

HASLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

5th December 2022

Commenced: 7.00 pm

Terminated: 9.25 pm

Present: Councillor S Green (Chair)
Councillors L Allen, H Blake, Y Bushill, C Davis, M Deakin, S Edgar, J Griffith,
R Hovey, R McCarthy, M Mews, T Peake

Also in attendance, Mrs M Clough, Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors G Sawyer and A Heler

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sawyer and Heler

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were recorded at this time.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7TH November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the amendment of Councillor Howard being replaced by Councillor Blake within Item 2.

The following matter arising from the Minutes was discussed:-

The Chair reported that the Parish Clerk had highlighted that there were some problems regarding the laptop and printer. In the first instance, Councillor Deakin agreed to try to resolve these issues and would liaise with the Clerk on this matter. If the issues could not be resolved, the laptop would have to go to a specialist computer store.

4. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair stated that she would like to record meetings of the Parish Council and explained that these would be kept until the Minutes were formally approved. No objections were received.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

(i) Road Traffic Concerns

Mr Harold Evans from Oakhanger Ward advised the Councillors of ongoing road traffic concerns, mainly involving speeding vehicles.

Detailed discussions ensued, and whilst acknowledging Mr Evans' concerns the Councillors agreed that this matter was outside the scope of the Parish Council and was in fact the responsibility of Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED

That the concerns raised by Mr Evans, be acknowledged and noted.

(ii) Youth Shelter

Further to Minute 3(ii) of the last meeting, Miss Emma Hartley (accompanied by her mother) addressed the Parish Council and explained that she had spoken to friends who had suggested various locations for the Youth Shelter, including the Gutterscroft, the Nature Trail or the Village Green.

Councillor Edgar reported that the Duchy of Lancaster had agreed to support this project and make a funding donation.

RESOLVED

That the suggested locations for the Youth Shelter be noted, and that Councillor Blake be the Parish Councillor linked to the young people, regarding this project.

(iii) Haslington Hall

Mrs Georgina Hartley raised concerns over the poor state of repair of Haslington Hall, which was now for sale.

RESOLVED

That on behalf of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk to contact Cheshire East Planning Department, requesting assurances that this Grade 1 Listed Building, remains protected against any inappropriate development.

(iv) Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Mr Andrew Stubbs, Community Officer at Cheshire Wildlife Trust thanked the Parish Council for its work to support wildlife in the area. Mr Stubbs added that he looked forward to working on future projects with the Parish Council, and particularly thanked Councillors Davis and Edgar for the bulb planting on Primrose Avenue.

RESOLVED

That Mr Stubbs' comments be noted.

6. FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Hovey reported on the recent meeting of the Finance Working Group and the outcome of the discussions. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Councillors had been meticulous in their consideration of the Parish Council Budget requirements, and had stressed that their main focus was to ensure best value for the residents of the parish, when setting the precept for the 2023-2024 Financial Year.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Terms of Reference for the Working Group attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1, be approved.

(ii) That an amendment to the Financial Regulations (in order to address an anomaly) as detailed in Appendix 2 to these Minutes be approved.

(iii) That the Parish Council's Financial Position as at 18th November 2022 be noted.

(iv) That the projects listed for 2023-2024 be approved and associated funding be reserved for their implementation:-

- (a) Coronation - £5,000
- (b) Youth Project - £3,000

(v) That the Budget for the 2023-2024 Financial Year be approved as follows and that the Parish Clerk be requested to apply for a Precept in the sum of £90,000 from Cheshire East Council:-

Administration	£18,050
Christmas	£3,000
Defibrillators	£400
Floriculture	£10,000
Grants/Donations	£4,500
Grasscutting	£4,000
Gutterscroft	£6,000
Littering/Flytipping	£2,000
Members Expenses	£1,500
Neighbourhood Plan	£3,000
Parish Community Maintenance	£19,790
Payroll	£15,800
Remembrance	£750
Streetlighting	£1000
Total Budget	£89,790

(vii) That the household contribution to the Precept in the sum of £32.80, which represents a saving of £6.03 (over 15%) per household from the current year, be approved.

