

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



To the Members of Gawsworth Parish Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gawsworth Parish Council to be held at 19:30 on Tuesday 14th April 2026 in Gawsworth Village Hall.

The public can also join the meeting at: <https://bit.ly/gawsworthparishcouncil> or watch live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gawsworthlife.

Adam Keppel-Green
Clerk and Proper Officer
9th April 2026

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
In the interests of openness and transparency, members are to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to the items under discussion.
- 3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
A period for members of the public to address the meeting.
- 4 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2026.

Attachment – Minutes of the meeting held 10th March 2026
- 5 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT**
To receive a report from the councillors for Gawsworth and Macclesfield South wards.
- 6 PLANNING**
To consider planning applications:
 - a) 26/1006/FUL – Libby’s Patch, Shellow Lane

- b) 26/1141/HOUS – Fodens Farm, Woodhouse End Road
- c) 26/0962/HOUS – Mill Field, Mill Lane
- d) 26/1177/PRIOR-6 – Swindells Farm, Shellow Lane
- e) 26/1011/CLPUD - Railway Cottage, Cowbrook Lane

To note the submission of an appeal against the non-determination of 25/3492/PIP (Permission in Principle for the erection of a dwelling at Land at Shellow Lane) and consider whether to make an comment to the Planning Inspectorate.

7 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

To consider matters related to the Peak Cluster project.

8 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

To consider arrangements for Christmas Lights in the village and at Penningtons Lane.

9 PARISH MATTERS

An opportunity for members to raise matters which require attention or future discussion

10 PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATH SOCIETY

To consider membership of the society (£30 pa).

Attachment – Report

11 FINANCE


To note the council’s financial position year to date.

Attachment – Receipts and Payments statement April 2026

To approve the following payments and note receipts since the last meeting

Attachment – Receipts between 6th March to 9th April 2026

Payee	Detail	Amount
RBS Software	Annual Finance System Licence	252.00
Gort and March	Q4 and Year End Payroll Services	100.00
L and J Print	Gazette Printing March	50.00
ChALC	Annual Membership	550.40
M Herring	Ranger Jan/Feb	1970.27
Npower	March Streetlighting	27.88
A Keppel-Green	April Salary	568.15
A Keppel-Green	April Reimbursement (mileage x 3)	35.10
Peak and Northern Footpath Society*	Annual Membership	30.00
	Total	3,583.80

- 12 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS**
To review the Strategic Plan, Parish Maintenance and Outstanding Actions logs.
Attachments – Strategic Plan, Maintenance and Outstanding Actions logs.
- 13 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK**
An opportunity to raise questions to the Clerk.
- 14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
A period for members of the public to address the meeting.
- 15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
To note the date of the next meetings: Wednesday 22nd April at 7:30pm (annual parish meeting) and Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:30pm (annual council meeting)
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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

DRAFT

REPORT TO GAWSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL PEAK AND NORTHERN FOOTPATH SOCIETY



Report Reference GPC 25-17
Meeting Date 14th April 2026
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

Peak & Northern Footpaths Society promotes the interests of public footpath users; it is a registered charity and covers a geographical area from Staffordshire to Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

The charity:

- Installs bespoke signage on routes (an example is on Church Lane on the footpath to North Rode)
- Routinely inspects public rights of way and reports issues to highway authorities
- Provides funding for improvements to public rights of way
- Supports the recording of new public rights of way

The charity is aiming to raise awareness of itself, its work and its support schemes. It is also keen to increase membership to support its work. Membership is only £30 per year.

Supporting the work of the charity would align with the council's objectives to support and enhance public rights of way.

2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The Council should consider subscribing to membership and supporting the work of the charity.

