

HATHERTON AND WALGHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH MARCH 2025 AT HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL

Present: Cllr Chris Knibbs (Chair), Cllr Nigel Dibben (Deputy Chair), Cllr Joy Sansom, Cllr Rob Tindall, Cllr Steve Mitchell, Cllr James Du Pavey, Cllr Gerald Laxton, Cllr Katie Clinton

In attendance

Abbi Miller (Parish Clerk)

25/116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Ian Bennion.

25/117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25/118 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Sansom and seconded by Cllr Laxton and agreed that the minutes from 14th January 2025 are approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Deputy Chair.

25/119 QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF PUBLIC REGARDING ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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 in attendance.

25/120 MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January 2025:

Item 25/106:

Unmetered electricity supply to street light. **RESOLVED:** The Parish Council will await for a bill to ascertain who the supplier is.

Noventum Power. **ACTION:** Cllr Knibbs to call the Noventum Power contact to discuss potential financial support to the Parish.

25/121 FINANCE MATTERS

A) The Finance Report (Appendix 18) was presented by the Clerk.

B) The following payments were authorised:

- Parish Clerk wages £379.88
- Parish Clerk HMRC contributions £95.00

25/122 PLANNING MATTERS

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Councillors received the Planning Report (Appendix 19), and the following planning applications with decisions made since the last meeting held on 14th January 2025:

25/0296/PRIOR-6	The Parklands Audlem Road, Hatherton, CW5 7PJ	Prior Approval: Agricultural and Forestry Development - Agricultural determination of a proposed new building	Decision: Prior Approval Not Required
24/5188/PRIOR-6	Fields Farm Audlem Road, Hatherton, CW5 7PG	Prior Approval: Agricultural and Forestry Development - Prior approval for a steel portal frame agricultural machinery storage building.	Decision: Prior Approval Not Required
24/4248/FUL	Three Acre Wood Bridgemere Lane, Hatherton, CW5 7PL	Full Planning: Installation of small scale PV microgeneration 60 sqm Solar Panels. Max Height 1.5m overall area 180sqm allowing cable connection cleaning and access from adjoining domestic curtilage	Decision: Approved with conditions

25/122.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/0204/FUL	The Villa Hunsterson Road, Hatherton, Nantwich, CW5 7PD	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	Parish Council Response: The Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council note the description as a dwelling house. However, in a previous application this was described as a holiday let. This looks to be no longer subservient to the main dwelling and as such, we would like it
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		approved in above mentioned application.	upheld that this remains as a holiday let and not a dwelling.
22/4685N	Land Adjacent To, 4, Swedish Houses Audlem Road, Hankelow	Full Planning: Below ground drainage works to connect new surface water drainage pipe from land at Hankelow View to nearby watercourse	Parish Council Response: The Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council would ask that Natural England ensure that the flow rates and calculations provided in the reports are acceptable in protection of the SSSI.
25/0678/FUL	Land Off Audlem Road, Birchall Moss, Hatherton, CW5 7PJ	Installation of 2.4m high replacement fencing required to protect an existing cross country valve.	Parish Council Response: The Hatherton & Walgherton Parish Council would like to point out that if this isn't a regulatory requirement, then planning decisions should be consistent with that made to application 23/3266N, where the fence 100yds away from this application was considered overly prominent in a rural environment and of excessive scale.

25/123 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Cllr Dibben continues to report road issues and potholes within the Parish. However, this is proving to be burdensome with regards to time taken, as if issues reported on Fix My Street are not resolved in a certain amount of time, they no longer appear on CE Highways works reports. (Confirmed by Mr Roy Cook from CE Highways in a meeting with Cllr Du Pavey).
- b) Some potholes had been treated on the A529 on the Hatherton bend along and on Park Lane, but many remain unfilled.
- c) The B5071 Crewe Road is now in a very dangerous state and needs a Level 2 resurfacing completed. Motorists are trying to miss hitting potholes which is causing dangerous driving with vehicles coming into the middle of the road on bends. This is a busy route with major

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business traffic, school run traffic and is also a cycle highway. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to Andrea Bickerton at CE Highways to explain the urgency of this issue.

