LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held

Monday 28th October, 2024 at 7:30p.m.

at Lower Withington Parish Hall

Present Councillors P. Duffy (Chairman), J. Blackburn, J. Bradley, A. Brocklehurst, P. Chrisp, C. Hamilton.
Members of the public (0).
Dr. E. M. Maddock – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. Apologies for absence:
Councillor H. Lewis – Personal reason.

228/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and approve the apology for absence. (All in favour)

2. Declarations of interest: None.

229/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that no declarations of interest were made. (All in favour)

3. Minutes

(a) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 30th September, 2024 had been previously circulated to all Members.

230/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 30th September, 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (All in favour)

4. Public forum for questions – No questions had been received from or were presented by members of the public.

231/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that no questions had been received. (All in favour)

5. Cheshire East Ward Member Cllr. L. Smetham – Borough Councillor L. Smetham was not present at the meeting to report.

232/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that Borough Councillor L. Smetham was not present at the meeting to report. (All in favour)

6. Finance

(a) Financial Statement 2024/25 as at 28th October, 2024 – Members considered the financial statement 2024/25 which was unanimously accepted. (Appendix A)

(b) Receipts – The Chairman noted the receipts since the last meeting. (Appendix B)

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

233/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Statement of Account as at 28th October, 2024 be received and the Chairman's observations duly noted. (Appendix A)
(b) That the report on receipts at Appendix B be received and duly noted.
(c) That the schedule of payments listed at Appendix C be approved. (All in favour)

7. Policy Updates

(a) Financial Regulations – The latest model Financial Regulations had been previously circulated to all Members.

234/24 RESOLVED (a) That the model Financial Regulations be approved as presented. (All in favour)

(b) Standing Orders – Recommended updates to Standing Order 18, reflecting

updates to the model document, had been previously circulated to all Members.

235/24 RESOLVED (a) That the recommended updates to Standing Order 18 be approved as presented. (All in favour)

8. 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 D)

(b) Planning applications

i. 24/3271M: Land at Pitt Lane, Lower Withington.
Proposed demolition of a two storey former agricultural building (now in hotel use (C1)) and replace it with a new farmhouse and garage.

236/24 RESOLVED (a) That no comments be submitted to Cheshire East Council in respect of application 24/3271M. (All in favour)

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

237/24 RESOLVED (a) To note the update. (All in favour)

9. 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. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Draft proposals for revised electoral wards for Cheshire East Council.

238/24 RESOLVED (a) That no response be submitted to the consultation. (All in favour)

ii. Cheshire East Council: Garden waste scheme subscriptions now open for the 2025 collection period.

239/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the information. (All in favour)

10. Highway maintenance and enhancements

(a) Updates on highway matters – Members noted the updates listed at Appendix E.

240/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk continue to pursue updates in respect of outstanding highway matters. (All in favour)

(b) Highway matters for attention – No new highway defects were identified.

241/24 RESOLVED (a) To note that no new highway defects had been identified. (All in favour)

(c) Speed reviews of A535, Salters Lane and Trap Street – Members noted the speed review criteria which had been previously circulated. It was noted that many of the criteria were not directly relevant to Lower Withington and that additional data, e.g. Police speed data, may be required to support any speed review requests.

242/24 RESOLVED (a) That further consideration of the speed review criteria be deferred to a future meeting. (All in favour)

(d) Village gateways – It was reported that outline information relating to the proposed village gateways had been received, however, more details would be required to allow an informed decision on how to proceed to be made.

243/24 RESOLVED (a) That the Clerk request further information from Cheshire East Council. (All in favour)

(e) Upgrade to Lower Withington Footpath 5 – It was reported that a response from

the landowner had still not yet been received.

244/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(f) Cycling and running events – It was reported that concerns raised at the last meeting had been brought to the attention of Cheshire East Council and that a review was to be undertaken to ensure that events have appropriate permissions and that the impact of events is monitored.

245/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

(g) Motorbike and car racing on A535 – It was reported that the Police had responded positively to the concerns raised about vehicle speed and behaviour on A535. Speed check events are to be carried out and monitoring to identify and address specific issues.

246/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the update. (All in favour)

11. Meetings of External Organisations

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

(b) ChALC Annual Meeting (17/10/24) – It was reported that all motions debated at the meeting were approved. The meeting also approved an increase in affiliation fees for 2025/26.

(c) Manchester Airport Town and Parish Council Forum – It was noted that the meeting was due to take place on 30th October, 2024.

