

Doddington and District Parish Council

18th November 2024

Commenced: 7.35 pm

Terminated: 9.40 pm

**Present: Councillor Taylor (Chair)
Councillors Bebbington, Brewin, Clowes, Frodsham, Leonard, Moore,
and Wilson**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair reported, with sadness, on the apologies and resignation of Councillor Starkey.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk to report the vacancy to Cheshire East Council

2. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Mrs Muna Clough as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Doddington and District Parish Council, from the commencement date of 15th October 2024 on a starting salary of SCP 22 £16.93 per hour, be approved.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th September 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(i) Bridgemere Airmen's Memorial

Councillor Clowes extended her thanks to everybody involved in this event. She had received excellent feedback.

RESOLVED

**That the Clerk pays £20.00 cash into the Parish Council's bank account;
That the Clerk sends a letter of thanks to the Restaurant Manager at Bridgemere Garden Centre, for the kind hospitality in providing refreshments after the Service.**

(ii) Checkley Lane

Staffordshire County Council had now completed the work for which they were responsible.

RESOLVED

That the work be monitored.

(iii) Police Cluster

RESOLVED

That Councillors Taylor, Bebbington and Leonard attend the quarterly cluster meetings on a rotating basis.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

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

6. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

(i) Planning Application

Councillor Clowes reported that the following planning application would be considered at the Southern Planning Committee on the 4th December 2024. She would be attending the Committee in her capacity as Ward Councillor, and asked for two Members of the Parish Council to represent Doddington and District Parish Council, at the meeting

App No: 24/1297N

Location: Doddington Park Farmhouse Bridgemere Lane, Bridgemere, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 7PU

Proposal: Reserved Matters application for 18no dwellings on Site 1 on outline approval 18/2153N (APP/R0660/W/19/3221564): The development proposed is Development of 12 no. sites for residential development for 112 no. dwellings with means of access and layout included, but with all other matters reserved, for a 10 year phased release and delivery period and associated community betterment (parking overspill next to School, enhanced parking next to Church permissive pedestrian paths, playspace, public access, community orchard, educational contribution and affordable housing)[RE-SUBMISSION of 16/5719N : addition of extra 2.81 ha of land and 10 no. dwellings]

RESOLVED

That on behalf of the Parish Council, the Clerk, in consultation with Councillor Clowes, drafts and sends a response to the application to Cheshire East Council Planning Department.

(ii) Electoral Cost Recovery proposals by Cheshire East Council

Councillor Clowes reported on an email received from Brian Reed Senior Democratic Services Officer, stating that in the Budget setting, Cheshire East Council would be proposing to recover the cost of all-out elections for Parish Councillors, from the respective Parish Councils.

RESOLVED

(a) That further consideration of this matter, and its effect on the Parish Council's Budget and Precept proposals be deferred to the next meeting;

(b) That Councillor Clowes requests an extension to the deadline date for the Precept request, to Cheshire East Council

(iii) Government Consultation re Remote Decision-Making Meetings and Proxy Voting

Councillor Clowes referred to this consultation [Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](#) and explained the implications.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(iv) Trees (Bridgemere Lane Project)

The Chair and Councillor Clowes reported on recent challenges to the project, which had fortunately been resolved, and eight native species trees would be planted on the 25th November.

RESOLVED

(a) That the following payments be approved, if necessary (Councillor Clowes to advise):-

- Steve Willis - £1,200.00 (digging work)
- Rich Heler - £560.00 (tree guards)

(b) That a CCTV sign and camera be erected.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Frodsham reported that the following planning application, had been refused:-

Application Reference Number: 24/3627N

Location: Foxes Bank Farm Bridgemere Lane, Hunsterson, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 7PN

Proposal: Prior approval for works to improve the agricultural use of land. The site levels will be reduced through the removal of material. Topsoil will be scraped back from the land so that it can be reused in the same area as surface cover.

Decision: Refused. The proposed operation would include the removal of a mineral off the unit. The proposal is therefore not in compliance with Schedule 2, Part 6, Condition A.2 (1)(B) of the General Permitted Development Order and full planning permission is required.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. FORWARD PLANNING 2025-2026 – DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Members considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the Budget and Precept for 2025-2026. In summary, she explained that whilst the Budget Forecast for the 2024-2025 Financial Year, had been £4,325.32, the Precept requested was only £3,047.00.

Due to Cheshire East Council's proposal to recover the cost of all-out elections for Parish Councillors, from the respective Parish Councils, there was a strong possibility that the Precept request for 2025-2026, should be significantly higher than previously.

Not taking into account of the cost of the elections, the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer had calculated that there was likely to be a budget requirement of £4,970.00. To put this into context, whilst this figure represented an increase to the Precept of 63%, the cost per household was an increase from £9.91 per year, to £15.53 per year (ie. 30p per household per week).

A meeting would take place the following evening and it was hoped that further information would be shared. At this stage, Members did not wish to set the Precept.

RESOLVED

That the setting of the Budget and Precept for 2025-2026 be deferred to the next meeting of Doddington and District Parish Council to be held on 20th January 2025, and that Councillor Clowes to liaise with Brian Reed, Democratic Services Manager to arrange an extension to the Precept submission date.

9. BUDGETING 2024-2025

RESOLVED

- (i) That reimbursement to the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the purchase of a laptop, in the sum of £340.00, be approved;**
- (ii) That reimbursement to the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the purchase of a Microsoft 365, in the sum of £59.99, be approved;**
- (iii) That the invoice for 6 months subscription to ThenMedia for the provision of the Parish Council website, in the sum of £144.00, be approved.**

10. PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Members considered the updated Doddington and District Parish Council Standing Orders 2024-2025.

RESOLVED

That the Doddington and District Parish Council Standing Orders 2024-2025, as circulated, be approved.

11. INTERNAL AUDITOR 2024-2025

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Ms Amanda Riley as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for 2024-2025, in the sum of £100.00, be approved.

12. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Members discussed their concerns over the government's future planning policies, the 5 year housing supply, and speculative developers who were already making contact with Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday, 20th January 2025 at 7.30 pm at Hankelow Methodist Church, School Lane, Hankelow.

14. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair confirmed that there was no business that required consideration as a matter of urgency.