

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

6th March 2025

Commenced: 7.45 pm

Terminated: 9.05 pm

The meeting was late in starting, as the original venue was unexpectedly closed due to staffing problems, so it was relocated to St Philips Church, and a notice placed at the original venue.

Present: Councillor Avis Curwen – Chair
Councillors Batchelor, Beresford, Bradley, Freer, Moss, Ramsey and Willis
Councillor Wray (part) – Cheshire East Councillor

There were 2 Members of the Public in attendance at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were in attendance at the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bradley declared an interest in the Planning Application regarding land at Malkins Bank Golf Club (Item 6ii) as he was a neighbour.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd January 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to an amendment to the Bank Reconciliation to correct a typographical error, replacing Tilston with Betchton.

4. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Consideration was given to the co-option of Mr Andy Thomson and Ms Caroline Tapper.

RESOLVED

That the co-option of Mr Andy Thomson and Ms Caroline Tapper, to the Parish Council, be approved.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

The Members of the Public in attendance were co-opted onto the Parish Council.

6. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Application Reference Number: 24/4693/EIA

The Parish Council noted that its support of the residents in requesting to the Planning Authority that an Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken for the following proposal had been submitted to Cheshire East Council: -

Application Reference Number: 24/4693/EIA

Application Type: EIA screening / scoping

Proposal: Screening Opinion for an outline application in support of a residential development of up to 320 dwellings, open space, landscaping, associated infrastructure and works, including earthworks and drainage

- **New Planning Application**

(ii) Application Reference: 23/4004C Full Planning

Site address: Malkins Bank Golf Club Betchton Road, Malkins Bank, Sandbach, Cheshire East, CW11 4XN

Development Proposal: Proposed installation of surface water drainage system including outfalls to Birchenwood Brook; and installation of a passive reactive barrier treatment system.

Councillor Bradley explained the technical details of the application.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council supports this application, but requests that during its decision making, the Planning Officer considers:-

- (i) **The vibrations from the pile driving from putting the steel sheets in the ground, by Jubilee Villas in Hassall Parish;**
- (ii) **Any long term noise considerations from the plant;**
- (iii) **Long term implications for maintaining the plant;**
- (iv) **Ongoing monitoring of the plant.**

• **Decisions made under Standing Orders**

(iii) Application Reference: 25/0211/OUT

Location: Land To The North And South Of The A533 The Hill, Sandbach,

Proposal: Outline application, with all matters reserved except for access, for development comprising up to 325 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), creation of a community park located between Manor Road and the A533 The Hill and other open space and landscaping, associated infrastructure, including earthworks and drainage

The Parish Council OBJECTED to this application and submitted reasons for the objection.

7. SPEEDING VEHICLES

Further to Minute 1 of the last meeting, the Parish Council noted the response (detailed on the Agenda) provided by Cheshire East Council regarding the Parish Council's report of speeding vehicles (Highways reference 3470873).

8. DUBTHORN LANE – HIGHWAY MIRRORS

Further to Minute 1 of the last meeting, the Parish Council noted the response (detailed on the Agenda) from Cheshire East Council regarding the Parish Council's enquiry about the provision of mirrors on Dubthorn Lane.

9. MOTORWAY BRIDGE

Further to Minute 1 of the last meeting, the Clerk had reported the Parish Council's concerns over this Bridge to the Highways Agency (Reference: FMS6947653). The Highways Agency reported that this was a matter for the Local Highways Department, so a log was made (Reference: 3471128). A Highways Officer was to visit the site and report back. The response received was *The officer has noted that the structure belongs to National highways and the issue has been forwarded to them.*

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contacts National Highways again, to ask for an update.

10. MALKINS BANK FOOTPATH

Members noted that the Clerk had again contacted Cheshire East Council to advise them that the Parish Council supports the residents in their request for footpath clearance (Ref: 6947704).

