

# BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 8.30 pm

Present: Councillor Bradley (Chair)  
Councillors Beresford, Moss, Tapper and Williams

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Freer and Thomson.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members of the Parish Council.

## 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no Members of the Public in attendance at the meeting.

## 5. ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### RESOLVED

That the following allocation of responsibilities, be approved:-

- (i) **Defibrillator** (to investigate the installation and purchase of a defibrillator for the Parish and report back to the Parish Council) – Councillor Beresford
- (ii) **Planning Matters** (to include matters that may relate to enforcement) – Councillor Bradley
- (iii) **Highways Matters (including Flooding)** (liaising with the Borough Council and National Highways regarding areas of concern) – Councillors Tapper and Williams
- (iv) **Play Areas** – Councillors Freer and Thomson
- (v) **Sandbach Alms House Charity** – Deferred
- (vi) **Police** – Councillor Moss

## 6. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following:-

- **Development on Roughwood Lane**

As agreed in Minute 16 of the last meeting, the Parish Council considered the development on Roughwood Lane.

### RESOLVED

That the Clerk contacts Planning Enforcement to report the suspected breaches of planning relating to the erection of a fence that is encroaching the highway, and also the building work taking place on site.

## 7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following matters:-

- (i) New Inn Lane
- (ii) Speeding Concerns
- (iii) Vegetation under the Motorway Bridge

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That Councillors Tapper and Williams contact Cheshire East Highways to enquire about the procedures required to purchase and install Speed Indicator Devices, and the installation of sleeping policemen, and report back to the next meeting.
- (ii) That Councillor Bradley contacts Hassall Parish Council to enquire about loaning the mobile Speed Indicator Device, and also contacts Cheshire East Council, to clarify the rules and regulations, and report back to the next meeting.

**8. BENCHES****RESOLVED**

That the Chair contacts ANSA to ascertain the requirements for the installation of the benches and seek a quote from ANSA to complete the work, for consideration at the next meeting.

**9. BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT 2025-2026**

The Parish Council considered a report of the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the following:-

**(i) Transactions****RESOLVED**

That the following transactions, be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPT	PAYMENT
CHALC	Annual subscription		£216.45
M Clough	Reimbursement for laptop		£269.10
Davenport Accountants	Internal Audit		£136.50
HMRC	PAYE April		£44.00
M Clough	April Salary		£176.09
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge		£6.00
M Clough	May Salary		£176.09
HMRC	PAYE May		£44.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge		£6.00
HMRC	VAT Refund	£308.04	

**(ii) Approval of Payments****RESOLVED**

That the following payments, be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	PAYMENT
M Clough	July Salary (13 hours @ £16.93 p/h)	Approx. £179.09
HMRC	PAYE July	Approx. £45.00
M Clough	August Salary (13 hours @ £16.93	Approx £176.09
HMRC	PAYE August	Approx £45.00

**(iii) Budget Expenditure at 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025****RESOLVED**

That the following Budget Head expenditure at 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025, be approved:-

<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget Allocated</b>	<b>£ Difference</b>
Salary (including HMRC PAYE Costs)	£440.18	£2,400.00	£1,959.82
Office Expenses	£269.10	£200.00	-£69.10
Insurance	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£40.00	£40.00
Training	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
Room Hire	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Poppies/Wreaths	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00
Community Projects	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Village Maintenance	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Website and Email	£0.00	£300.00	£300.00
Subscriptions	£216.45	£350.00	£133.55
Internal Audit	£136.50	£100.00	-£36.50
Contingency	£12.00	£500.00	£488.00
	£1,074.23	£5,740.00	£4,665.77

**(iv) Explanation of Variances**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That a virement from the Subscription Budget to the Office Expenses Budget of £70.00, due to the unanticipated expenditure for a laptop, be approved.
- (ii) That a virement from the Subscription Budget to the Internal Audit Budget of £36.50, due to the cost of the internal audit being higher than budgeted, be approved.

**(v) Bank Reconciliation as at 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**RESOLVED**

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025, be approved:-

<b>Bank Reconciliation 25th June 2025</b>	
<b>BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Financial year ending 31 March 2025</b>	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements as at 31st May 2025	£
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£8,422.49
Less: any unrepresented cheques	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£308.04
<b>Net bank balances as at 25th June 2025</b>	<b>£8,730.53</b>
<b>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows</b>	

<b>CASH BOOK</b>	
Opening Balance (Total Current and Reserve Account)	
Unity Current Account (20519047) - 1st April 2025	£6,297.63
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£3,507.13
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£1,074.23
<b>Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above</b>	<b>£8,730.53</b>

(vi) **Unity Trust Bank**

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the removal of former Councillor, Avis Curwen from the bank account, be approved;
- (b) That the addition of Councillors Williams and Thomson, as new signatories to the bank account, be approved.

(vii) **Bank Statements Unity Trust Bank**

**RESOLVED**

That the following bank statements, be received:-

- 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025
- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

**10. PLAY AREAS**

**RESOLVED**

That in the absence of Councillors Freer and Thomson, consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**11. SOCIAL MEDIA**

**RESOLVED**

That the appointment of Councillor Tapper as the Administrator of the Parish Council's Facebook page, be approved.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Parish Council noted that the date of the next meeting was Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, to be held at 7.30 pm at the Club House, Malkins Bank Golf Course.

**13. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair reported that the following items required consideration as a matter of urgency, as they related to financial matters.

**14. SALE OF LAWNMOWER**

**RESOLVED**

That the Parish Council accepts £40.00 for the sale of the lawnmower, and payment be made by bank transfer.

**15. BRUSHCUTTER**

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor Tapper to collect the Brushcutter from former Councillor, Joan Ramsey, and arrange to sell on eBay.