Current Bank A/c

Receipts received between 01/04/2026 and 10/04/2026

Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</u>	<u>£ Amnt Received</u>	<u>£ Debtors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
	Banked: 03/04/2026	22,388.50						
	Cheshire East Council	22,388.50			1900	101	22,388.50	Precept (1/2)
	Total Receipts:	22,388.50	0.00	0.00			22,388.50	

Deposit Account

Receipts received between 06/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</u>	<u>£ Amnt Received</u>	<u>£ Debtors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
	Banked: 31/03/2026	248.98						
	Unity Trust Bank	248.98			1870	101	248.98	Interest
	Total Receipts:	248.98	0.00	0.00			248.98	

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 10/04/2026

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Full Council						
101 Administration						
1001 Ground Rent	0	2	2			0.0%
1870 Interest Received	0	2,000	2,000			0.0%
1900 Precept	22,389	44,777	22,389			50.0%
Administration :- Receipts	22,389	46,779	24,391			47.9%
4031 Subscriptions	550	635	85		85	86.7%
4100 Postages	0	180	180		180	0.0%
4101 Stationery	0	100	100		100	0.0%
4102 Room Hire	0	50	50		50	0.0%
4103 Insurance	801	750	(51)		(51)	106.9%
4104 Audit Fee	0	990	990		990	0.0%
4106 Computer Software/Hardware	210	210	0		0	100.0%
4107 Grants & Donations	0	600	600		600	0.0%
4109 Payroll Services	83	215	132		132	38.8%
4115 Print	0	100	100		100	0.0%
4120 Banking Charges	0	120	120		120	0.0%
4999 Miscellaneous Costs/Purchases	0	150	150		150	0.0%
Administration :- Indirect Payments	1,645	4,100	2,455	0	2,455	40.1%
Net Receipts over Payments	20,743	42,679	21,936			
102 Employee Costs						
4000 Salaries	568	6,700	6,132		6,132	8.5%
4001 Home Working Allowance	0	312	312		312	0.0%
4005 PAYE/NI	0	5,670	5,670		5,670	0.0%
4010 Employee Mileage	35	500	465		465	7.0%
4020 Employee Training	0	500	500		500	0.0%
Employee Costs :- Indirect Payments	603	13,682	13,079	0	13,079	4.4%
Net Payments	(603)	(13,682)	(13,079)			
103 Members Costs						
4011 Member Mileage	0	50	50		50	0.0%
4021 Member Training	0	150	150		150	0.0%
Members Costs :- Indirect Payments	0	200	200	0	200	0.0%
Net Payments	0	(200)	(200)			

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 10/04/2026

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>105 Communications</u>						
1025 Donations Received	0	300	300			0.0%
1050 Advertising Income	0	200	200			0.0%
Communications :- Receipts	0	500	500			0.0%
4110 Website Costs	0	220	220		220	0.0%
4116 Gawsworth Gazette	50	600	550		550	8.3%
Communications :- Indirect Payments	50	820	770	0	770	6.1%
Net Receipts over Payments	(50)	(320)	(270)			
<u>110 Parks & Woodland</u>						
4180 External Contractors	88	2,500	2,413		2,413	3.5%
4200 Park Maintenance	368	12,700	12,333		12,333	2.9%
4205 Woodland Maintenance	334	1,085	751		751	30.8%
4207 Park Improvements	0	3,000	3,000		3,000	0.0%
4208 Woodland Improvements	0	500	500		500	0.0%
4215 Tree Works	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%
4999 Miscellaneous Costs/Purchases	0	150	150		150	0.0%
Parks & Woodland :- Indirect Payments	789	21,435	20,646	0	20,646	3.7%
Net Payments	(789)	(21,435)	(20,646)			
<u>120 Operational Costs</u>						
4206 Parish Maintenance	290	3,535	3,245		3,245	8.2%
4210 Ranger Works	891	3,900	3,009		3,009	22.8%
4250 Parish Improvements	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%
4305 Streetlighting	27	300	273		273	8.8%
4310 Christmas Lights	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%
4999 Miscellaneous Costs/Purchases	0	200	200		200	0.0%
Operational Costs :- Indirect Payments	1,208	11,435	10,227	0	10,227	10.6%
Net Payments	(1,208)	(11,435)	(10,227)			
<u>999 VAT Data</u>						
515 VAT on Payments	60	0	(60)		(60)	0.0%
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	60	0	(60)	0	(60)	
Net Payments	(60)	0	60			
Full Council :- Receipts	22,389	47,279	24,891			47.4%
Payments	4,355	51,672	47,317	0	47,317	8.4%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	18,033	(4,393)	(22,426)			

