

# HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

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

**In attendance**

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

**26/29 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Proposed by Cllr Sansom, seconded by Cllr Ward and unanimously carried that Cllr Knibbs be elected as Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Chris Knibbs be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

**26/30 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Proposed by Cllr Sansom, seconded by Cllr Knibbs and unanimously carried that Cllr Dibben be elected as Vice Chairman.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Nigel Dibben be elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

**26/31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr James Du Pavey and Cllr Gerald Laxton

**26/32 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS**

**RESOLVED** – The Roles & Responsibilities of Councillors was updated and agreed.

**26/33 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**26/34 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Sansom and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 be approved as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**26/35 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, section 1d, members of the public were able to ask a question of the Parish Council or make a statement.**

There were no members of the public present.

**26/36 MATTERS ARISING**

**26/19 Grit Bin – Birchall Moss Lane / Bridgemere Lane**

The grit bin has not yet been installed. **UPDATE:** Cllr Dibben added the request to TRACE. **RESOLVED**

**26/19 Enforcement – Bank House Farm**

**UPDATE:** Cllr Clowes raise the unlawful caravan siting with Cheshire East Enforcement and they are aware. **RESOLVED.**

**26/19 Old Noticeboard**

**UPDATE:** The Clerk reported that no neighbouring parishes had expressed an interest in purchasing the old noticeboard. Cllr Knibbs advised that there may be other potential interested parties. It was agreed to defer the matter until the next Parish Council meeting in July. If no interest is received by that time, the Council will donate the noticeboard to Doddington & District Parish Council. **UNRESOLVED.**

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All other matters arising from the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were resolved.

## **26/37 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Knibbs read out the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee and the Council unanimously voted to approve the current terms of reference for the Planning Committee membership to remain in place.

Councillors are Cllr Du Pavey (Chair), Cllr Knibbs, Cllr Sansom, Cllr Laxton and Cllr Bennion with the addition of Cllr Ward, although all agreed that Planning Committee meetings were open for all Parish Council members. Cllr Knibbs reminded the Council that the Planning Committee needed three councillors in attendance at meetings to be quorate.

## **26/38 CONFIRMATION OF ASSET REGISTER**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Clinton and seconded by Cllr Sansom and agreed that the Fixed Asset Register be approved and that it will be reviewed in March 2027 or when there is a change in assets.

## **26/39 CONFIRMATION OF RISK SCHEDULE**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Dibben and agreed that the risk schedule identifies the risk matters, the frequency of review and the minute number relating to the most recent consideration of specific risk items.

## **26/40 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The 2025/26 Internal Audit has been completed with the conclusion that the Council's system of internal controls is in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective, subject to the recommendations reported in the action plan. **RESOLVED.**

## **26/41 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** This was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

## **26/42 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

**RESOLVED:** This was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and RFO.

## **26/43 EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

**RESOLVED:** This approved by the Council and signed by the chairman and RFO. Clerk to submit to PFK Littlejohn, the external appointed auditor.

## **26/44 FINAL SPEND AGAINST BUDGET**

**RESOLVED:** The Council spent £6,297.42 against a budget of £6,181.00 giving an overspend of £116.42 (-1.9%)

## **26/45 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY**

**RESOLVED:** The Council was updated with a summary and balance sheet for year 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026

## **26/46 RENEWAL OF PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE**

The Council unanimously agreed to another year with Zurich Insurance as offering best value for money. **RESOLVED.**

## **26/47 RENEWAL OF ICO – DATA PROTECTION**

**RESOLVED:** To renew the ICO fees for 2026/27.

## **26/48 PUBLIC RIGHTS NOTIFICATION**

**RESOLVED:** Date set for announcing Public Rights is to commence on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026. This covers 30 working days and to include the first 10 days of July 2026.

## **26/49 INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2026/27 YEAR END**

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**RESOLVED:** To appoint Border Bookkeeping for the Internal Audit 2026/27.

## 26/50 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING AND BANK RECONCILIATION

**26/50.1** - Councillors received the Finance report, Appendix 8, that detailed the bank reconciliation since the last meeting.

**26/50.2** – Budget against actual spend, no monies had been spent this FY thus far.

**26/50.3 – RESOLVED:** The following payments were authorised:

Payment to	Details	Amount
ICO	Independent Commissioners Office Payment	£52.00
ChALC	Subscription Fee	£165.60
Abbi Miller	Clerk Salary	£440.96
HMRC	Clerk Contribution	£110.20
Border Bookkeeping	Internal Audit	£60.00
Zurich	Annual Insurance	£211.98
Webhosting	Webhosting	£48.00

## 26/51 PLANNING MATTERS

**26/51.1** – Councillors received the Planning Report, Appendix 9 and there were no new planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### 26/51.2 – New Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications, but noted that comments were provided for the below following the Planning Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026. See [minutes](#) from the meeting for comments.

<b>26/1058/FUL</b>	Land At Lodge Lane, Hatherton, CW5 7LF	Full Planning	Widening of existing agricultural access
<b>25/4802/RES</b>	Land Of Hunsterson Road, Hunsterson, CW5 7LD	Reserved Matters	Approval of Reserved Matters for Site 11 following Outline Approval 18/2153N - APP/R0660/W/19/3221564 - Outline application for development of 12 sites for residential development for 112 dwellings with means of access and layout included, but with all other matters reserved, for a 10 year phased

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			release and delivery period and associated community betterment (parking overspill next to school, enhanced parking next to church permissive pedestrian paths, play space, public access, community orchard, educational contribution and affordable housing). [Re-submission of 16/5719N : addition of extra 2.81 ha of land and 10 no. dwellings]
<b>APP/R0660/X/26/3378 121</b>	Land adjoining Broomlands Lodge Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton, CW5 7PL	Lawful Development Certificate Appeal	

## 26/51.3 – Enforcements Update

Case Reference	Nature of Problem	Address	Status
26/0031/ENF	Continued use for storage despite application 25/4126/CLEUD refused.	Land Adjoining Broomlands Lodge Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton	Open – Priority 3
25/0744/ENF	Siting of static caravan	Walgherton Waters Fishery, Crewe Road, Walgherton	Open – Priority 3
25/0663/ENF	Creation of access x 2 (hedgerow & trees also removed)	Villa Farm, Hunsterson Road, Hatherton	Open – Priority 2
24/00596E	Unlawful siting of caravan	Bank House Farm	Re-opened – Awaiting update from case officer
<b>4071158 dated 27/9/2018</b>	<b>Replacing plastic windows with glass windows</b>	<b>Caravan sited at Bank House Farm, mistakenly named Bank Top Farm</b>	<b>Closed - completed</b>

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## 26/51.4 – Planning Actions

### 26/21 Heler's Foods – Screening Trees

Some trees forming Cold Store screening near PROW FP8 had been removed, ref 19/2086N. **ACTION:** Cllr Clowes to investigate possible enforcement. **UPDATE:** Cllr Clowes reported that she has begun investigating the removal of the screening trees. Initial drone images suggest the screening appears adequate from above; however, ground-level views indicate that the screening may not be sufficient. Cllr Clowes will carry out a site visit to assess the situation further. **ONGOING.**

## 26/52 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Dibben provided the Council with an update of Highway Matters:

- Crewe Road has now been fully resurfaced.
- Work had been observed on Hatherton Bends, although it did not appear that any substantive repairs had yet been carried out. It was suggested that Cheshire East Highways may currently be investigating a possible water issue at this location. **ACTION:** Cllr Dibben/Clerk to seek an update from Cheshire East Highways.
- Baddington Bridge, reported recent press interest in the matter. Funding is now understood to be in place for the repair works; however, no timescales have been confirmed. The required engineering survey work is still to be completed.

## 26/53 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

- A successful workshop was held in April, during which potential housing policies were reviewed in detail. It was noted that ensuring the revised Plan is compliant with national requirements is essential. Urban Imprint are now progressing the draft Plan, including draft policies and preparations for public consultation. The invoice to date is £1,200, to be shared proportionately between the participating parish councils.
- Indicative housing numbers for the Wybunbury Ward have now been received, showing a requirement of 201–540 dwellings over the next 40 years. This will necessitate the identification of sustainable development sites.
- Cllr Clowes has met with Cheshire Wildlife Trust, who have agreed to update the ecological and environmental evidence base originally produced in 2019. The quoted cost is £2,730, to be apportioned across the ward parishes; the contribution for Hatherton & Walgherton will be £287.49.
- A meeting has also taken place with the Natural England Regional Supervisor, who expressed support for developing a Moss and Meres policy to strengthen local environmental protections.
- Work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England will progress once the interim report from Urban Imprint has been received.

## 26/54 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR

Cllr Clowes provided the Council with an update on the following:

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- Cheshire East Council is currently consulting on Non-Designated Heritage Assets, with the consultation closing on 26th May. This relates to buildings of local historic interest rather than listed buildings and will form part of the evidence base for the emerging Cheshire East Local Plan. Residents are encouraged to respond via the Cheshire East website.
- Cllr Clowes also noted that the Annual Council Meeting will take place on 13th May, at which Cheshire East Council will formally move from the current committee system to a cabinet system of governance.

## 26/55 IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT

Cllr Ward provided the Council with an update on the following:

- Planter at Boar's Head to be removed after the season; quotes being obtained for mowing, planter maintenance and future planting.
- Road signs: liaison underway with landowners regarding permission for HGV signage at Bridgemere Lane.
- A529 path-clearing to be repeated; Clerk to chase Cheshire East.
- Public Footpath works ongoing, including destination signs and updates awaited on Footpath 1 and Park Lane–Wybunbury path.
- Blossom trees: one replacement whip required; nameplates still to be added.
- Litter-picking schedule to be confirmed; Back Lane to be included.

## 26/56 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Knibbs to complete Cheshire East Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026-36 Consultation.

## 26/57 MEMBERS REPORTS

Cllr Thelwell reported that he had attended the Neighbourhood Policing meeting, noting an increase in Police Constables and a reduction in PCSOs.

Cllr Clinton also attended the police cluster meeting and confirmed that the ward now has only two PCSOs. The main concern raised for rural communities was shed security. PCSO Jarvis advised that he would provide relevant contact information for display on the parish noticeboard. He also reported that the police are currently focusing on speeding, uninsured vehicles and mobile-phone use by drivers.

**ACTION:** Clerk to add a standing "Police Issues" item to future agendas. **ACTION:** Cllr Clinton to update local Neighbourhood Watch representatives on current policing matters.

## 26/58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next Parish Council Meeting is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026.  
Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at 21:10 pm