

Gawsworth Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green BSc BA FSLCC

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Minutes

of the Annual Council Meeting held

Tuesday 12th May 2026 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

26/000 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

26/001 ELECTION OF CHAIR

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

Cllr Hardy signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the chair.

26/002 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr Clarke joined the meeting.

There being no member wishing to serve as Deputy Chair, it was agreed to leave the position vacant.

26/003 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Webb.

26/004 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

26/005 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING WORKING GROUPS

Cllr Richards arrived during this item.

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

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

26/006 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hollinshead declared an interest in 26/015 in respect of the discussion of land under her ownership.

26/007 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

26/008 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 14th April subject to an addition to 25/175 to add “it was reported that a Danes Moss Trust trustee raised concerns with respect to nitrites and the proximity to the SSSI.”

26/009 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Clerk read a report from Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson which outlined they supported the majority vote at the Council’s Corporate Policy Committee on April 30th to take the position of not immediately dismissing the project, but to seek further feedback from residents, councillors and town and parish councils on the route, negative impacts and potential benefits, and health and safety concerns, specifically with regard to the AGIs. Cllrs Puddicombe and Wilson reported they had received emails expressing opposition and support from an environmental point of view.

26/010 PLANNING

26/1310/VOC – Barn, Shellow Lane

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

26/1212/HOUS – Little Walkers Heath Farm, Marton Lane

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

26/011 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

It was noted that the Cheshire East Council Corporate Policy Committee had resolved to

undertake research into the proposals and would be seeking the views of town and parish councils.

It was noted that Cheshire East Council was due to meet with the Gawsworth Residents Group and had offered to meet with the council, it was agreed to seek a meeting with Cheshire East Council.

Cllr Woods reported he was continuing to work on a paper for Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

26/012 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Smetham joined the meeting and reported that the council's annual meeting was the following day from when the council would revert to a Cabinet system. Cllr Smetham reported that the first meeting of the Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority had been held and would be operating in the run up to May 2027 when the mayor would be elected.

26/013 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

26/014 PENNINGTONS LANE CHRISTMAS TREE

It was **RESOLVED** to have a cut tree for 2026, mounted in a stand as per 2025 and that this be reviewed in January 2027 to determine if a socket is required.

26/015 PARISH MEETING

The issues raised as the parish meeting were noted.

It was agreed:

- The Green Gawsworth WG should look at tree planting options
- To write to Cheshire East Council concerning replanting hedge along the avenue on Church Lane
- To note that the pollution concerns for the Ben Brook had been reported to the Environment Agency
- To explore if litter picking equipment is held in the parish and promote residents to undertake litter picking

Cllr Hollinshead left the meeting.

The council discussed the matters raised on behalf of the Danes Moss Trust with respect to farming operations on Woodhouse End Road; it was noted that the Trust could raise

concerns with the relevant agencies, but that the council considered no action was necessary.

Cllr Hollinshead rejoined the meeting.

It was agreed to seek to make the parish meeting more enticing for 2027 with earlier promotion, refreshments, a speaker and inviting organisations to present.

In respect of blocked drains, it was agreed to encourage residents to report them via the Cheshire East website.

26/016 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Dempsey on behalf of Gawsworth Residents Group requesting permission to use the park for an event, and that this include permission for hosting a dog show. It was agreed not to permit dogs as part of any event, noting the prohibition on dogs in the park.

Cllrs Dempsey and Kinsey left the meeting.

Cllr Richards raised that a resident had contacted him regarding a project to renovate the tennis court; it was noted this would be discussed by the Park and Woodland working group.

26/017 STRATEGIC PLAN

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

26/018 FINANCE

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

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
NHBS	Bird Boxes for Nancy's Wood	£567.53
L and J Print	Gazette and Survey Printing	£434.00
Northwich TC	March/April Park Maintenance	£2,983
JDH Business Services	Internal Audit 2025/26	446.40
M Herring	March Ranger Works	389.17
A Keppel-Green	May Salary	£568.89
A Keppel-Green	May Reimbursements (mileage, stamps for survey, bench fixing kits)	£394.49
Total		£4,784.28

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

The CIL Monitoring Report for 2025/26 was noted.

26/019 AUDIT

The report of the Internal Auditor was noted.

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

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

26/020 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

It was agreed to discuss the interpretation board at the next meeting.

26/021 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

No questions were raised.

26/022 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk read a comment from Facebook noting the poor condition of gullies along Wardle Crescent.

26/023 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday 9th June.