LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held

Monday 26th June, 2023 at 7:30p.m.

at Lower Withington Parish Hall

Present Councillors P. Duffy (Chairman), A. Brocklehurst, P. Chrisp, H. Lewis.
Members of the public (3).
Cheshire East Council Ward Member: Councillor L. Smetham.
Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. Apologies for absence -
Councillor J. Blackburn – Personal commitment.
Councillor C. Hamilton – Personal commitment.

098/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and approve the apologies for absence.
(All in favour)

2. Declarations of interest – None.

099/23 RESOLVED (a) To note that no declarations of interest were made.
(All in favour)

3. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 15th May, 2023 had been previously circulated to all Members.

100/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held 15th May, 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)

(b) The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2023 had been previously circulated to all Members.

101/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th May, 2023 be confirmed as a correct record. (All in favour)

4. Public forum for questions – Residents present at the meeting raised the following questions:

i. Parish Hall bookings calendar – A representative of the Parish Hall asked whether the proposed calendar for the Parish Council website could be designed to only display bookings, without facility to make online bookings and/or payments. The Clerk advised that the example previously forwarded to another representative of the Parish Hall met this specification.

ii. Airband: Pole installations – Residents raised concerns about the planting of a new telegraph pole near to the junction of Catchpenny Lane with Holmes Chapel Road which was considered to be restricting visibility of traffic travelling from Chelford. Contact had been made with Airband who had advised that they are satisfied with the positioning of the pole and do not plan to relocate it.

iii. Motorbikes on A535 – Residents raised concern regarding frequent disturbance caused by motorbikes travelling along A535. It is considered that the motorbikes may be travelling in excess of the speed limit. There was also concern regarding the visibility of the motorbikes at road junctions (e.g. at Catchpenny Lane junction with Holmes Chapel Road).

102/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk re-send the previously forwarded information to the representative of the Parish Hall present at the meeting.
(b) That the Clerk make enquiries to Cheshire East Council regarding the installation of new telegraph poles within the Parish.

(c) That the Clerk make enquiries to the Police regarding the noise and safety issues relating to the large number of motorbikes using the A535. (All in favour)

7:47p.m. – Two members of the public excused themselves from the meeting and left.

5. Reports from external organisations

(a) Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. L. Smetham – Borough Councillor L. Smetham reported that Cheshire East Council was experiencing significant budgetary pressures and extensive reviews were being undertaken to identify options to make savings. Consultations relating to library services and bus support criteria are currently taking place.

103/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report of Borough Councillor L. Smetham. (All in favour)

(b) Gawsworth Ward Policing Team – Matters of interest / concern within the Parish – It was reported that the latest Police report identified that there had been an anti-social behaviour incident, a harassment incident and an abandoned 999 call. Police surgeries are advertised on the Police social media pages and residents can also use the Residents Voice Survey to raise concerns with the Policing Team.

104/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report.
(b) That a link to the contact details for the local Policing Team be added to the Parish Council website. (All in favour)

(c) Cheshire East Council: Town & Parish Council Network meeting (20/06/23) – The meeting outlined the current library provision consultation. It was currently proposed that all libraries will close for 1.5 days per week.

105/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(d) Community Transport Association Meeting (20/06/23) – The meeting had explored ways to encourage flexible and accessible community transport initiatives. It was noted that rural areas commonly required schemes to support access to medical appointments, shopping and attending pre-arranged activities.

106/23 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

6. Finance

(a) Financial Statement 2023/24 as at 26th June, 2023 – Members considered the financial statement 2023/24 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)

(b) Receipts – The Chairman noted that no receipts had been received since the last meeting.

(c) Payments – The Chairman outlined the payments listed at Appendix B.

107/23 RESOLVED (a) That the Statement of Account as at 26th June, 2023 be received and the Chairman's observations duly noted. (Appendix A)
(b) That the report on receipts be received and duly noted.
(c) That the schedule of payments listed at Appendix B be approved. (All in favour)

(d) Risk Assessments – It was reported that the draft risk assessments, relating to future litter picking events and newsletter distribution activities, had not yet been completed.

108/23 RESOLVED (a) That Councillor P. Duffy forward the draft risk assessments to the Clerk when completed. (All in favour)

7. Planning Applications

(a) Recent planning decisions – Members noted recent planning decisions which

had been issued by Cheshire East Council in respect of development within the Parish. (Appendix C)

(b) Planning applications -

i. **23/2257M**: Black Swan, Trap Street, Lower Withington. SK11 9EQ
Proposed demolition of existing extension, proposed new extensions, alterations, reorganisation of internal accommodation and associated works.

109/23 RESOLVED **(a) That the following comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of planning application 23/2257M: Lower Withington Parish Council raises no objections to the proposed development which, it is considered, will support the sustainable future of the current business activities at the site. (All in favour)**

ii. Further applications received following issue of agenda – None.

8. Correspondence

(a) To consider specific correspondence received by the Parish Council since the date of the last ordinary meeting and determine such actions as Members consider appropriate thereto –

i. ChALC – Invitation to submit motions to the Annual Meeting for debate.