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 10/04/2026

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Grand Totals:- Receipts	22,389	47,279	24,891			47.4%
Payments	4,355	51,672	47,317	0	47,317	8.4%
Net Receipts over Payments	<u>18,033</u>	<u>(4,393)</u>	<u>(22,426)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>18,033</u>	<u>(4,393)</u>	<u>(22,426)</u>			

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION PLAN: 2025/26

APRIL 2026

REF	ACTION	LEAD	STATUS	NOTES
2501	Deliver three projects under the Green Gawsworth Strategy	Green Gawsworth WG	Outstanding	Working group meeting to be arranged.
2502	Develop the business case for acquiring the land at Maggoty Lane for a new open space	Park and Woodland WG	Outstanding	WG had onsite meeting and is exploring potential uses for the site.
2503	Deliver identified actions under the Park and Woodland management plan	Park and Woodland WG	In progress	
2504	Undertake community survey on a range of topics	Council	Outstanding	Survey to be launched in April
2505	Develop a communications strategy	Communications WG	Outstanding	
2506	Develop six areas of councillor knowledge over the year	Council	Outstanding	Survey of councillors to be sent out in April
2507	Develop PROW improvement plan	Footpaths WG	Outstanding	Working group meeting to be arranged.
2508	Identify desirable permissive path routes	Footpaths WG	Outstanding	Working group meeting to be arranged.
2509	Explore the submission of DMMO applications to register new PROW	Footpaths WG	Outstanding	Working group meeting to be arranged.
2510	Undertake an accessibility audit of the parish	Council	Outstanding	
2511	Undertake a survey of bus shelters and crossing points to identify areas for improvement	Council	Outstanding	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

APRIL 2026

Action Ref	Creation Date	Source	Subject	Description	Responsible	Minute Ref	Priority	Status	Activity Log / Notes
2003	10/07/19	Decision	Interpretation Board	Clerk to liaise with supplier	Clerk / Cllr Woods		Medium	In Progress	Clerk to review status and progress
2011		Discussion	Parish Paths / Walk Leaflet	Development of reworked Parish Paths Booklet	Cllr Woods / Gawsworth Hub		Low	In Progress	Draft circulated to Comms WG
2406	15/10/24	Decision	Steps from Benbrook Way	Installation of handrail	Clerk	24/092	Medium		Quote to be obtained / discussion with Ranger on options.
2407	15/10/24	Decision	Steps from Benbrook Way	Exploration of creating additional steps / reducing height of bottom step.	Clerk	24/092	Medium		Options to be explored with CEC Highways.
2410	08/04/25	Decision	Councillor Skill/Knowledge development	Clerk to identify means of supporting development in identified areas	Clerk	24/177	Medium		
2411	08/04/25	Decision	Danes Moss Sunken Lane	To be surveyed	Clerk	24/179	Low		
2501	13/05/25	Decision	Lych Gate Bin	Litter issues to be monitored	Council	25/011	Low		
2502	12/08/25	Discussion	Funders signs for park	Awaiting installation	Clerk		Medium	In Progress	Awaiting new clips
2509	11/11/25	Decision	Community Orchard Information Board	Sign being designed	Clerk		Medium	In Progress	In design
2510	13/01/26	Discussion	Ownership of fields to be investigated	Lowes Lane	Clerk	25/129	Medium	In Progress	
2511	10/02/26	Decision	Installation of new goals	Gawsworth Park	Clerk	25/143	Medium	In Progress	On order

