

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.15 P.M.
DELAMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STATION ROAD, DELAMERE**

Present: Councillors J Edwards (Chairman), C George, A Bell, J Powell, D Rutter, A Gore, C Ball, J Inskip and T Overland.

Also, present Mrs J Monks, Clerk and Chester West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J Edwards welcomed Parish Councillors and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather to the meeting.

Councillors D Wheeler and R Ackerley sent their apologies for the meeting as both were unable to attend.

2 Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 16th May 2016 be approved as a correct record.

3 Chairman's Annual report

The chairman of the Parish Council gave an annual report as follows;

Ladies, Gentlemen and fellow Councillors; welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting, and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

It does not feel like 12 months since Robin Ackerley stood here, but at the same time, it seems that quite a lot has happened in our parish since then. I will try not to take too much of your time, however it does seem sensible to sometimes look back as well as forward.

For those who do not know, I moved to Delamere in March 2015 with Stacey and Hartley, living right in the heart of Delamere Forest itself. I am a firm believer in working hard for the local community, reflected perhaps in my role as a Liberal Democrat for Eddisbury and Weavervale. It was this that inspired me to become first part of our Parish Council, and subsequently Chair of the Council this year. Thank you at this point to Joanne. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Over the last 12 months, you will all be aware that there have been some notable instances of our community coming together to improve and protect our parish. An extremely good example of this is with the United Utilities borehole field. I continue to believe that United Utilities could have handled the consultation much better, however once we all got together to deal with the problem, I think we can all agree that we got an extremely positive outcome, with United Utilities committing to work with us on that field much more cooperatively going forward. As ever, as a Parish Council we welcome any further feedback on this matter.

Another major project in our parish is finally moving forward; the Fourways Quarry lodges and sailing club. I distinctly remember listening to Mr Fergusson speaking passionately about this project in my first parish council meeting, and hope his dreams are realised fully. It would certainly be great if the whole parish can support this project, and maybe even get out on the water when the time is right. Not sure, my knees will appreciate it, but hey, we only have one life on this planet.

In other news, I am sure most are aware by now that the planning application from Forest Holidays to build 67 lodges in Delamere Forest, and redevelop the Visitor Centre, has been declined. I know this decision was met with mixed views; however, I was extremely pleased to see our two ward councillors John Leather and Hugo Deynem representing our views very well; thank you for this. Having spent so much money on the new planning application though, I cannot imagine this one will go away, so watch this space as Forest Holidays consider their next steps.

This does draw me to one more point though; our parish is arguably amongst the greatest in Cheshire regarding access to public space and outstanding scenery. It is important that we work hard to protect this as a joined-up community. All political parties talk about the importance of house building across the UK; indeed, we shall see a firm commitment in at least one manifesto in the upcoming general election I am sure. Being a parish in commuting range for Chester, Manchester (just about), Liverpool, and Warrington, we are surely a prime target for the developers once they have finished with Northwich and Winsford. I personally remain committed to the development of a neighbourhood plan, which will help us shape this development, and have a handful of willing volunteers. Thank you to them, however we do need a substantial team to pull together on this one before we get started. If you feel like you can add any value at all, please do get in touch with me directly.

Continuing with local matters, I am delighted to see that the Frith Avenue playing field project is moving forward nicely now. A working party consisting of myself, Clive George, Robin Ackerley, Andrew Bell and Anita Gore was set up to review how we might invest some of our finite reserves in projects to help improve our parish. From this, a resident team has now been created and we hope to be able to share project updates with the parish council very soon indeed. A special thank you at this point to Tom Essar, without whom we may not have such joined-up thinking following the first meeting. Thank you also to Julian Inskip for taking on the role of Chair for this team; I look forward to the first BBQ here when we get there.

Regarding other projects; there does remain a small pot of money in the Parish Council, so if you know of any projects that need supporting, or have any bright ideas, please do come to one of the Parish Council meetings and talk to us about it.

Another thank you at this point goes to James, who works at the Abbey Arms. Without any prompting from the Parish Council, he raised a petition around road safety at the Abbey Arms crossroads. I am sure you have all noticed the work happening down there right now, and hope this makes a real difference. Looking back to our meeting earlier this year with Highways, there simply is not yet the budget for a major project such as traffic lights, however please do keep us informed about any incidents we are not aware of once the new system is in place. Fingers crossed this will have the anticipated and safer outcome.

On a personal note, I have really enjoyed being Chair this year, and hope to continue to help deliver exciting projects in the parish like the one by Frith Avenue. We have had some changes this year in terms of personnel; big thanks go to some old faces including Allen Lewis, Ceri Rothwell and especially to Yvonne Billows for her years of service. We have however been joined by new councillors Jackie Powell, Julian Inskip and Chris Ball, all of whom I look forward to working with for many years to come. There is still one more seat at the table though, so please do not hesitate to apply, or recommend someone that we should approach.

Looking to next year, I leave you in the very capable hands of Mr David Rutter. I shall be there alongside him though, and do all I can to continue as an active part of our community.

Thank you for your time; please do feel free to ask me any questions.

4 Open discussion

No members of the public were present.

Chairman's signature.....Dated.....

Page 202

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council held on Monday 24th April 2017.

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 24TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.15P.M. DELAMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STATION ROAD, DELAMERE

Present: Councillors J Edwards (Chairman), C George, A Bell, J Powell, D Rutter, A Gore, C Ball, J Inskip and T Overland.

Also, present Mrs J Monks, Clerk and Chester West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor J Edwards welcomed Parish Councillors and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather to the meeting.

Councillors D Wheeler and R Ackerley sent their apologies for the meeting as both were unable to attend.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

None declared.

3 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council meeting on Monday 20th March 2017 be approved as a correct record.

The clerk noted that minutes dated Monday 20th March 2017 were signed by Councillor D Rutter as he was the Chairman of that meeting.

4 Progress Reports

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that there had been progress with the Part two Local Plan from Cheshire West and Chester Council. As part of this, it was important that the Parish Council identified local infrastructure projects, which were required in the Parish. Once this new local plan was in force then any money could then be allocated to these projects.

5 Declaration of Office for new Parish Councillors

Following co-option at the last Parish Council meeting in March 2017, the clerk will ask the newly appointed Parish Councillors to complete the necessary forms to become a Parish Councillor.

Mr C Ball and Mr J Inskip signed the declaration of acceptance form and the clerk gave them the declaration of interest form for completion.

The clerk has circulated a schedule of training events from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, a copy of the Standing Orders and a copy of the 'Good Councillor' guide for their reference.

The Chairman of the Parish Council informed the new councillors that they would have to abide by the Code of Conduct and declare any interest in relation to agenda items.

6 Correspondence

The clerk had received an email from Councillor C Rothwell stating that she was resigning from the Parish Council. The clerk was asked to advertise the vacant seat with Cheshire West and Chester Council. The clerk noted the closing date will be after the next Parish Council meeting in May and therefore will be an agenda item in June 2017.

The clerk received notification that Oakmere Cricket Club had applied for a minor variation to the existing premises licence to reflect the changes to the layout of the premises, the application number is 17/00101 and the consultation end date is 28th April 2017.

The clerk received a response from Antoinette Sandbach MP regarding Bus service 82 from Arriva, which stated that this service was currently running at a loss as such there are no plans to increase the frequency of the bus service.

The clerk received an email dated 28th March 2017 regarding the electoral review of Cheshire West and Chester, Warding arrangements. The electoral review will recommend new electoral arrangements for Cheshire West and Chester Council. It will propose:

- The total number of councillors elected to the council in the future.
- The number of wards.
- The number of councillors representing each ward.
- Ward boundaries.
- Names of wards.

This phase of consultation closes on 5 June 2017, further information can be found at; www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

The clerk received a letter dated 11th April 2017 from a resident regarding the Homewatch scheme as they had been sent a letter from Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association asking if Homewatch was currently active in the area. Councillor A Bell was in the process of researching the role.