- d) The flooding on Oakes Corner now appears to be resolved. The drain has been cleared and the septic tank has been emptied by The Guinness Partnership.
- e) A banner, foliage and parked cars are blocking the views of oncoming traffic through the Cheshire Railings on Oakes Corner. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to CE Highways to ensure all obstructions on both sides of the road are clear.
- f) The Parish Clerk had written to CE Highways regarding 'No HGV' signs on Bridgemere Lane, but had not received a response. Cllr Dibben will ask residents if signs could be put up on their private land.
- g) Cllr Dibben and Cllr Clinton will put up new signs on Back Lane.
- h) The Vehicle Activated System (VAS) speed cameras on Hatherton Bend are not working. **ACTION:** Cllr Knibbs to report.

25/124 UPDATE FROM CHESHIRE EAST WARD COUNCILLOR

- Cllr Clowes is currently on sick leave.
- Councillor Stewart Gardiner is deputising for her in her absence.

25/125 PARISH IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT AND PROGRESS

- The supplier of the new noticeboard can no longer fulfil the order. They will write up a specification of our requirements so that we can obtain quotes elsewhere.
- Footpath 4 has had a new kissing gate installed on the footpath towards Helers Farm, but still require others to be installed.
- The Weaver bridge on Hatherton FP1 is still in a state of disrepair. Sound & District Parish Council were made of the issue. There is also a water extraction unit in the stream causing an obstruction under the bridge, and we need to ascertain if this is legal. Cllr Dibben has written to EA. Cllr Knibbs has joined the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society in the hope of some potential funding to repair the bridge. The Parish Council will look into arranging a meeting with the CE Highways Bridge Dept and the CE Public Right of Way Team.
- Litter in the Parish continues to be an issue. The litter bin by the quarry on the A51 doesn't seem to have been emptied for some time. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to ANSA to request it is emptied.
- Cllr Du Pavey offered to design, print and send out a flyer encouraging residents to pick litter outside their properties.

25/126 PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Cllr Knibbs presented some statistics regarding activity on the Parish Council Facebook page.

The Parish Council agreed to add communications to the flyer Cllr Du Pavey will produce advertising the recruitment of a new councillor to the Parish Council and about the Parish Council mailing list.

25/127 PARISH COUNCIL RESOURCING

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The Chair of the Parish Improvement Working Group will be on a rotational basis until a permanent chair can be appointed. The next meeting will be chaired by Cllr Dibben on 14th April at 7pm. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to send invites.

Cllr Clinton agreed to be appointed as the Police Rep.

All Councillors were encouraged to invite neighbours in the Parish to future meetings in case anyone would consider becoming a Councillor.

25/128 CHESHIRE EAST CONSULTATIONS

Cheshire and Warrington Devolution - Government consultation

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the Devolution and is to write a letter to this effect. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write letter.

Cheshire East's Vision for Transport Consultation

The Parish Council concluded that the questions asked in the Consultation were too narrow to effectively represent the rural nature of transportation in the Parish. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write a letter.

Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation

ACTION: Cllr Knibbs to complete on behalf of the Parish Council.

25/129 ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES

All the policies were reviewed and remain current, the only change was in the Complaints Policy: The address of the monitoring officer has changed many times. Address to be removed. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to action, and update the review dates on the other policies

Action Plan: Is due to be updated 2026-2030.

25/130 (ALL) MEMBERS REPORTS TO RAISE TO COUNCIL (FORMERLY AOB)

Cllr Knibbs reminded Councillors that there is a new residents letter on the website, and that if Councillors note a new resident if they could print off and introduce themselves.

Cllr Knibbs would like to thank Cllr Sansom for her support in the Warm Spaces Hub held at Hankelow Methodist Chapel.

Cllr Knibbs would like to encourage all Councillors to undertake a Planning training session at a time that suits them within the next 12 months. All Councillors be invited to Planning Committee Meetings in future, to be ratified at the AGM.

The Parish Council noted that there has been no bus service operating in the Parish since August 2024, and the Go Too bus will also cease operating soon. **ACTION:** Parish Clerk to write to CE to ask if a new bus service will be made available to residents soon, as many are suffering from rural isolation.

25/131 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting 7:15pm

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Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm
Tuesday, 13th May 2025
Hankelow Chapel, 11 Old School Lane, Hankelow, CW3 0JN

The meeting closed at 21:55 pm

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