110/23 RESOLVED **(a) That no motions be submitted to ChALC. (All in favour)**

ii. Run Through UK – Notification of the Cheshire Half Marathon on Sunday 10th September, 2023.

111/23 RESOLVED **(a) To receive and note the information.**
(b) To note that the information is available on the Parish Council website for resident information. (All in favour)

iii. Cheshire East Council – Cheshire East Libraries Service Review: Public Consultation Launch.

112/23 RESOLVED **(a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)**

iv. Invitation to meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner on 4th July, 2023.

113/23 RESOLVED **(a) That any Members interested in attending the meeting contact the Clerk. (All in favour)**

v. Invitation to Cheshire East Town & Parish Council Network Meeting on 12th July, 2023. Topic: Code of Conduct.

114/23 RESOLVED **(a) That any Members interested in attending the meeting contact the Clerk. (All in favour)**

vi. ChALC – Notice of preparation for national events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on 6th June, 2024.
[Link to information: https://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk/]

115/23 RESOLVED **(a) That this matter be added to the next agenda for further consideration. (All in favour)**

vii. Cheshire East Council – Road closure: Colshaw Lane, Siddington between 6-10th July, 2023. (Diversion route: Blackden Lane, Salters Lane)

116/23 RESOLVED **(a) To receive and note the information.**
(b) To note that the information is available on the Parish Council website for resident information. (All in favour)

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

9. Highway maintenance and enhancements

(a) Updates on highway matters – Updates were noted in respect of the following highway defects.

i. Dislodged coping stone and fallen tree on bridge at Catchpenny Lane.
No update received, issues re-reported for attention.

ii. Holes in road at junction of Whisterfield Lane and Chapel Lane.
No update received, currently awaiting budgetary provision.

iii. Polluted run-off entering ditch along Catchpenny Lane.
No update received.

iv. Sunken manhole at Farm Lane (opposite to church) – Matter resolved.

v. Rigbys Lane – deteriorating carriageway surface.
No update received, re-reported for attention.

vi. Potholes on Long Shoot Road.
Some potholes had been filled, others require re-reporting.

vii. Knocked down chevron sign near junction of Bomish Lane with A535.
No update received, re-reported for attention.

viii. Holes at carriageway edges along several lanes.
Specific examples required for individual reporting.

ix. Proposal for double white lines on A535 near to junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Police update: The Police are aware of the issues along A535, however, are unable to take any positive action at this time. The matter needs to be re-reported to Cheshire East Council for attention.

x. Proposal for quiet lane status at Lapwing Lane (north).
Response received indicating that a review of incident data by Cheshire East Council had not identified any incidents within the last five years. Arrangements are to be made for a traffic count/speed survey to be carried out in the summer.

xi. Broken sign along A535 (near to The Old Cheshire Hunt).
No update received, re-reported for attention.

xii. Deteriorating footpath waymarker sign at Salters Lane (FP11).
The Public Rights of Way team have visited the site. A date for remedial work had not been supplied.

xiii. Fly-tipping at Long Shoot Road – Matter resolved.

117/23 RESOLVED **(a) That the Clerk continue to pursue updates in respect of outstanding highway matters.**
(b) That the Clerk request support from the Police & Crime Commissioner to address issues relating to A535 and the junction with Catchpenny Lane. (All in favour)

(b) Highway matters for attention - It was reported that there is a pothole at Trap Street, opposite to Dicklow Cob Farm.

118/23 RESOLVED **(a) That the Clerk submit the above defect to Cheshire East Council for attention. (All in favour)**

(c) Verge Cutting – It was reported that information had been provided by Cheshire East Council setting out that the extent and frequency of verge cutting along Salters Lane was due to the road being subject to a 30mph limit.

119/23 RESOLVED **(a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)**

(d) Speeding vehicles, motorbikes and highway safety on A535 – This matter had already been discussed at items 4 and 9(a)(ix).

(e) Village Gateways – Members considered possible designs for village gateways. A preferred design was selected and a suggestion was made that floral displays around the gateway may further enhance the appearance.

120/23 RESOLVED **(a) That the Clerk prepare a report, for consideration at a future meeting, setting out a proposed design for the proposed village gateways. (All in favour)**

10. Parish Matters

(a) Jodrell Bank Observatory World Heritage Site Steering Group – There was nothing to report.

(b) Community Newsletter – It was reported that the last newsletter had been well received.

(c) Airband Fibre Network – This matter had been discussed at item 4(a).

(d) Bluedot Festival 2023 – It was reported that current plans did not include use of land on the Catchpenny Lane side of A535.

(e) Parish Council website – The proposed bookings calendar for the Parish Hall had been discussed at item 4(a).

(f) Defibrillator – It was reported that the new defibrillator had now been installed at Lower Withington Methodist Chapel and was available for use. It was suggested that keyrings could be distributed with the next newsletter to alert residents to the access codes for the two parish defibrillators.

121/23 RESOLVED **(a) To record thanks to the Chapel for hosting the defibrillator.**
(b) That consideration be given to the production and distribution of keyrings with the next newsletter that alert residents to the access codes for the defibrillators.
(All in favour)

11. Parish Councillor Vacancies – It was reported that no expressions of interest had been received.

12. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

(a) Extension of 30mph zone at Salters Lane.