7. NOVEMBER ACCOUNTS

Councillor Green declared her interest in this item, and did not participate in the discussions or voting thereon.

RESOLVED

That the following invoices be approved:-

- (i) JD Services – for work to Gutterscroft - £130.00
- (ii) JD Services – for work for Haslington Parish - £1475.00

8. PLANNING MATTERS

The record of planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Council, as attached to the agenda, was noted.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk and Councillor Edgar refer to Cheshire East Council, any comments made by the Parish Council on planning applications.

9. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

(i) Haslington War Memorial

RESOLVED

That Councillor Davis be appointed the lead Councillor with responsibility for researching and reporting to the Parish Council, the implications of applying for listed building status for Haslington War Memorial.

(ii) Remembrance Sunday

RESOLVED

That the success of the arrangements made for Remembrance Sunday be acknowledged and thanks be expressed to all who contributed.

(iii) Village Green Carol Service

RESOLVED

That the details of the Carol Service be noted, and that mince pies and refreshments to be purchased by Councillor Peake, be approved.

10. UPDATES ON WINTERLEY, OAKHANGER AND HASLINGTON VILLAGE WARDS

Councillors Blake (Winterley), Edgar (Haslington) and Bushill (Oakhanger) provided updates on matters within their respective wards.

Councillor Edgar agreed to look into the best ways to preserve the small grassed postbox triangle in Oakhanger Ward.

RESOLVED

That the updates be noted.

11. REPORTS FROM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

(i) Vehicle Speeding

Councillor Edgar highlighted that any concerns regarding speeding, should be reported to 101. He added that he had requested that consideration be given to the installation of speed cameras in three locations in Haslington.

(ii) Community Policing

Concerns were raised over the lack of community policing in the Parish and the difficulties in making contact with the PCSO. The Clerk agreed to contact Sergeant Richard Haque, regarding this matter.

(iii) Solar Lighting

In response to a query regarding solar lighting, (Minute 10B – 03/10/2022 refers) the Chair agreed to look into purchasing an additional light.

(iv) Football Ground, Carpark

Councillor Davis reported that the potholes on the football ground car park required filling.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Chair be authorised to purchase additional solar lights with any remaining balance from the budget allocation.

(ii) That ANSA be approached and asked if they would fill the potholes on the car park of the football ground.

12. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no items of business that required consideration as a matter of urgency.

**13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
RESOLVED**

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

14. STAFFING MATTERS

Consideration was given to requests from the former employees of the Parish Council and for some refresher training.

RESOLVED

(i) That requests for backpay and salaries for former employees, be approved.

(ii) That the Parish Clerk's attendance on the refresher course entitled, Introduction to Local Council Administration, be approved.

HASLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for Haslington Parish Council Finance Working Group

The Terms of Reference of the Finance Working Group were adopted at the meeting of the Haslington Parish Council on 5th December 2022.

1. Membership

Members of the Working Group will be appointed by the Parish Council and will consist of a minimum of 5 Members of the Parish Council, unless otherwise specified. The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer must be in attendance.

The Term of Membership for the Working Group will be for a period of one year or to the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

2. Chair

A Chair will be appointed at the first meeting by the Working Group.

3. Powers

The Finance Working Group cannot make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council. It will explore options to the Parish Council and make recommendations, which will be subject to approval by the Parish Council.

4. Responsibilities and Areas of Operation

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer will arrange meetings of the Working Group and coordinate any matters for discussion.

The Chair of the Working Group, if unable to attend a meeting of the Parish Council, will nominate another member of the Working Group to attend and deliver the progress report.

5. Meetings of Working Groups

A Working Group does not meet in public, therefore Standing Orders are not applicable, although the Code of Conduct still applies to any Councillor who is a member of the Working Group.

The Clerk will draft a report detailing the proposals and recommendations made by the Working Group, which will be presented to the Parish Council, to contribute to its decisions relating to the financial planning of the parish budget.

Haslington Parish Council Financial Regulations

4. Budgetary control and authority to spend

- 4.1. Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by:
- the council for all items over £1,000;
 - a duly delegated committee of the council for items over £500; or
 - the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Council or Chairman of the appropriate committee, for any items below £500.

Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the appropriate Chairman.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.