HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13th JANUARY 2026 AT HANKELOW CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Chris Knibbs (Chair), Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Gerald Laxton, Cllr James Du Pavey, Cllr Ian Bennion, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Richard Thelwell

In attendance: Abbi Miller (Clerk), Cllr Janet Clowes (Cheshire East Ward Councillor)

No members of the public were present.

26/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Clare Ward, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Nigel Dibben

26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

26/03 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Du Pavey that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025 be approved as a correct record. RESOLVED.

26/04 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

26/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

25/63 – Enforcement: Bank House Farm & Walgherton Waters

Cllr Du Pavey confirmed that enforcement submissions had been made. No updates had been received from Cheshire East Planning Enforcement. ACTION: Clerk to follow up with Cheshire East.

25/64 – A51 South Cheshire Way Crossing

Access to the quarry crossing remains poor. It was noted that crossing via the field directly across is currently easier and safer. Cheshire East Highways will review the matter, and the Council will await their response.

25/64 – Crewe Road Speed Limit

Cllr Dibben was not present for this item. Carried forward to next meeting.

25/64 – Heler's Hedges

The scheduled meeting with J J Heler Co. Ltd has not yet taken place. Carried forward to next meeting.

25/66 – New Councillor Training

Training for the two newly co-opted councillors is still outstanding. ACTION: Cllr Laxton to chase up training arrangements.

26/06 FINANCE MATTERS

Finance Report

The Finance Report was presented. A query was raised regarding Scottish Power billing for streetlighting.
ACTION: Clerk to contact Scottish Power to confirm billing accuracy.

No other queries were raised.

Payments

All payments listed in the Finance Report were approved.

Payment to	Details	Amount
Abbi Miller	Clerk Wages & Stationary	£440.96
HMRC	Clerk Contributions	£110.20
ChALC	Training (A Miller – Code of Conduct)	£25.00
Gerald Laxton	Noticeboard Magnets	£24.03

26/07 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

No new planning applications were received.

Planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 11th November 2025

25/0204/FUL	The Villa, Hunsterson Road, Hatherton	Full Planning - Enclosure of front gabled overhang to create an extension to dwelling house approved under application no. 22/1398N. Extension comprising: a new entryway, expanded kitchen and expanded kitchenette. Also removal of external staircase and roof storage previously approved in above mentioned application.	Approved with conditions – 10/12/2025
25/3603/PRIOR-3MA	The Old Barn, Hunsterson Road, Hatherton	Prior Approval: Change of use - Commercial, business and service to residential - Prior approval for change of	Withdrawn – 10/11/2025

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		use of existing offices to a residential unit.	
25/4387/PRIOR-3MA	The Old Barn, Hunsterson Road, Hatherton	Prior Approval: Change of use - Commercial, business and service to residential - Prior approval for the Conversion of existing offices to a residential unit	Prior Approval Granted with conditions – 19/12/2025
25/4126/CLEUD	Land Adjoining Broomlands Lodge, Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton	Certificate of Lawful Use / Development – Existing - Certificate of lawful development for existing use of site for storage.	Negative Certificate – 19/12/2025

Planning Actions

- Snicketts Planning Application: ACTION: Clerk to ensure the Council's objection comments were submitted on the planning portal.
- Broomlands Lodge (CLEUD – Negative Certificate): ACTION: Clerk to submit an enforcement request regarding the continued storage use of the derelict caravan despite the negative certificate.

26/08 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Audlem Road Leak

The leak on Audlem Road was confirmed to be a water supply issue. Cllr Clowes reported multiple water bursts across the parish and neighbouring areas.

B5071 Potholes

The B5071 remains in poor condition with significant potholes. All issues have been reported, noting that all issues reported on old CEC software "Fix My Street" have not been transferred to the new Trace Software.

26/09 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

The first invoice for the Neighbourhood Plan has been received. Work is ongoing to determine proportional contributions between the parishes.

The consultants have reviewed the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provided updated guidance to the Steering Group. Some elements of the NP will need to be rewritten to ensure compliance with this and the future Cheshire East Local Plan, although much of the existing work remains valuable.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust has appointed a new planning officer. ACTION: Cllr Knibbs to send Cllr Clowes their contact details.

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26/10 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP

- Cllr Clare Ward has accepted the position of Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
- Quotes have been received for tree removal on Footpath 1 bridge.
- A request has been submitted for an additional grit bin at the Birchall Moss Lane / Bridgemere Lane junction. Existing new bins on Bridgemere Lane were installed due its school route after the road was removed from the gritting route. ACTION: Clerk to request a new grit bin from Cheshire East Highways.

26/11 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Janet Clowes)

Cllr Janet Clowes reported that she had challenged the proposed removal of PCSOs with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Cheshire Police has recently completed an internal consultation proposing a major reduction in PCSO numbers, cutting posts from 87 to 27, representing a 70% reduction across the county. The force has stated that the decision is driven by financial pressures and a shift toward deploying more warranted officers in neighbourhood policing teams.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has publicly acknowledged the community concern and emphasised the significant role PCSOs play in neighbourhood engagement.

The Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA) communication sought feedback from communities on the impact of the proposed PCSO reductions.

The Council noted the potential impact on rural parishes, including reduced police visibility, slower response to low-level issues, and diminished community liaison.

26/12 MEMBERS' REPORTS (FORMERLY AOB)

- Noticeboards: Cllr Sansom thanked Cllr Laxton and Cllr Dibben for installing the new noticeboards.
- Christmas Social: Cllr Knibbs thanked Cllr Dibben for hosting the Christmas social.
- Footpath Inspector Training: Cllr Knibbs is undertaking training to become a footpath inspector for all local parishes.

26/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7:00pm

Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at 20:00pm

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