13. Date of next meeting – Monday 31st July, 2023 at 7:30p.m.

To consider passing a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

122/23 RESOLVED **(a) That a resolution to exclude the Public and Press from the remainder of the Meeting was not necessary as no items were to be considered at Item 14. (All in favour)**

14. Matters for consideration including those transferred from above items – None.

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8:45p.m.

Signed:..... Date: 31st July, 2023

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2023/24 as at 26th June, 2023					
Actual 2022/23 £	**Details**	**2023/24 Budget £**	**Actual to May 23 £**	**Agenda Jun. 23 £**	**Budget Balance £**
	Receipts				
9,807.00	Precept	10,892.00	0.00		10,892.00
1,761.00	Balances	2,038.00	0.00		0.00
67.99	Investment interest		0.00		0.00
0.00	Sale of assets		0.00		0.00
0.00	Grants, donations & refunds		0.00		0.00
41.07	VAT refund		0.00		38.00
11,677.06	**Total receipts**	**12,930.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**10,930.00**
	Payments				
3,999.67	Salary (Clerk)	4,335.00	679.04	339.52	3,316.44
0.00	National Insurance (Employer)	0.00	0.00		0.00
275.00	Allowances (Clerk)	325.00	0.00		325.00
98.42	Administration	300.00	0.00		300.00
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
171.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	185.00	185.00		0.00
300.00	Insurance	350.00	300.00		50.00
2,650.36	Grants/Donations (inc. s.137)	2,600.00	0.00		2,600.00
601.00	Website	220.00	5.00		215.00
197.00	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	330.00	166.50		163.50
190.00	Room hire	325.00	0.00		325.00
0.00	Training	210.00	0.00		210.00
0.00	Professional Services	750.00	0.00		750.00
1,583.50	Assets – purchase	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
266.00	Assets – maintenance	1,500.00	0.00		1,500.00
825.15	Contingency	500.00	0.00	94.99	405.01
519.96	VAT		38.00		
11,677.06	**Total payments**	**12,930.00**	**1,373.54**	**434.51**	**11,159.95**

Cash/Bank reconciliation	**01/04/23**	**15/05/23**	**26/06/23**	**31/03/24**
Balance B/Fwd	31,395.82	31,395.82	30,022.28	29,587.77
Add total receipts	12,930.00	0.00	0.00	10,930.00
Less total payments	12,930.00	1,373.54	434.51	11,159.95
Balance C/Fwd	31,395.82	30,022.28	29,587.77	29,357.82
Cumulative balances	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**
	01/04/23	**15/05/23**	**26/06/23**	**31/03/24**
General funds	14,072.16	12,698.62	12,264.11	12,034.16
Earmarked reserves	17,323.66	17,323.66	17,323.66	17,323.66
	31,395.82	30,022.28	29,587.77	29,357.82

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 26th June 2023

Cash				
Balance brought forward 01/04/23				
Current Account		15,873.72		
Business Reserve Account		15,522.10		
		31,395.82		
Plus receipts		0.00		
Less payments		1,808.05		
Balance carried forward 26/06/23:		29,587.77		
Bank (NatWest)				
Business Reserve Account		15,522.10		05/04/23
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
	0.00			
		0.00		
			15,522.10	26/06/23
Current Account		15,873.72		05/04/23
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
Approved	-1,373.54			
For approval	-434.51			
		-1,808.05		
			14,065.67	26/06/23
Total bank balances 26/06/23			29,587.77	

APPENDIX B

Payments for approval

Cheque No 000556	E. M. Maddock	£271.72	Salary: June, 2023
Cheque No 000557	H.M. Revenue & Customs	£67.80	Employee income tax
Cheque No 000558	P. Chrisp	£94.99	Newsletter printing

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX C

Outstanding planning applications & recent planning decisions

18/3395M Four Oaks, Farm Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DU
Change of use to include use of the site for the holding of auctions (retrospective).
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

19/2936W Dingle Bank Quarry, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington. SK11 9DR
Variation of Condition 4 on application 16/3064W – Variation of Condition 2, 4 & 5 of permission 10/3080W.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

22/3574M Lower Welltrough Farm, Rigbys Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9EF
Construction of farm building for livestock accommodation for cows and dairy replacements. Application is to replace existing building which will be demolished.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

22/4550M Lakeside Cottage, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington. SK11 9AE
Replacement dwelling and garage.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

23/0516M Oaklyn, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Ground and first floor alterations and extensions with a new porch and a utility room extension to re-configure previous extensions.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided [Revised plans submitted 16/05/23]

23/1223M Dingle Bank Farm, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington. SK11 9DP
Advertisement consent for a non illuminated wall mounted aluminium tray sign.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (06/06/23)

23/1613M Foden Bank Barn, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Conversion of existing gym/office/storage outbuilding to residential annexe.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

23/1638M Thorn Tree Farm, Salters Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9DY
Single storey rear kitchen extension.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided