

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2026 AT HANKELOW CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Chris Knibbs (Chair), Cllr James Du Pavey, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr Richard Thelwell, Cllr Clare Ward, Cllr Katie Clinton, Cllr Nigel Dibben

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

No members of the public were present.

26/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Gerald Laxton, Cllr Ian Bennion

26/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

26/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2026 were approved as a correct record, subject to one correction:

- Minute 25/64 to read “Heler’s Foods” (not “JJ Helers”).

Proposed by Cllr Katie Clinton, seconded by Cllr Clare Ward. **RESOLVED.**

26/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

26/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

New Councillor Training

Both newly co-opted councillors are now booked onto training. **RESOLVED.**

Grit Bin – Birchall Moss Lane / Bridgemere Lane

The grit bin has not yet been installed. **ACTION:** Cllr Dibben to add the request to our Hatherton and Walgherton log for follow-up purposes.

Scottish Power – Streetlighting Billing

Cllr Clowes has submitted a Member Enquiry. **ACTION:** Cllr Ward to follow up with electricians regarding decommissioning the streetlight.

Neighbourhood Watch Association – PCSOs

The Council noted the ongoing campaign to retain PCSOs and pleased to be retaining PCSO Nick Jarvis.

Footpath Inspector Training

Cllr Knibbs is now fully trained as a Footpath Inspector.

Enforcement – Villa Farm

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Hedges have been planted to fill gaps. Monitoring continues.

Enforcement – Bank House Farm

The gates installed are approximately 12ft high. **ACTION:** Council to consider whether an enforcement request is required. **ACTION:** Cllr Clowes will raise the unlawful caravan siting with Cheshire East Planners

26/20 FINANCE MATTERS

The Finance Report was presented, where an underspend was noted.

Planters

Cllr Ward reported that planters will cost approximately **£160**.

Noticeboards

ACTION: Clerk to send an official thank-you to Cllr Bennion for contributing half the cost of the new noticeboards. Future signage to include: *“Sponsored by Dagfields”*.

Remembrance Silhouettes

Council agreed to purchase additional soldier silhouettes, including one female silhouette, before year-end, cost approximately £350.

Additional Funding

Clerk to continue to explore and apply for additional funding as the need arises.

VAT Recovery

To be completed before Year end

Payments

All payments listed in the Finance Report were approved.

Payment to	Details	Amount
Abbi Miller	Clerk Wages	£391.92
HMRC	Clerk Contributions	£98.00
Hough & Chorlton Parish Council	Neighbourhood Plan Contribution	£123.84
AED Donate	Defib Pads	£124.80
Scottish Power	Electricity	£33.60

26/21 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

No new planning applications were received, noting that we did not comment on 26/0392/HOUS 2, Broomlands Cottages Birchall Moss Lane, Hatherton, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 7PH - Conversion of outbuilding to residential annex and home office. Closed 26/2/26.

a. Planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 13th January 2026:

25/0737/FUL	Ballaglass, London Road, Walgherton, CW5 7NH	Full Planning: Proposed change of use of part (0.42ha) of an agricultural field to a fully enclosed dog exercise paddock. Also to include a 10m x 10m area of hardstanding for car parking and siting of a mobile welfare unit to provide shelter in inclement weather, toilet facilities and a kitchenette.	Decision: Withdrawn – 02/02/2026
25/3853/HOUS	Wayside, Audlem Road, Hatherton, CW5 7PJ	Householder: Proposed summer room/outbuilding within garden area	Decision: Approved with conditions – 30/01/2026

Planning Actions

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.

26/22 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Potholes & Road Condition

B5071 - Hopeful of imminent repair as road inspection markings have been seen.

Baddington Bridge Diversion

A529 - 6 months of HGV official diversion through Hatherton and neighbouring parishes has caused increased safety concerns and more potholes. With few signs of a solution, Cllr Ward asked whether affected ward councillors could jointly petition Cheshire East and the MP. **ACTION:** Cllr Clowes to escalate.

A51 Study Doddington to Bridgemere

ACTION: Cllr Clowes to circulate the A51 study report for councillors to review.

