

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th JULY 2025 AT HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Chris Knibbs, Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Nigel Dibben, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Gerald Laxton, Cllr James Du Pavey

In attendance

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

25/29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Rob Tindall, Cllr Ian Bennion and Cllr Steve Mitchell.

25/30 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25/31 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Dibben noted that Minute 25/23 should read "Two 'Road Narrows' signs have been erected on Back Lane" and 25/27 should read "Cllr Dibben".

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Laxton and agreed that the minutes from 13th May 2025, once corrections have been made, are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/32 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.

25/33 MATTERS ARISING

Item 25/12 relating to the Internal Audit: Cllr Dibben had made some improvements to the website in line with the Internal Auditor's comments. Cllr Dibben had also changed the website domain to gov.uk. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to ensure all documentation reflects the new Parish website name.

25/34 FINANCE MATTERS

A) The Finance Report (Appendix 10) was presented by the Clerk.

B) The following payments were authorised:

- Parish Clerk wages £379.88
- Parish Clerk HMRC contributions £95.00
- Zurich Insurance Annual Renewal £192.01

25/35 PLANNING MATTERS

Councillors received the Planning Report (Appendix 11), and the following planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 13th May 2025:

There were no new planning applications with decisions.

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25/35.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/2112/FUL	Dagfields Craft And Antiques Centre, Crewe Road, Walgherton, CW5 7LG	Full Planning - Proposed new crafts and antiques workshops building and ancillary works	<p>Parish Council Response:</p> <p>Whilst Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council do not object in principle to the new retail unit, by virtue that there is a shortfall in parking spaces, we would suggest that the site is now at capacity and there should be no further development beyond this application.</p> <p>With the increase of traffic, we would like to remind Cheshire East Highways of their obligations to repair and maintain the troublesome Crewe Road. There is still a large and dangerous section that requires level 2 patching due to a full surface breakdown as well as potholes and drainage works that are required.</p> <p>These are providing a serious risk to users of Dagfields as well as the local community.</p>
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25/36 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Dibben provided the following update on Highways Matters:

- Works to repair potholes on Crewe Road had taken place. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to email CE Highways rep to enquire when all works will be completed.
- Birchall Moss Lane & Bridgemere Lane has had some resurfaced patches completed.
- Four additional road name signs are now in place.

Cllr Clowes added that she had reported a number of blocked drains on Audlem Road. She has been informed that this section is due for works in the next 12 months and CE Highways would bring this forward if the schedule allows.

The Parish Council noted the email from a resident of Crewe Road with regards to speed restrictions on the section of the road where the resident lives. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to respond to resident to ask if they had a suggestion that could be proposed to CE Highways, and to forward the email to the CE Highways rep.

25/37 UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST WARD COUNCILLOR

Neighbourhood Plan

- Funding from the Government for updating Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn, and Cllr Clowes is working through how much extra this will cost the Ward as a result of this.
- Work will need to start on updating the design and locality work.
- Planning policies, biodiversity and net-gain policies have also changed.

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- The 5-year housing policy is still in date.
- Despite Government Planning legislation in the process of change, our Council is keen to start progressing the plan.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will be affected by the new boundary changes but shouldn't have significant impact.
- Cllr Clowes is expecting to attend all Ward Parish Council's September meetings to provide a further update.

Other Updates

- Cheshire East Community Action have produced some useful articles around community grants.
- Cllr Clowes has reported a number of Public Rights of Way issues in Hatherton to Cheshire East, which have subsequently been inspected, and works and repairs have been logged. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to forward the email about the Public Rights of Way works to all councillors. Cllr Knibbs suggested making this a standing agenda item to raise the profile of the footpaths in order to encourage residents to join the Improvements Group and help in their upkeep.

25/38 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT AND PROGRESS

Cllr Knibbs updated the Parish Council on the meeting of the Parish Improvement Working Group meeting that was held on 24th June. Available on request.

Cllr Laxton has obtained five quotes for two new noticeboards. **ACTION:** Cllr Laxton to forward to Parish Clerk to order.

25/39 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

RESOLVED: Cllr Clinton agreed to complete the current Cheshire East Council consultation.

25/40 (ALL) MEMBERS REPORTS TO RAISE TO COUNCIL (FORMERLY AOB)

Cllr Du Pavey enquired if the Council had had any response from CE Planning Enforcements. The Parish Clerk confirmed that had not, despite two emails. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to send the emails to Cllr Clowes to follow up.

Cllr Sansom asked if we had heard from Noventum Power regarding the monetary proposal they had offered to the Parish in relation to the Hatherton Lodge Solar Farm planning application (24/5074/FUL). **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to email Noventum Power to ask them to confirm in writing the legal agreement and to enquire if they would offer an advance of £5k as a sign of goodwill.

It was also noted that the planning application is logged under Doddington and District and hence the Parish Council had not been receiving any updates on the application. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to notify CE Planning Team.

Cllr Clinton thanked Cllr Sansom for kindly sending a letter of condolences to the relatives of Robert Ridgeway-parishioner and ex councillor who had recently, sadly, passed away. Cllrs Laxton and Knibbs attended the funeral on behalf of the council. Cllr Clinton also noted an increase in noise coming from the Heler's factory. Cllr Clinton commented that she was regularly attending policing related meetings and the Council agreed to have this as a standing agenda item. Cllr Clinton was thanked for her reports.

25/41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 9th September 2025

Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN The meeting closed at 21:26 pm.