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

11. FLOODING ON ALSAGER ROAD

Further to Minute 1 of the last meeting, the Parish Council noted that the Clerk had referred this matter to Cheshire East Council and responses to additional questions had been sent.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk to try to pursue this again.

12. PLAY AREAS

Further to Minute 1 of the last meeting, the Parish Council noted that the Clerk had received a number of replies from ANSA (as detailed on the Agenda) regarding the future plans for the play areas in the Parish.

RESOLVED

That Councillors Freer and Thomson undertake a survey of the playgrounds in Charles Square and Old School Site and make proposals to the next meeting of the Parish Council, for applications to submit to the Denise Coates Foundation.

13. GRANTS

In light of a recent request for funding from an organisation from outside the Parish, the Parish Council considered whether wished to consider grants to organisations.

RESOLVED

That due to its limited funds, the Parish Council cannot give grants to organisations.

14. ASSET REGISTER

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Asset Register as Appended to these Minutes, be approved.**
- (ii) That the Chair and Councillor Tapper source a contractor to install the benches, and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.**
- (iii) That the balance of the Community Infrastructure Levy funds be considered at next meeting.**

15. PARISH COUNCIL EQUIPMENT

In light of recent advice received from Zurich Municipal, the Parish Council considered the implications further.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the lawn mower be sold on Ebay, at the best possible price.**
- (ii) That the brushcutter be sold on Ebay, at the best possible price.**
- (iii) That approval be given to Councillor Bradley to purchase a new lock and stain for the Notice Board at Hassall Green.**

16. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Wray reported on the following matters:-

- Cheshire East Council had approved its Budget
- Cheshire East Council's application to increase the Council Tax to over 9% was refused by Central Government.
- The financial position of Cheshire East Council was still very bad.
- With regard to the planning application for Malkins Bank Golf Club, the work was being paid by Cheshire East Council, as the landowners.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2024-2025

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the Budget and Finance 2024-2025.

(i) Transactions

RESOLVED

That the following transactions, be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPT	PAYMENT
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£3.20
M Clough	November Salary		£180.00
HMRC	PAYE November		£45.00
M Clough	December Salary		£180.00
HMRC	PAYE December		£45.00
M Clough	January Salary		£176.09
HMRC	PAYE January		£44.00
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
NatWest	Transfer following Closure £1,973.95		
NatWest	Transfer following Closure £2,038.54		

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	PAYMENT
M Clough	March Salary (13 hours @ £16.93 p/h)	Approx. £179.00
HMRC	PAYE March	Approx. £45.00
M Clough	April Salary (13 hours @ £16.93 p/h)	Approx. £180.00
HMRC	PAYE April	Approx. £45.00
St. Philip's Church Hall Room Hire	29/09/2022 £25 17/11/2022 £25 26/01/2023 £25 16/03/2023 £25 18/05/2023 £25 13/07/2023 £25 28/09/2023 £25 16/11/2023 £25 18/01/2024 - Meeting cancelled (lights) 21/03/2024 £25 16/05/2024 Meeting cancelled 25/06/2024 £12.50 (1hr) 18/07/2024 £25 19/09/2024 £25 02/01/2025 £25 Total cost £312.50	£312.50

(iii) 2024-2025 Budget Expenditure at 24th February 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure at 24th February 2025, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total UNITY	Total NATWEST	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary (including HMRC PAYE Costs)	£940.09	£0.00	£2,400.00	£1,459.91
Office Expenses	£0.00	£175.00	£200.00	£25.00

Insurance	£0.00	£257.60	£350.00	£92.40
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£0.00	£40.00	£40.00
Room Hire	£0.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Poppies/Wreaths	£0.00	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00
Community Projects	£0.00	£665.24	£1,000.00	£334.76
Village Maintenance	£0.00	£16.00	£150.00	£134.00
Website and Email	£0.00	£288.00	£300.00	£12.00
Subscriptions	£0.00	£210.90	£300.00	£89.10
Internal Audit	£0.00	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Contingency	£9.20	£0.00	£500.00	£490.80
CIL Ringfenced	£1,286.89	£350.00	£1,939.00	£302.11
	£2,236.18	£1,962.74	£7,579.00	£3,380.08

