

Gawsworth Parish Council

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Minutes

of the Council Meeting held

Tuesday 10th March 2026 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

25/151 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Hollinshead, Richards, Webb and Wood

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

25/152 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke, Dempsey, Hardy and Kinsey.

25/153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item.

25/154 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke in relation to Peak Cluster, enquiring as to whether parish councils were liaising on the matter; Cllr Shepherd confirmed the parish council had spoken with Marton and North Rode Parish Councils, but not others at present.

Cllr Webb arrived.

25/155 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 10th February.

25/156 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk read a report from Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson advising that the council's budget had been agreed with a 4.99% increase in council tax and that 70% of the council's budget was spent on statutory services for children and adult social care. It was also noted it had been agreed to move to a Leader and Cabinet system of governance from May.

The Clerk read a report from Cllr Smetham which highlighted that the council was still under a 'best value notice' where the government raises concern regarding performance or compliance with the best value duty and that the council was continuing to work on its 'transformation plan'. It was reported that how the signatures of the Leader and Deputy Leader were applied to a letter supporting Adlington New Town was disputed, and that a 'call for sites' was being undertaken for the new local plan.

25/157 PLANNING

26/0681/PRIOR-1A – Warren Farm, Church Lane

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

26/0801/HOUS – 20 Woodhouse Lane

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

The latest planning decisions were noted

25/158 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

The Clerk reported that the Freedom of Information request to Cheshire East Council had been received and circulated and that this raised queries of apparent missing information; the Clerk reported an internal review had been requested for missing data and the blanket application of redactions.

It was noted that a WhatsApp group had been created and that residents were coordinating opposition to the proposals. It was agreed that the best approach is to engage with this group, but maintain separation, similar to the council's support of the *Save Danes Moss* campaign. It was noted that councillors would engage individually, not on behalf of or in a formal capacity as councillors.

A draft letter prepared by residents had been circulated with a request that it be sent from the council. It was **RESOLVED** not to support the letter being sent on behalf of the council, but to thank the residents for the hard work which had gone into the drafting of the letter, noting it would form a useful basis for future engagement on Peak Cluster.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Write to Cheshire East Ward Councillors and the Leader and Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council seeking the council to take a position on Peak Cluster and support the work of communities opposing the proposals
- b) Seek the support of ChALC in bringing together parishes and the borough council

Borough Councillor Smetham arrived at the meeting and reported that she had seen strong opposition from a number of councils in her ward.

25/159 PARISH MATTERS

The following issues were raised / noted:

- The booking system for the tip was unnecessarily complicated and could be simplified, for example with an app
- The Hub had hosted an informative evening with a firefighter who shared useful information
- The wildflower patch on Woodhouse Lane had been used by builders for parking and the storage of materials
- Parking around the school and on pavements was a problem
- Woodhouse Lane has a significant number of large potholes
- There continued to be a van parking at the traffic lights on Dark Lane causing an obstruction
- A number of daffodils were growing on the Penningtons Lane green, with thanks expressed to the gardening group
- The original bin at the Pleasance should be removed

Members were reminded to send any comments on the draft survey to the clerk.

25/160 FINANCE

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

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
Zurich Insurance	Insurance 2026/27	801.45
HMRC	Q4 PAYE	1,335.97
Northwich TC	February Contract Works	1,500.00
Npower	February Streetlighting	30.09
L and J Print	Gazette Printing February	50.00
A Keppel-Green	March Salary	554.38
A Keppel-Green	March Reimbursement (mileage x 2)	23.85
	Total	4,295.74

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

25/161 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the corporate risk register.

25/162 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

It was noted that the stump on Woodhouse Lane remained.

25/163 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

It was requested that Christmas lights for the village and Penningtons Lane be included on the next agenda.

25/164 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

25/165 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14th April at 7:30pm

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