12. Parish Matters

(a) Gawsworth Ward Policing Team – It was reported that the latest crime report from the Policing Team had identified no reported crimes within Lower Withington Parish.

247/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(b) Community Newsletter – It was reported that the next newsletter was due to be compiled in the near future.

248/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(c) Planting of fruit trees at Dicklow Cob Village Green – It was reported that provision of the chosen fruit trees had not been possible in time for the proposed planting ceremony. Efforts are still being made to secure suitable fruit trees for planting.

249/24 RESOLVED (a) That the planting ceremony be deferred until such time that trees have been purchased. (All in favour)

(d) Shrubs on island at entrance to Parish Hall car park – It was reported that replacement shrubs had been purchased and planted in the island.

250/24 RESOLVED (a) To receive and note the report. (All in favour)

(e) Christmas Lights 2024 – Members discussed options relating to the provision of a Christmas Tree display for 2024.

251/24 RESOLVED (a) That Councillor J. Blackburn be authorised to purchase a Christmas tree for display at the entrance to the Lower Withington Parish Hall site.
(b) That the existing battery lights be used to illuminate the tree for 2024.
(c) That Councillor A. Brocklehurst make enquiries to Lower Withington Parish Hall regarding possible future installation of an external electricity supply. (All in favour)

(f) Empty properties at Jodrell Bank – There was nothing to report.

(g) Trees and tree designations within the Parish – Members discussed current tree coverage and tree designations within the Parish.

252/24 RESOLVED **(a) To note the discussion and observations regarding local trees.**
(b) That no further action be taken in respect of this matter at this time. (All in favour)

(h) Village Remembrance displays – It was noted that the street poppies had been displayed through the village. In addition, excellent displays of poppies had been installed at both the Chapel and the Church including purple poppies to commemorate animals lost in service.

253/24 RESOLVED **(a) To receive and note the reports.**
(b) That all volunteers involved in the creation and installation of poppy displays within the Parish be thanked for their work. (All in favour)

13. Parish Councillor Vacancy – Item deferred.

14. Matters for inclusion on next/future meeting agenda

15. Date of next meeting: Monday 25th November, 2024 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.

254/24 RESOLVED **(a) That a resolution to exclude the public and press from the following item of business on the grounds that it could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information is not required as there are no items to discuss. (All in favour)**

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

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9:08p.m.

Signed:..... Date: 25th November, 2024

LOWER WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX A

Financial Statement – 2024/25 as at 28th October, 2024					
Actual 2023/24 £	**Details**	**2024/25 Budget £**	**Actual to Sep. 24 £**	**Agenda Oct. 24 £**	**Budget Balance £**
	Receipts				
10,892.00	Precept	11,142.00	5,571.00	5,571.00	0.00
0.00	Balances	3,000.00	0.00		0.00
228.09	Investment interest		400.37	162.54	0.00
0.00	Sale of assets		0.00		0.00
500.00	Grants, donations & refunds		0.00		0.00
519.96	VAT refund		0.00		114.67
12,140.05	**Total receipts**	**14,142.00**	**5,971.37**	**5,733.54**	**114.67**
	Payments				
4,334.22	Salary (Clerk)	4,722.00	2,230.80	371.80	2,119.40
0.00	National Insurance (Employer)	0.00	0.00		0.00
300.00	Allowances (Clerk)	350.00	0.00		350.00
136.41	Administration	300.00	0.00		300.00
0.00	Chairman/Member allowances	0.00	0.00		0.00
185.00	Audit fees (internal & external)	200.00	220.00		-20.00
300.00	Insurance	350.00	300.00		50.00
2,114.96	Grants/Donations (inc. s.137)	2,600.00	0.00		2,600.00
345.00	Website	345.00	230.00		115.00
201.50	Subscriptions/affiliation fees	290.00	174.04		115.96
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
35.98	Assets – purchase	1,000.00	0.00		1,000.00
9.99	Assets – maintenance	1,600.00	348.33		1,251.67
771.49	Newsletter	600.00	293.88		306.12
0.00	Contingency	500.00	500.00		0.00
95.75	VAT		114.67		
9,020.30	**Total payments**	**14,142.00**	**4,411.72**	**371.80**	**9,473.15**

