

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BARTHOMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT BARTHOMLEY VILLAGE HALL ON 14th MAY 2024**

PRESENT:	Cllr T Wilde Cllr C Horrocks Cllr L Clifford Cllr K Parkes	Chair (in the chair) Vice-Chair Cllr J Peacock
APOLOGIES:	Cllr A Houldey Cllr A Heler (CEC)	Cllr M Connolly
ALSO PRESENT	Cllr S Edgar (CEC) Members of the public	Dr. M Bailey (Clerk/RFO)

PART A

PART 1 – ANNUAL MEETING

356 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Tom Wilde took the Chair and asked for nominations for Chair of the Parish Council. Members nominated and **ELECTED** Cllr Tom Wilde as the Chair of the Parish Council for the 2024-25 council year.

357 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Members nominated and **ELECTED** Cllr C Horrocks as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the 2023-24 council year.

358 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Houldey and Connolly and from Cheshire East Cllr Heler.

356 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item. There were no declarations of interest made by Members at the meeting.

357 MINUTES – 7th MARCH 2024 (PARISH COUNCIL MEETING)

RESOLVED: Members resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

358 UPDATE ON MINUTES – REPORT OF CLERK

The Clerk updated the meeting on the following matters from the minutes of the last meeting.

- Defibrillator – it was agreed to seek quotes for signs (**ACTION**).
- Grids – a list of grids had been sent to Cllr Edgar – awaiting a

response. It was stated that members of the public need to post issues on social media and tag Cheshire East Council into those posts with photographs. Members noted that a report had come from CEH that the grids were in an acceptable condition and that work had taken place on grids in the parish.

- White Lion Pub – it was reported that a planning application had been submitted to renovate the pub – Cllr Heler was asked to follow this up. Members expressed concerns about the condition of the furniture in the building. Members proposed that contact is made with the Trustees to ask them to publicise that the building will remain as a pub. In addition, it was agreed to make a complaint to Cheshire East Planning regarding the planning application and to raise the issue generally, including with the press. It was reported that there was a considerable amount of mold in the property. Members asked that contact is made with Fisher German regarding this matter – to request access to remove the furniture. It was further reported that contact had been made with Fisher German regarding sewage disposal.
- Smithy Lane Bridge – reported that the road is falling in - Members expressed their concern about the situation. It was noted that Cllr Edgar was asked whether verge markings could be put in place. It was **AGREED** to report this to Cheshire East Council via FixMyStreet.
- Fir Tree Cottages – in terms of number 3, it was reported that Listed Building Consent was being sought by the owners. It was **AGREED** to reply to this letter. A letter had been received from an ex-parishioner and a letter has been sent to the owners of 1 and 2 Fir Cottages regarding the concerns raised in correspondence.
- Parish Council Records – it was **AGREED** that Cllr Horrocks would have a look at the records in the first instance. It was reported that the Village Hall did not want to store the records.
- Rectory Drive – it was reported that contact had been made with the Vicar – he has no issues with the Parish Council contacting the Diocese. It was **AGREED** that the resurfacing with gravel has led to flooding along the Church Drive down to Rushy Lane.
- Smithy Lane West – the matter of the state of the road was reported to Cheshire East Council.
- Compact – contact made with CEC – no response received – will chase up.

359 PARISH COUNCIL PLAN 2024-25

Members considered priorities for the Parish Council for the 2024-25 year and, if necessary, beyond. These priorities relate to any aspect of life in the parish or can refer to the activities and functions of the Council itself. Members made the following points: -

Members noted that several areas had been cleared of weeds and cleaned up in the

parish by members of the community and by others. It was **AGREED** to put a post on social media and elsewhere thanking the community for this work.

- Footpaths/highways – to deal with the issues facing the parish in partnership with Cheshire East and the Duchy.
- Flower Box – to be located under the Village Hall noticeboard.
- Wildflower Areas – to develop in the parish – ask Cheshire East not to mow certain areas.
- Planting – to enhance the planting schemes and floral displays in the parish, including working with the PCC.
- Signs – to get the signs re-painted in the parish.
- Features – to look at maintaining the main features in the parish – e.g. work on the wall at Brookside Cottage.
- Speeding/Traffic – to get signage and other devices in place.
- Community Life - to develop approaches to enhance and maintain the community

360 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Parish Council is invited to appoint a representative(s) to the following: -

- Planning Sub-Committee – Cllrs Peacock/Houldey
- Cheshire Association of Local Councils – Cllr Wilde

361 STANDING ORDERS

The Parish Council **APPROVED** the Council's Standing Orders for 2024/25.

362 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered the following financial matters.

362.1 End of Year Accounts

Members **APPROVED** the following documents relating to the end of year accounts for 2023/24.

- Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24.
- Ledger 2023-24 (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024)
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the ledger for 2023-24.
- Budget Monitoring Report (Quarter Four 2023/24)
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring report for 2023-24.
- Receipts and Payments 2023/24
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the receipts and payments summary for 2023-24.

362.2 Asset Register 2023/24

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2023-24 Asset Register.

362.3 Risk Assessment 2024/25

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the 2024-25 Risk Assessment.

362.4 Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the Parish Clerk as the RFO for the 2024-25 financial year.

362.5 Appointment of Internal Auditor

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Len Griffin as the Internal Auditor for the 2024-25 financial year.

362.6 External Audit 2023/24

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate of Exemption for the 2023-24 audit.

362.7 Authorisation of Payments

The following payments were presented to Members for approval.

£265.20	Dr MJ Bailey – Clerk salary (April/May 2024)
£66.30	HMRC for months 1 and 2 of the tax year (2024-25)
£310.25	CCS Collect (Back Tax 2023/24)
£229.97	Insurance Payment (2024/25)
£63.46	ChALC (2024/25 Membership)
£90.00	Shires Accountants (Payroll – April-Oct 2024)
£18.00	NetwiseUK (Domain Renewal – Website)

RESOLVED: The above payments were **APPROVED** by the Council

363 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2024-2025

The Parish Council **APPROVED** the dates set out below for 2024-2025 (second Tuesday every other month).

9th July 2024
10th September
12th November
14th January 2025
11th March
13th May 2025 (Annual Meeting)

PART 2 – ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

364 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public attended the meeting, but no matters were raised.

365 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Borough Councillor Steve Edgar attended the meeting and provided the following updates.

- Network Rail – issue of pedestrian crossing is ongoing.
- Waste – there is a consultation on tips and the Parish Council was asked to support the retention of the Alsager tip **(ACTION)**.

366 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members considered highway matters affecting the parish.

- Hungerford Place – reported that a car had been pushed into the wet area and had caused a puncture.

366.1 A500 Widening

The Chair reported that the planned widening scheme may be in the balance – and will await further information from Cheshire East Council.

367 PLANNING MATTERS

Members considered planning matters affecting the parish. As per the decision made at the last meeting, it was agreed that future planning applications will be shared with the community via the Parish Council and that any links will be to the Cheshire East website.

367.1 Cheshire East Local Plan

Members **AGREED** to look at the Local Plan website and respond to the matters which apply to Barthomley as parish – protection of the green belt.

368 COMMUNICATIONS/SHARED INFORMATION/REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Several items were raised under this agenda heading: -

- Cllr Wilde – asked that a letter is sent to Network Rail to ask that the closure of the pedestrian crossing is made permanent to allow sat navs and other information to be updated.
- Cllr Clifford – to install signs for footpaths **(ACTION)**

369 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7.30pm – Barthomley Village Hall (Annual Meeting)

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.10pm and concluded at 9.32pm