

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT ST PHILIP'S CHURCH, HASSALL GREEN

PRESENT

Councillors A Curwen, Chair, J Batchelor, L Barber, B Colclough, S Farrington, R Moss
Ralph Bason, Clerk.
John Wray, Cheshire East

Apologies: A Malbon

40. MINUTES

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2022.

The Clerk undertook to follow up concerns about playground in Hassall Green and the provision of a bus shelter at Betchton Road.

41. PUBLIC FORUM

The Council agreed to ask again Cheshire East Council to consider improving access by foot between Station House and Hassall Green Village.

It was noted that some trees in the area had been damaged during recent poor weather. Councillor Batchelor informed the Councillor that she had reported these incidents to Cheshire East Council.

Concern was expressed about poor salting of roads in the area during recent cold weather and it was agreed that Cheshire East Council be asked to prioritise Hassall Green, or, alternatively to supply salt containers to enable villagers to undertake the precautions themselves.

42. FINANCE

(a) The Council approved the following items of expenditure:

Clerk's Salary – Clerk's Salary – £151.31 (two months) = £302.62

Clerk's expenses - Postage £2.42; Travel - £24 (attend meeting and to post notices).

Sandbach Mowers and Repairs - £97.70

(b) The Council noted the current balances of Current account - £ 9,291.03
Reserve account - £1,897.89 which included £4,000 ring-fenced infrastructure moneys.

(c) The Chair urged members to look at the proposed budget of Cheshire East Council and to make observations as soon as possible.

43. PLANTERS AND BENCHES

It was agreed that the planters be planted with herbs, spring bulbs, perennial flowers and, at the appropriate time, summer bedding. It was noted that local residents had agreed to do this as a volunteers, both in Hassall Green and Malkins Bank.

44. WEBSITE

It was agreed that encouragement be made to direct residents to the Council's website and to engage with it. The Congleton Chronicle would be asked when reporting these minutes to make known the website www.betchtonpc.org.uk.

45. DEFIBRILLATOR

It was agreed to purchase a defibrillator in the sum of £505.50 and to locate it near to Lock 57, Hassall Green.

46. SOUND SYSTEM

Further to minute 37 Councillor Farrington undertook to source an inexpensive microphone and speaker to assist the Council at its meetings.

47. 2023 CORONATION

Councillor Barber reported that Hassall Parish Council had asked whether Betchton PC would join in with celebrations on Sunday 7 May. It was agreed that this be considered at the next meeting and whether Betchton might also organise its own celebrations on 8 May.

48. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council received correspondence from a former Councillor who was interested in historic activities of the Council.

49. CHELLS HILL

It was agreed that Cheshire East Council be asked to improve the signage at Chells Hill because large vehicles frequently were impeded at the aqueduct. It was suggested that the brightly painted bridge at Ettiley Heath be cited as an example as to possible solutions to this ongoing issue.

50. DUBTHORN LANE

It was agreed that Cheshire East Council be asked to improve the capacity of the culvert under Dubthorn Lane because blockages were causing more frequent flooding of properties in the area.

51. COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIPS

The Chair reported on a meeting she attended on 23 January. The meeting identified a number of grants available to local communities. It was agreed that Councillors consider those that might be appropriate to the area. In the first instance it was agreed that the Nature Reserve be put forward for due consideration.

52. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Councillor Wray informed the Council that Cheshire East was due to receive the report of auditors regarding the activities of Cheshire East Council in 2015 at a special meeting on 1 February.

..... (Chairman)

..... (Date).