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

South Cheshire Way A51 Crossing

Still on the Highways officer's list but not a current priority.

A51 40mph Speed Limit extension

Linked to the above crossing; no progress reported.

Public Rights of Way

- Cllr Knibbs has inspected all parish footpaths.
- Faults identified and reported: **1 in Walgherton, 7 in Hatherton** (32% of paths).
 - Walgherton: FP6
 - Hatherton: FP12, FP4, FP8, FP9, FP1, FP2, FP13
- Two historic "dead-end" footpaths are now on a list for possible reinstatement.

26/23 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

Cllr Clowes and the Steering Group met with Urban Imprint in February. Key points:

- Policies reviewed for alignment with updated NPPF.
- Some policies now covered by national legislation and can be removed.
- Cheshire East's housing requirement is significantly higher (noted as "125% higher").
- Parishes may need to identify potential housing sites rather than have sites imposed.
- Consideration needed for:
 - Formal Design codes
 - Character and landscape policies
 - Biodiversity and "Meres & Mosses" area
 - Dark skies policy
 - Hedgerow protection and Veteran tree protection
 - Garage size standards
 - Enabling Development
 - Ring-fencing overstretched industrial activity.
- Urban Imprint to lead a workshop to help formulate the emerging local policies.
- Cllr Knibbs asked all councillors to review existing parish-specific policies and feedback views.
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust update still outstanding.
- **ACTION:** Clerk to ask for a TPO on the 2 veteran Oaks on the A51 near to Boars Head

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

26/24 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP

Planters-Raised Beds

Council agreed to purchase plants.

Road Signs

Many signs are dirty or obscured by vegetation. **ACTION:** Clerk to write to landowner at Bank House Farm requesting clearance of overhanging branches.

Hatherton Footpath 1 Closure Weaver Bridge

CE PROW recommend retaining the bridge in its current location and raising it to avoid flood impact. Quotes are being obtained by CE Highways.

Heler's Foods – Community Issues

Three issues identified:

- Hedgerow gaps on Audlem Road
- Floodlight direction
- Constant noise from cold store **ACTION:** Cllr Clowes to speak with residents. Cllr Ward to arrange a meeting with the owner once information gathered

Litter Picking

Quarterly litter picks to be arranged. Parish has sufficient high-vis vests.

HGV Signage

ACTION: Clerk to write to Highways Safety Officer regarding progress on HGV signs and a “Children Playing” sign.

26/25 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Clowes)

- Environment Agency concerns regarding the waste recycling site (non-compliance with permit conditions, including height of waste piles).
- Combined Authority funding has been allocated to establish the Mayoral Office infrastructure.
- Planning training session scheduled for 30th March at Wybunbury Village Hall, 7pm.

26/26 ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

The following policies require updating with new website information and re-publication on the website:

- Complaints Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Publication Scheme
- Disciplinary Policy

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

- Financial Regs 10.1(i) should read Otherwise Regulation 10.1 (c)--- For clarity and accuracy

26/27 MEMBERS' REPORTS (FORMERLY AOB)

- Cllr Clinton confirmed she attends all Police meetings and invited councillors to send issues for her to raise.
- Query raised regarding loss of Wi-Fi at the Chapel; **ACTION:** Clerk- contingency to be explored.
- Cllr Mitchell reported severe potholes near his farm.
- Increased HGV traffic noted travelling to recycling site.
- Cllr Dibben still has the old Boar's Head noticeboard; **ACTION:** Cllr Clowes to confirm if Doddington PC still requires it at £150
- Training available on GovAssist AI and Cyber Security.
- A large drone was observed over Dagfields and a local farm in early hours; noted as suspicious.
- Increased microlight activity believed to originate from Hatherton Lodge Farm (not a registered airfield). Monitor
- Funding request received for Scouts/Cubs/Beavers attending a Jamboree in August; fundraising ongoing. **ACTION:** Cllrs Mitchell and Bennion to progress via Wybunbury Combined Charities.

26/28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12th May 2026

- Annual Parish Meeting: **7:00pm**
- Parish Council Meeting: **7:15pm** Venue: Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at **9:24pm**.