Cash/Bank reconciliation	**01/04/24**	**30/09/24**	**28/10/24**	**31/03/25**
Balance B/Fwd	34,515.57	34,515.57	36,075.22	41,436.96
Add total receipts	14,142.00	5,971.37	5,733.54	114.67
Less total payments	14,142.00	4,411.72	371.80	9,473.15
Balance C/Fwd	34,515.57	36,075.22	41,436.96	32,078.48
Cumulative balances	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**
	01/04/24	**30/09/24**	**28/10/24**	**31/03/25**
General funds	8,091.91	9,651.56	15,013.30	5,654.82
Earmarked reserves	26,423.66	26,423.66	26,423.66	26,423.66
	34,515.57	36,075.22	41,436.96	32,078.48

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Cash/Bank Reconciliation as at 28th October, 2024

Cash				
Balance brought forward 01/04/24				
Current Account		2,500.00		
Business Reserve Account		6,492.38		
Liquidity Manager Account		25,523.19		
		34,515.57		
Plus receipts		11,704.91		
Less payments		4,783.52		
Balance carried forward 28/10/24:		41,436.96		
Bank (NatWest)				
Current Account		10,639.63		04/10/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
Approved	-1,313.60			
For approval	-371.80			
		-1,685.40		
			8,954.23	28/10/24
Business Reserve Account		6,540.50		04/10/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
	0.00			
		0.00		
			6,540.50	28/10/24
Liquidity Manager Account		25,942.23		04/10/24
Add receipts/transfer since above statement				
	0.00			
		0.00		
Less unpresented cheques				
	0.00			
		0.00		
			25,942.23	28/10/24
Total bank balances 28/10/24			41,436.96	

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APPENDIX B

Receipts

NatWest Bank plc	£8.54	Gross interest – July 2024 (BR)
NatWest Bank plc	£67.87	Gross interest – August 2024 (LM)
NatWest Bank plc	£7.78	Gross interest – August 2024 (BR)
Cheshire East Borough Council	£5,571.00	Precept 2024/25 (50%)
NatWest Bank plc	£70.31	Gross interest – September 2024 (LM)
NatWest Bank plc	£8.04	Gross interest – September 2024 (BR)

APPENDIX C

Payments for approval

Cheque No 000599	E. M. Maddock	£297.40	Salary: October 2024
Cheque No 000600	HM Revenue & Customs	£74.40	PAYE payment

APPENDIX D

(a) Recent planning decisions

24/2383M Piggotts Hall, Congleton Lane, Lower Withington.
Amalgamation of two dwellings to return property to a single dwelling house.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (03/10/24)

24/2836M Foden Bank Farm, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Retrospective application for outbuilding extension, canopy, outdoor pool, garden wall and store.
DECISION STATUS – Approved with conditions (03/10/24)

(b) Outstanding planning applications

24/1216M Oaklyn, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Side/rear and first-floor extensions which have already been approved or deemed lawful with a pitched roof to the single storey extension and closing of two gaps between approved extensions.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

24/1905M Oaklyn, Lapwing Lane, Lower Withington. SK11 9AD
Demolition and relocation of annexe outbuilding.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

24/2965M Holly Tree Farm, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington. SK11 9DT
Erection of a free range egg laying unit.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

24/3076M The Cottage, Macclesfield Road, Jodrell Bank. CW4 8BU
Extension in the footprint of the existing cottage at the sides and also at the rear and refurbishment of the existing cottage.
DECISION STATUS – Undecided

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APPENDIX E

Updates on reported highway matters

a. Dislodged coping stone and fallen tree on bridge at Catchpenny Lane.
Update: "Unfortunately funds have been really tight this year [2023/24], however this will be prioritised in the new year, for replacement."

b. Holes in road at junction of Whisterfield Lane and Chapel Lane.
Update: "Unfortunately no available resource at the moment, we will only repair actionable defects collected by our routine safety inspectors."

c. Broken sign along A535 (near to The Old Cheshire Hunt).
Update: A job has been raised for the sign to be repaired. (No timescale provided)

d. Proposal for double white lines on A535 near to junction with Catchpenny Lane.
Update: Linked to review of A535.

e. Broken post on Parish boundary sign at Salters Lane.
Update: Order placed for replacement post and remounting of sign.

f. Blocked drains/gullies at Trap Street.
Update: "This is still in the system to be checked by our Drainage Team, we are currently working to get through a large back log of drainage and flooding enquiries due to recent weather events. You should receive the system notification when it has been actioned."

g. Overgrown hedge at Congleton Lane.
Update: Awaiting response from landowner.