The clerk received an email dated 18th April 2017 regarding the planned speed reduction for the A54 Middlewich Road/Chester Road Delamere, Oakmere and Little Budworth.

The clerk received a letter dated 19th April 2017 from the Secretary of Eddisbury Hill Residents Association regarding speeding on Eddisbury Hill and Stoney Lane. The clerk has asked the local PCSO to patrol this area and asked if a Police Officer could attend with a speed gun. The letter requests for a reduction in the speed limit of the road in order to consider this request the clerk was asked to put this item on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

The clerk received a quote from KDE on 24th April 2018 from the Eddisbury Caravan Park for the cost of installing a defibrillator. The clerk will contact the Chairman of the Delamere Grove Residents Association concerning this.

7 Planning

The Parish Council considered all the planning applications that had been received up to 24th April 2017.

RESOLVED that;

(a) No objections were to be made to 17/00927/FUL, Replacement wood conservatory with conservatory of exact same shape, size and design. 2 Old Pale Cottages Stoney Lane Delamere.

(b) No objections were to be made to 17/00997/FUL, Replacement dwelling, Forest Edge Tarpoley Road Oakmere.

(c) 17/01539/REM, Approval of reserved matters following application 14/01086/OUT for erection of 166 dwellings plus discharge of conditions 5 (affordable housing), 10 (Construction Methodology), 13 (construction environmental management), 15 (reptiles and amphibians), 17 (bird boxes), 19 (Landscape and Habitat Management), 27 Archaeology), 28 (Tree/woodland management), 31 (Landscaping) and 36 (Travel Plan). Land At Former Marley Tile Works Site Station Road Oakmere. The clerk was requested to send a letter regarding this planning application to the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council including amalgamating the two previous submissions for the outline application by the former Delamere Parish Council and Oakmere Parish Council.

8 Finance

The clerk reported that the current bank balances were as follows and bank statements showing these amounts were presented and signed by the chairman. Bank account balance is £30,507.52 as at 31st March 2017 (The bank balance amount includes the New Homes Bonus fund £22,447.02.)

Earmarked funds as follows;

£675.00 earmarked funds for the speed limit contribution for Abbey Lane and Station Road as requested by Cheshire West and Chester Council resolved to spend this in November 2015 minutes.

£250.00 for plaque for tree at Hogshead Lane resolved to spend in November 2016 minutes.

£334.00 for contribution for the speed limit reduction for Stoneyford Lane, (subject to plans), resolved to spend in November 2016 minutes.

£1,458.00 left for cost of the Forestry Commission legal fees for a 25-year lease on the land at Frith Avenue, resolved to spend this in December 2016 minutes. (Amount of £1,032.00 paid in March 2017 towards solicitors fees.)

£880.00 earmarked funds for the speed limit contribution for A54 Middlewich Road resolved to spend this in January 2017 minutes.

Total of earmarked funds to date is £3,597.00

£539.85 unpaid cheques.

March 2017 income received was £582.00 advertising income, 3 invoices outstanding from the March 2017 edition of the Delamere and Oakmere news, total value outstanding is £56.00

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

Cheque	Payee	Particulars of payment	Amount
000908	Delamere Community Centre	Room hire for Parish Council meeting and Frith Avenue project meeting	£20.00
000909	Clerk	Salary for April	£325.72
000910	Clerk	Expenses for April	£76.67
000911	Cheshire Pension Fund	Employers & employees contribution for April	£113.31
000912	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£422.80
000913	Mid Cheshire Footpaths Society	Annual Subscription	£8.00
000914	Cheshire Community Action	Annual Subscription	£20.00

9 Banking arrangements

The clerk informed that Parish Council that she had received an email dated 13th April 2017 from the Cheshire Pension Fund stating that they would no longer accept payment by cheque.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was instructed to set up a standing order for payment to Cheshire Pension Fund for £113.31 per month to commence on 21st May 2017 and to continue on the 21st of each month until further notice.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was instructed to set up a standing order for payment for the clerk's salary for £325.72 per month to commence on 21st May 2017 and to continue on the 21st of each month until further notice.

