of minor roads and the safety of the Bridgemere Lane/A529 junction.

The Chairman reported that the annual audit had been successfully completed, with internal controls assessed as better than satisfactory. Community Infrastructure Levy funds were fully spent on village improvements.

Several councillors undertook training, particularly in planning matters. The Chairman also highlighted ongoing local health initiatives, including the work of ADCA, and noted that the parish defibrillator remains fully maintained and operational.

The Parish Improvements Committee, now chaired by Cllr Ward, delivered several projects including new noticeboards, litter-picking, planting, and tree-planting. Negotiations continue with Cheshire East regarding repairs to the footbridge on Hatherton Footpath 1, and new kissing gates have been installed across the footpath network. The streetlight at the Boar's Head junction was removed due to rising costs.

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The Chairman noted active engagement with local policing, Homewatch groups, and Cheshire East consultations. Parish communications continue to be well used, including Facebook, WhatsApp groups, and the parish website.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all councillors, the Ward Councillor, and the Clerk for their work and support throughout the year.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk presented a Receipts and Payment Summary and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2026. The end of financial year bank balance was £5,712.95.

## **6.0 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

There were no questions or comments.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7:18 pm.