2512	10/02/26	Decision	Replacement Trees to be planted	Gawsworth Park	Clerk	25/143	Medium	In Progress	Awaiting delivery date
2513	10/02/26	Decision	Installation of nest boxes	Nancy's Wood	Clerk	25/143	Medium	In Progress	To be ordered

MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT LOG

PENNINGTONS LANE AREA

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Missing speed limit sign	Opp. 90 Congleton Road		CEC	February 2026

A536

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Footpath and road edge degraded badly	Church Lane between Harrington Arms and Gandysbrook	Footpath needs relaying. No prospect of this being done		Ref 3817719

WARREN END OF VILLAGE

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Rotting Stump	Woodhouse Lane	CEC undertook to investigate evacuation excavation as an alternative to stump grinding avoiding issues with utilities near to stump. No response despite a number of reminders. Chased March 2026.	CEC	Ref 4669610 Feb 2025
Road signs to be cleaned	Various	On Ranger Job List. Some have been completed.		
Deteriorating pavements	St James Avenue		Peaks and Plains	
Woodhouse Lane Sign	Lowes Lane Jnct	Ranger to replace backing board	Ranger	August 2025
Faded stop signs	Woodhouse Lane	Junction with Church Lane.	CEC	August 2025 SR510001687
Gawsworth Sign	Church Lane		Parish Council	
Tarmac deteriorating	Village Hall		Parish Council	January 2026
Grit Bin Required	Warren Close to Woodhouse Road	Request submitted to CEC	TBC	January 2026

CHURCH END OF VILLAGE

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Damaged kerbs/	Church Lane (opp Church)	Not currently on any programme for repair. Monitored by Highways Officer for deterioration. The highway boundary is the kerb line.	CEC	Ref 5328454
Pavement uneven due to roots	opp. New Hall	A small area has been marked for repair where it has broken up, this is the only part that meets intervention criteria. It will be put forward for works in the future. Will be included in accessibility audit	CEC	
Lack of fencing around Klargester	Off Church Lane, nr Little Manor	Owner of Little Manor has confirmed they will liaise with Old Rectory to look at replacement of fencing	Landowner	August 2025
Fingerpost requires repainting	opp. Harrington Arms	On Rangers list.	Ranger	August 2025
Broken Handrail	Steps to FP11	Reported to CEC Highways	CEC	September 2025
Flytipping	opp. Harrington Arms		CEC	October 2025

ELSEWHERE

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Uneven surface	Church Lane nr Harrington Arms		CEC	
Recurring Pothole	Gawsworth Road	Main potholes fixed. To be monitored for recurrence.	CEC	Feb 25
Broken Steps	Railway Bridge to Danes Moss	Reported to CEC PROW team	CEC/Landowner	Mar 25
Dead Tree	Adjacent to FP6	Reported to CEC, onwards reported to CEC assets.	CEC	May 25 EFRM130290
Road Surface Requires Attention	Lowes Lane		CEC	August 2025
Severe pothole	Woohouse Lane		CEC	March 2026

NANCY'S WOOD / GAWSWORTH PARK

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Gate requires repair	Church Lane Entrance		Ranger	October 2025

Picnic table requires replacement	Nancy's Wood	Replacement agreed – awaiting delivery	Council	February 2026
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PLANNING / HIGHWAYS ENFORCEMENT

Issue	Location	Notes	Ref/Update
Use of building for residential accommodation	Middle Moss Farm, Lowes Lane	Awaiting follow up from Planning Enforcement	23/00979E 04/11/2024
Stones on verge	Warren House, Dark Lane	Understood that CEC has decided not to take enforcement/legal action.	
Erection of building	Field off Shellow Lane		23/00271E
Operation of campsite	High Lane Farm		25/0130/ENF
Construction of structure	Old Post Office		