

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc BA FSLCC

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Minutes

of the Council Meeting held

Tuesday 8th April 2025 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

24/170 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Dempsey, Hardy, Richards, Webb, Woods and Wright

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

24/171 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke and Kinsey.

24/172 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item.

24/173 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

24/174 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 11th March.

24/175 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Puddicombe reported that Cheshire East Highways is working on a design for a power connection for Christmas lighting at Penningtons Lane and would contact the Clerk once they were ready to progress. Cllr Puddicombe further reported that the 5 year housing land supply was now only 3.8 years due to changes in housing targets and that the planning department was working to understand the implications of a number of planning changes.

Cllr Wilson reported that Macclesfield Indoor Market had reopened following refurbishment, though more remained to be done and that meetings had been held with landlords in Macclesfield town centre which raised concern around rent and business rates affecting businesses.

24/176 PLANNING

25/0771/PIP – Land off Dark Lane

It was noted that in the previous application Cheshire East Council did not challenge a previous Inspector's determination that the site was part of the village for the purpose of infill despite that having been prior to the making of the neighbourhood plan and adoption of the SADPD document.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- express that the council is unconvinced by the argument that the site constitutes grey belt and to request that the planning officer gives careful consideration to the argument and the implication for parcelling of greenbelt.
- state that if the planning officer determines it is grey belt the council considers the site should accommodate no more than one dwelling
- state that if the planning officer determines the site is not grey belt that the council considers the development constitutes inappropriate development in the green belt as per previous refusals.
- express concern that approval could set a precedent in rural villages for applications which parcel small sections of green belt

25/0755/VOC – 22 Woodhouse Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections.

25/0918/FUL – Shellow Farm, Shellow Lane

It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections.

The submission of an appeal against refusal for application 24/1220M was noted.

24/177 PRIORITY AREAS FOR COUNCILLOR KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

It was **RESOLVED**:

- not to appoint lead councillors for topic areas to develop skills/knowledge

- to agree the list of topics submitted in the report as the areas to develop councillor knowledge and skill with the addition of ethics, legal compliance and community engagement.

Members expressed their interest in areas to develop and the Clerk undertook to identify the means for this with members.

24/178 PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated management plan, subject to a number of amendments raised during the meeting.

Cllr Dempsey left the meeting.

24/179 PRESERVATION OF SUNKEN LANES / HOLLOWAYS

It was agreed that it was the council's understanding that only one sunken lane exists in Gawsworth, namely the path to Danes Moss. It was **RESOLVED** that it be surveyed to record their current condition, features and ownership and that a holloways map and information be added to the Gawsworth Life website to promote awareness / interest.

24/180 PARISH MATTERS

The following matters were raised:

- The outstanding gully emptying on Church Lane near Gawsworth Hall
- That children were accessing the play area whilst it was fenced off for works and the need for 'keep out' signage
- The need for a dropped kerb on St James Avenue to enable crossing to the green
- The offer of Cheshire East Council to replace the bin at the Lych Gate due to overflowing litter

24/181 FINANCE

The council's financial position year to date was noted. The receipts since the previous meeting were noted, including a significant sum of CIL for which a query had been raised with Cheshire East Council as to whether it has erroneously been paid to this council when it was likely due to Sutton Parish Council in respect of the Gaw End Lane development.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments and

Payee	Detail	Amount
GM Accountancy	Q4 and YE Payroll	95.26
A Keppel-Green	April Salary	537.00
A Keppel-Green	April Reimbursements / Mileage	26.85
ChALC	Training Webinars x 2	50.00

Northwich TC	March Maintenance Contract	1,800.00
Gawsworth Gardeners	Grant	1,000.00
Total		3,509.11

24/182 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted. Cllrs Wright and Webb undertook to progress the accessibility audit.

24/183 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

No questions were raised.

24/184 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

24/185 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 13th May 2025.