The above standing order instruction forms were completed and signed by Councillor J Edwards and C George as authorised signatures for the bank account. The clerk would take the completed forms to the NatWest for their action and put photocopies of the standing order instruction forms in the accounts file for May 2017.

The clerk informed the Parish Council that the NatWest branch in Frodsham was closing in October 2017. Internet access to view only was to be considered by the Parish Council at the next Parish Council meeting in May.

10 New Noticeboard at the green off Hogshead Lane

Councillor T Overland had met with the landowner with regards to a new noticeboard on the edge of the green off Hogshead Lane. The Parish Council stated that the approx. size required would be four foot by three foot. The clerk had received several quotes ranging from £834.00 to £1,600.

Councillor A Gore reported that Willington Parish Council had recently installed a new noticeboard as such the clerk was requested to contact the clerk of Willington Parish Council asking for their supplier details in order to obtain a quote and place this for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

The clerk was requested to circulate any items of interest to Councillors D Wheeler, A Gore and R Ackerley for display in the Parish Council's noticeboards.

11 Footpath from the Caravan & Camping Club to the Station in Delamere

A visitor contacted the clerk in an email dated 16th March 2017 about the lack of footpath from the Caravan and Camping site by the station.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would contact the owners of the site requesting a footpath on the inside of their boundary.

12 Operation Shield

The Operation Shield scheme has been advertised in the Delamere and Oakmere news with a closing dated of 31st March 2017. The clerk had received one application for a kit at £9.80. The clerk will forward this onto Cheshire Police for distribution.

RESOLVED that:

In view, that only application had been received, the Parish Council would not fund any signage.

13 Land at Frith Avenue

Councillors J Inskip and J Edwards provided an update on the working group's progress for this project. The working group were establishing estimates for the work, compiling a list of requirements for this site and producing a site design plan.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk pays for the room hire on 4th May 2017 at Delamere Community Centre for the Frith Avenue project meeting at the cost of £10.00. These funds to be taken from the New Homes Bonus Fund.

14 Appoint a solicitor for lease at Frith Avenue

The clerk received a letter dated 24th March 2017 from the solicitors acting on behalf of the Forestry Commission regarding the proposed lease of Frith Avenue. A copy of the draft lease has been provided with a copy of the land registry title for the land.

The clerk has sent a copy to Cheshire Association of Local Councils as previously agreed. However this had been returned as NALC could not provide legal advice.

The appointment of a solicitor was to be deferred until the next Parish Council meeting in May in order to investigate costs involved.

15 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that there was a current consultation concerning Well-Being from Cheshire West and Chester Council and the details of this were on their website.

Both Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors J Leather and H Deynem attended the Planning Committee meeting in relation to the planning applications for the Fourways Quarry and for the holiday lodges in Delamere Forest.

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather reported that there was a review regarding the electoral review of Cheshire West and Chester, Warding arrangements and that this may result in changes in the future.

16 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor A Gore reported pot holes at the Sandiway traffic lights junction and the clerk was asked to report this to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their action.

Councillor A Gore noted that there some highway signs which required cleaning. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor J Leather asked Councillor Gore to send him the details in order to report these to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Councillor D Rutter reported that the path from half way down Abbey Hill on the left hand side in Oakmere that runs all the way to the Fishpool Inn and runs around Abbeywood, still has not yet been cleared. The clerk will contact the Public Rights of Way Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council for this to done urgently as it was previously been requested some time ago.

Several Councillors noted that the work on Station Road and Abbey Lane and on the Abbey Arms Junction were currently being undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways Department. It was not known when the work was due to be completed by.

17 Date and time of next meeting

Annual meeting of the Parish Council and next monthly Parish Council meeting is Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.15pm at Delamere Community Centre.

Chairman's signature.....Dated.....

Page 209

Minutes of the monthly Parish meeting of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council held on Monday 24th April 2017.