

Gawsworth Parish Council

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Minutes

of the Council Meeting held

Tuesday 11th November 2025 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

25/099 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Hardy, Clarke, Hollinshead, Kinsey and Woods.

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

25/100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dempsey, Richards and Webb.

25/101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Richards declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Wall Pool Lodge planning application as a neighbour of the site.

25/102 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak

25/103 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 21st October.

25/104 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was noted that Cllr Hollinshead had given her declaration of acceptance of office in advance of the meeting.

25/105 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smetham reported that the earliest a new local plan would be developed by would be 2028 and that it was currently uncertain as to whether the Adlington New Town proposals

would contribute to borough housing numbers, if it progresses. Cllr Smetham reported that the planning application backlog was reducing and that the Conservative party had selected its candidate for the Cheshire and Warrington Mayoralty. Cllr Smetham further reported that she expected further cuts to expenditure were likely to be required by the borough council.

Cllr Puddicombe reported that a number of gullies had been emptied within the Gawsorth Moss area and that we would be visiting to check it was satisfactory. Cllr Puddicombe reported that the borough council would be introducing an enquiry service for parish council clerks similar to the members' enquiry service.

Cllr Wilson reported that Tim Roca MP was opposed to the Adlington New Town proposals and that the Labour party was in the process of selecting its candidate for the Cheshire and Warrington Mayoralty. Cllr Wilson highlighted that discussions were taking place with Cheshire Wildlife Trust in connection with the SMDA and that Macclesfield Town Council was exploring the creation of a Business Improvement District.

25/106 COMMUNITY ORCHARD INTERPRETATION SIGN

It was **RESOLVED** to install a sign at a cost of £425 and that the park and woodland working group determine the precise location.

25/107 PARK AND RANGER CONTRACTS

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an extension of the contracts for a further 24 months.

It was **RESOLVED** that the contracts specify not to use weed killer; include the cleaning of the Nancy's Wood noticeboard and clarify the Penningtons Lane shrub bed.

25/108 POWER SUPPLY FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT PENNINGTONS LANE

The Clerk reported that Cheshire East Council had provided a more detailed breakdown and revised quote of £4,280.41. It was noted the figure was higher than anticipated, but provided a long lasting piece of infrastructure. It was agreed that the Clerk would query some lines in the quote and **RESOLVED** to commission the installation of the power supply at a cost of up to £4,280.41

25/109 PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION

The draft budget was reviewed with no changes made. It was agreed to target a precept increase of 2%.

It was agreed to write to Sutton Parish Council concerning the suspected mis-payment of Community Infrastructure Levy.

25/110 CEC LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation noting the following:

- The plan is very general but overall sound and aligns with the parish council's objectives
- There is opportunity for Cheshire East Council to use its landholdings (Cheshire Farms) to create permissive paths
- Safe access between Congleton and Macclesfield should be a priority and connect these towns to the rural area as a countryside destination
- Horizontal connectivity needs to improve across the county, connecting towns and villages
- Join The Middlewood Way and Biddulph Valley Way should be connected
- Improvements to bus networks should be prioritised

25/111 PARISH MATTERS

The following issues were raised / noted

- Dog fouling appears to be getting worse at Woodhouse End Road and Longbutts Lane, it was suggested that Cllr Clarke engage with the school on designing some anti-fouling posters
- During recent storms there was a build up of water on Lowes Lane again, which requires monitoring
- Patch repairs to roads have been undertaken on Benbrook Way and Woodhouse Lane
- The community survey would be prepared for issue in the new year
- Woodhouse Lane to Woodhouse End Road has a build up of mud which requires removal
- The Christmas arch needs testing, the Christmas tree lights have been tested and are operational

Cllr Kinsey left during this item.

25/112 FINANCE

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

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
L and J Print	Gawsworth Gazette November 2025	50.00
L and J Print	Gawsworth Gazette December 2025	50.00
A Keppel-Green	November Salary	553.98

A Keppel-Green	November Reimbursements	326.87
A Keppel-Green	December Salary	553.98
SLCC	Practitioners' Conference 2026	520.00
Northwich Town Council	October Works	1,410.00
Marmax	Benches x 2	829.08
RBL	Wreath	27.50
	Total	4,321.41

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

25/113 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

25/114 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

No questions were raised.

25/115 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

25/116 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7:30pm.