

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc BA FSLCC

Squirrel Brook, 68 Manor Park South, Knutsford, WA16 8AN

clerk@gawsworthpc.org.uk 07584 057 228

www.gawsworthpc.org.uk



Minutes

of the Annual Council Meeting held

Tuesday 13th May 2025 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

25/000 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

25/001 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Shepherd as Chair.

Cllr Shepherd signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

25/002 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Hardy as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Hardy signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

25/003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke, Webb and Wright.

25/004 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Woods as the council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

25/005 REPORT APPOINTMENT OF STANDING WORKING GROUPS

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following appointments:

- Communications working group – Cllrs Shepherd, Woods and Wright
- Park and Woodland working group – Cllrs Clarke, Hardy and Kinsey
- Footpaths working group – Cllrs Kinsey, Webb and Woods
- Green Gawsforth Strategy working group – Cllrs Hardy, Webb and Shepherd

25/006 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Hardy and Richards declared a non-pecuniary interest in 25/012 as members of the Parochial Church Council.

25/007 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

25/008 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 8th April subject to amendment of 24/179 to refer to it being the council's understanding and a typographical correction to 24/183.

25/009 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk read an update submitted by Cllr Smetham, which highlighted the ongoing Transformation workstream, that work was ongoing for the establishment of the Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority and that the council was consulting on lane rental charges, a local list policy, pharmaceutical needs assessment and PSPO changes in Macclesfield town centre.

25/010 PLANNING

25/1199/HOUS – 8 Fytton Close

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

25/1170/HOUS – Gaskells Farm, Woodhouse End Road

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

The latest planning decisions were noted.

25/011 Lych Gate Litter Bin

The council discussed the issue of the litter bin overflowing and causing litter to be strewn upon the ground around the bin. There were a number of points of view expressed, including that the existing bin has heritage value, that no bin should be provided and that a larger bin should replace the existing.

It was **RESOLVED** that a bin is necessary at this location.

On the chair's casting vote, it was **RESOLVED** to take no action at this time and to continue to monitor the situation.

25/012 FUTURE OF BURIAL PROVISION

The Clerk reported that the PCC has outlined its preference either for the churchyard to close and become the responsibility of the parish council to maintain, or for it to be extended with the church continuing to administer the burial ground with the parish council covering all costs.

It was **RESOLVED** that all options should remain on the table.

It was **RESOLVED** to give no preference to any option at this time pending further input from the community and an understanding of the view of the Diocese of Chester with respect to an extension.

Cllrs Hardy and Richards abstained from voting on both resolutions.

25/013 REPLACEMENT WELCOME SIGNS

This item was deferred due to the quote not being received in time for the meeting.

25/014 STRATEGIC PLAN

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following actions for the civic year:

1. Deliver three projects under the Green Gawsorth Strategy
2. Develop the business case for acquiring the land at Maggoty Lane for a new open space
3. Deliver identified actions under the Park and Woodland management plan
4. Undertake community survey on a range of topics
5. Develop a communications strategy
6. Develop six areas of councillor knowledge over the year
7. Develop PROW improvement plan
8. Identify desirable permissive path routes
9. Explore the submission of DMMO applications to register new PROW
10. Undertake an accessibility audit of the parish
11. Undertake a survey of bus shelters and crossing points to identify areas for improvement

25/015 PARISH MATTERS

The following issues were raised:

- A resident had expressed concern over increases to the parish precept, it was agreed an article in a future edition of the Gawsworth Gazette should explain these in more detail.
- A bench on the green at St James' Avenue requires attention
- The dead Christmas tree at Penningtons Lane required removal
- The need for an update on the repairs to the retaining wall in the park

It was noted that the pavement along Church Lane had been sided out from Deans Farm to the Crossroads and thanks were expressed to Cllr Smetham for arranging this and Cheshire East Highways for undertaking the work; it was agreed to write to residents where hedges required cutting back to reveal more of the pavement near the Harrington Arms

The council noted the recent death of Peter Briercliffe and members expressed their condolences to his family.

In respect of an oak tree at the edge of the park growing close to the boundary of two properties on Fytton Close, it was agreed that subject to the views of the council's insurers it was minded to take no action.

It was reported that the timing of the crossroads traffic lights was causing Google to direct traffic through the village resulting in queues and that Cheshire East Council should be requested to adjust the timings between 0830-0845.

Cllr Dempsey left the meeting.

25/016 FINANCE

The council's financial position year to date was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments and receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

Payee	Detail	Amount
ChALC	Annual Membership	536.64
HAGS	Play Area Project	132,678.00
L and J Print	Gawsworth Gazette Printing April 2025	50.00
Northwich Town Council	April Works and Pitch Aeration	2000.00
JDH Business Services	Internal Audit 2024/25	390.00
Rialtas Business Solutions	Finance Software Annual Licence	243.60
Egertons Timber	Materials for Ranger (gate works)	91.89
Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance	736.13
B Allen Tree Services	Christmas Tree Removal	150.00
A Keppel-Green	May Salary	537.00
A Keppel-Green	May Reimbursements / Mileage	116.52
Total		137,529.78

The draft 2024/25 CIL Monitoring Report was noted.

25/017 AUDIT

The internal auditor's report was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to procure a payment card through Unity Trust Bank.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Account Statements.

25/018 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

25/019 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

No questions were raised.

25/020 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

25/021 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10th June 2025.