

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 7PM

Present: Councillor J Edwards, Councillor D Wheeler, Councillor G Hudson, Councillor D Rutter, Councillor A Bell and Councillor S Roberts.

Also, present Clerk, Mrs J Monks, two members of the public and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor J Edwards welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor C Topping, Councillor F Goodier and Councillor L Walters had sent their apologies for the meeting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush also sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor S Roberts declared a pecuniary interest in the Earlsbrook Housing development as she lived on this housing estate.

3 Update from United Utilities

United Utilities sent their apologies for the meeting as they were double-booked and could not attend. United Utilities have confirmed that they will provide dog fouling signage for the land owned by United Utilities as requested by the Parish Council.

4 Earlsbrook Housing Development

Representatives had stated that they could not attend the Parish Council meeting but will attend the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 20th November.

5 Request for a public meeting regarding Earlsbrook Housing Estate

RESOLVED that;

The meeting would be a public meeting organized by the Parish Council. Councillor J Edwards offered to chair the meeting as the Chair of the Parish Council. The clerk was asked to book a room at the Community centre and invite representatives from United Utilities and Earlsbrook Housing Estate.

6 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to issues with the old haulage yard and planning permission and planning enforcement issues on the site. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper will take this matter up with the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

7 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 18th September 2023 were approved.

8 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that Councillor L Walters and Councillor C Topping have both now been set up for internet banking.

The clerk confirmed that she had arranged for Northwich Community Responders to undertake training on the defibrillator on Friday 29th September. Northwich Community responders attended but no one turned up for the training.

The clerk has notified the elections department of Cheshire West and Chester Council of the resignation of Councillor M Shaw. The clerk was asked to put the purchase of flowers as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

The Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council have stated the speed assessment for Eddisbury Hill has been completed and is ready for validation with the police. The initial recommendation is for a 20mph speed limit.

Councillor J Edwards reported that the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council are advertising a reduction in the speed limit to 40mph for part of the A556.

9 Defibrillators

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £150 plus VAT was approved for spare defibrillator pads for the defibrillator at Delamere Community centre.

The clerk confirmed that there was one volunteer who was checking the defibrillator at Delamere community centre on a weekly basis.

The clerk has received a request from a resident regarding the Parish Council applying for a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation. The details of the scheme however were unknown as it has not yet opened to applications.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would apply for a free defibrillator however this was conditional that the purchase of a heated cabinet, costs of installation for a cabinet, any ongoing maintenance and weekly checks would be undertaken by the caravan park.

10 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 16th October 2023 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

- (a) No objections were made to 23/00320/FUL, For a lateral and deepening extension of the approved excavation area within Crown Farm Quarry for the winning and working of an additional 5.58 million tonnes of sand, along with the remaining approved reserves and provision of ancillary electrical substations (2 no. fixed and 1 no. movable), during the currently permitted period, under planning permission ref 20/01012/S73 dated 13 August 2020 (2020 permission), for mineral extraction to 22 February 2042 and restoration to be completed within a further 12 months of the cessation of mineral extraction. Amended plans. Crown Farm Quarry Stoneyford Lane Oakmere Northwich CW8 2JL.
- (b) No objections were made to 23/02843/S73, Variation of conditions 2, 3, 4 and 5 of planning permission 21/04629/S73 seasonal change of use of land from agriculture to siting of marquees/tepees to provide events venue, Cherry Orchard Farm Abbey Lane Oakmere Northwich CW8 2HN.
- (c) No objections were made to 23/02424/FUL, Erection of a detached building to provide guest bedrooms, amendments and additional information now received. Vale Royal Abbey Arms Hotel Abbey Lane Oakmere CW8 2HB.

11 Finance

The clerk reported that the current bank balances were as follows and bank statements showing these amounts were presented and signed by the Chair.

Bank account balance is £23,279.93 as at 30th September 2023

£129.00 advertising income received in September.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

Joanne Monks	Oct pay	466.94
Cheshire Pension Fund	Oct contributions	170.50
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses Oct	35.30
John Edwards	Retirement donation	25.00
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Election charges May 2023	362.00

12 Review of budget and reconciliation of bank accounts.

The clerk had undertaken a full banking reconciliation as at 30th September 2023.

RESOLVED that;

The banking reconciliation as at 30th September 2023 be accepted.

Bank account balance is £23,279.93 as at 30th September 2023

Income received up to 30/09/2023 was as follows;

	Budget	Actual (to 30.09.23)	Budget balance
Precept	12225	12225.00	0.00
Advertising Income	1000	577.00	423.00
other		24.41	-24.41
VAT reclaimed	0	421.62	-421.62
Community Infrastructure levy payment	0	0.00	0.00
Scottish Power	14	0.00	14.00
Net		13248.03	-
		0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	13239	13248.03	-9.03

The other income of £24.41 was a refund for the broken coronation mugs.

Payments received up to 30/09/2023 was as follows;

Payments	Budget 2023/24	Actual (to 30/09/2023)	Budget Balance
Clerk's salary inc HMRC and Pension	9000	4098.04	4901.96
Clerk expenses	600	205.20	394.80
Room Hire	150	138.00	12.00
Printing of Newsletter	1500	425.87	1074.13
Footpath Society subs	8	8.00	0.00
Insurance	450	267.86	182.14
Frith Avenue Maintenance	0	0.00	0.00
Training	200	0.00	200.00
Website & email	150	75.00	75.00
Contingencies	500	2238.66	-1738.66
Payroll Services	150	228.50	-78.50
Community Engagement	100	0.00	100.00
CWAC dog bin charge	400	364.00	36.00
Donations	1514	864.00	650.00
Data Protection fee	40	40.00	0.00
Cheshire Community Action subs	20	20.00	0.00
Election costs	362	0.00	362.00
Net Payments	15144.00	8973.13	6170.87
VAT		593.50	
Total Payments (excluding ear marked reserves)		9566.63	

The clerk reported that was a massive overspend in the contingencies budget as in the six months from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023 the Parish Council had spent £2238.66. The breakdown is as follows;

B&Q	compost	63.75
Running Imp	Coronation mugs	678.26
Royal British Legion	Tommy statue	166.66
Cheshire Woodlands	Tree survey Little Wood/Frith	1,280.00
Microsoft Office	one year licence	49.99

The total income for the financial year 2023/2024 is £13248.03. The Parish Council in the first six months of 2023/2024 has spent £9566.63. There is another six months of running costs and the amount left in the budget for the next six months is £3681.40. This is going to leave a deficit.

The clerk reported that the Parish Council will have to considerably increase the precept for the next financial year if spending is to continue as the precept is not covering the running costs of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that;

The income and payments were accepted by the Parish Council and the reviewed budget was noted by the Parish Council.

13 Review of earmarked reserves

The earmarked reserves were as follows;

Ear-Marked Reserves	Budget 2023/2024	Utilised Reserve	Reserve carried forward
Contingencies (ER)	2800.00	0.00	2800.00
Frith Avenue project (ER)	1855.00	0.00	1855.00
New Homes Bonus Fund (ER)	13285.59	0.00	13285.59
Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	1522.5	0.00	1522.50
Total	19463.09	0.00	19463.09

None of the reserves have yet been utilised. The current bank balance is £23,279.93. The funds left which are not earmarked reserves are £3816.84 which means that the Parish Council will have use the reserves for running costs. Please note that both the New Homes Bonus Fund and Community Infrastructure levy cannot be used for running costs, only capital expenditure projects.

RESOLVED that;

The earmarked reserves were reviewed and noted by the Parish Council. The clerk was asked to take some expenditure from the reserves for any items relating to the Frith Avenue project and for any items which could be purchased from the Community Infrastructure fund.

14 Newsletter

RESOLVED that;

The amount of up to £500.00 was approved for the November/December edition of the newsletter.

The clerk confirmed that the cost of printing for the September edition of the newsletter was £425.87. The total amount of advertising income invoiced for was £409.00. This meant that the newsletter would make a loss of £16.87. However, the amount of £166.00 remains unpaid.

15 Wildflowers planting

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £100 was approved for ground preparation for the wildflower planting. Councillor J Edwards will provide the receipt/invoice for the clerk and then the clerk will reimburse Councillor J Edwards.

16 The Old Haulage Yard on Chester Road Oakmere

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Copper will take up the residents' concerns with the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council. The clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

17 Leadership Lunch proposal from PCSO

The clerk has contacted the PCSO and he confirmed that the leadership lunch is a professionals meeting so members of the public would not be invited. The idea of the leadership lunch is networking over partnerships.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not go ahead with a leadership lunch meeting.

18 D-Day event

This item was deferred until the Parish Council meeting next month.

19 Speed watch

RESOLVED that;

No Parish Council speed watch campaign will be set up.

20 Village Gateway signs

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to contact if Forest England and Tarmac would be willing to provide a financial contribution towards village signage.

21 Little Wood

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £50.00 plus VAT was approved for the purchase of two signs for Little Wood.

22 Purchase of grit for grit bins

RESOLVED that;

The amount to up to £500.00 plus VAT was approved for the purchase of grit salt for the grit bins in the Parish.

The clerk was asked to purchase and arrange delivery to Councillor D Rutter.

23 Highways issues

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council and see if they can make any junction improvements to the Fishpool junction as visibility is very bad and the signage is not clear.

24 Thank you letter

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was requested to send a thank you letter to a resident from the Parish Council.

25 Houdslough, New Woodland Public consultation from Forestry England

The clerk received an email from Forestry England regarding the creation of a new woodland at Houdslough.

RESOLVED that;

No action or comment would be submitted to the public consultation.

26 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper reported that he has recently attended a Police and Crime Commissioner meeting regarding speeding and had contacted Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to a policy on the installation of speed indicator devices.

27 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor D Wheeler had been contacted by a resident who complained that she was unable to get her children into Delamere academy. The clerk was requested to put this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

28 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 20th November 2023 at 7pm.

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

Page 795

Minutes of the monthly Parish meeting of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council held on Monday 16th October 2023.