

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc BA FSLCC

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Minutes

of the Council Meeting held

Tuesday 10th February 2026 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

25/135 PRESENT

Cllrs Shepherd (*presiding*), Dempsey, Hollinshead, Kinsey, Richards and Webb.

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

25/136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Clarke, Hardy and Woods.

25/137 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item.

25/138 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

25/139 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Richards arrived.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2026 subject the insertion of a summary of the report from Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson which was read by the Clerk under 25/123, to the deletion of "It was agreed that planting a permanent Christmas tree at Penningtons Lane would be preferred to installing a socket and Christmas tree each year" from minute 25/125.

25/140 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smetham reported that the request for permission from the government to be able to raise council tax by 9.99% had been refused, and that council would be setting the budget

and council tax later in the month. It was reported the council had agreed to oppose the Adlington New Town proposals, and was trying to catch up on housing figures. Cllr Smetham reported that efforts to 'balance the books' were challenging and the council was close to insolvency.

The Clerk read a report submitted by Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson which stated that the council had passed a motion unanimously opposing the proposal for a possible new town at Adlington and that Macclesfield Town Council have since done the same. It was reported that there continues to be inaccurate reports regarding the letter sent by the Leader and Deputy Leader to the New Towns Task Force; the councillors had attended a recent information event in Macclesfield concerning the Peak Cluster project, and they noted parish councillors were present. The report further noted the upcoming budget meeting where when there will be proposals to increase council tax and councillors will consider a request for additional exceptional financial support and a range of budget proposals. Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson added that the Environment and Communities committee had reviewed Household Waste Centre usage since changes introduced in 2024 and that for the Macclesfield site, reports of queuing on the public highway have been exaggerated but it was clear that usage has changed since the introduction of weekend booking with more users opting to visit in the early part of the week. Consequently officers will be working on changes to the booking system to ensure health and safety and to alleviate the traffic congestion issues.

Cllr Webb arrived.

25/141 PLANNING

26/0052/HOUS – 9 Woodhouse Lane

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

The latest planning decisions were noted

25/142 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

The council discussed the consultation, noting the proposed route and lack of clear information as to why alternative routes had been discounted. It was noted documents did not show the Gawsorth conservation area overlay, failed to reflect local neighbourhood plan policy in respect of loss of hedges and that there was uncertainty as to the visual impact of the proposed AGI.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the proposal outlining that the pipeline and AGI should be located elsewhere and that the draft response be circulated to councillors in advance of submission.

25/143 PARK AND WOODLAND

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Replace the goals with new frames and nets, with spare sockets for relocating to enable the grass to regrow in goal mouths, at a cost of c. £2,275
- b) Arrange the replanting of trees in the park felled during recent storms at a cost of c. £600
- c) Install nest boxes in Nancy's Wood at a cost of c. £475
- d) Install a replacement picnic table in Nancy's Wood at a cost of c. £350

25/144 IT AND DATA PROTECTION POLICIES

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the IT Policy and Data Protection Policy, subject to typographical corrections to the title and 1.3 of the IT Policy.

25/145 PARISH MATTERS

The following issues were raised / noted:

- The poor condition of Gawsworth Road
- The rector had expressed thanks to the council for encouraging the fencing to be repaired at Church Lane
- There continued to be a van parking on Dark Lane outside the Old Post Office, which was causing an obstruction
- A tree taken down a street light outside 90 Congleton Road and that this removed the speed limit change sign

25/146 FINANCE

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

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
A Keppel-Green	February Salary	554.38
A Keppel-Green	Reimbursement (Mileage x 4, Q4 HWA)	165.93
Northwich Town Council	January Works	390.00
Manchester Fruit Tree Coop	Pruning Workshop	165.00
L and J Print	Gazette Printing January	50.00
Jolt	Website SSL Certificate	12.00
M Herring	November/December Ranger Contract	1,190.84
	Total	2,528.15

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

25/147 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

25/148 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

No questions were raised.

25/149 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present. The Clerk read the comments on the Facebook stream, where a resident thanked the council for its support objecting to the Peak Cluster proposals.

25/150 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7:30pm