(iv) Explanation of Variances

The Clerk reported that there were no variances to the Budget to consider. The Clerk highlighted however, that she had been working with very limited documentation, and whilst she had been able to reconcile the balances, she was unable to match all the payments made with associated invoices or receipts.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(v) Bank Reconciliation as at 24th February 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 24th February 2025, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 24th February 2025	
BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2025	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements	
Unity Current Account – 31 st January 2025	£3,263.82
NatWest Current Account – 3 rd February 2025	£0.00
NatWest Savings Account – 3 rd February 2025	£0.00
Less: any unrepresented cheques	
Unity Current Account	£0.00
NatWest Current Account	£0.00
NatWest Savings Account	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash	
Unity Current Account	£4,012.49
NatWest Current Account	£0.00
NatWest Savings Account	£0.00
Net bank balances as at 24th February 2025	
£7,276.31	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	

CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance (Total Current and Reserve Account)	
Unity Current Account - 01/04/2024	£0.00
NatWest Current Account - 01/04/2024	£2,023.83
NatWest Savings Account - 01/04/2024	£6,840.69
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Current Account	£0.00
NatWest Current Account	£2,596.00
NatWest Savings Account	£14.71
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Current Account	£2,236.18
NatWest Current Account	£1,962.74
NatWest Savings Account	£0.00
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£7,276.31

6. BANK STATEMENTS

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Statements, as circulated with the report, be received:-

- (i) NatWest Current Account 07073917 - 3rd February 2025
- (ii) NatWest Reserve Account 96522526 – 31st January 2025
- (iii) NatWest Reserve Account 96522526 – 3rd February 2025
- (iv) Unity Trust Bank Account 20519047 – 31st December 2024
- (v) Unity Trust Bank Account 20519047 – 31st January 2025

18. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Davenport Accountants as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor, be approved.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Members noted the details of the following meetings: -

Annual Parish Meeting – 1st May 2025 at 7.00 pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 1st May 2025 at 7.30 pm

20. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair confirmed that there were no items of business requiring consideration as a matter of urgency.

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL
ASSET REGISTER 2024-2025

Asset	Location W3W	Replacement Cost
1 x Notice Board	Malkins Bank - waving.remembers.stops	£2,000.00
1 x Notice Board	Hassall Green - . badge.surfer.unfilled	£2,000.00
Laptop	Clerk's Address	£300.00
3 x Planters Malkins Bank -	1 Planter - stardom.ladder.bulldozer (Betchton Road) 1 Planter - nags.voltage.partly (Betchton Road) 1 Planter - tolerable.upwardly.magnitude (Betchton Road)	£2,250.00
6 x Planters Hassall Green –	///badge.surfer.unfilled (Charles Square) ///famous.essays.standards ///tonsils.nurses.forge ///teams.solo.excavated ///speeds.outdone.quilting (Pink Church) ///rural.delight.cages (Salt Line)	£4,500.00
Lawn Mower	drilled.though.farmed	£500.00
3 x Benches	1 Bench - 1 Bench 1 Bench	£1,200.00
1 x Planter/Bench	Malkins Bank – Betchton Road. overlaid.unsecured.thrashed	£300.00
1 x Seat	Charles Square	£350.00
1 x Picnic Table	Malkins Bank playground	£350.00
1 x Seat	Dubthorn Lane	£350.00
2 x Tommy Statues		£350.00
18 Large Lamppost Poppies	cookies.removed.encroach (No. 1)	£180.00
Petrol Brushcutter		£150.00
4 x Road Ice Warning Signs		£125.00
Total		£14,905.00

Assets Inspected by: *Aris Curwen*

Date: *6/3/25*