

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 20th October 2026 in Gawsworth Village Hall.

The public can also join the meeting on [Microsoft Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/teams) or watch live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gawsworthlife.

Adam Keppel-Green

Clerk and Proper Officer

14th October 2026

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----------|---|------------------|
| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | 1930 |
| | To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | 1931 |
| | 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 | 1931-1945 |
| | A period for members of the public to address the meeting. | |
| 4 | APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES | 1945 |
| | To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 8 th September. | |
| | <i>Attachment – Minutes of the meeting held 8th September</i> | |
| 5 | CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT | 1945-1955 |
| | To receive a report from the councillors for Gawsworth and Macclesfield South wards. | |
| 6 | FINANCE | 1955-2000 |
| | To note the council's financial position year to date | |
| | <i>Attachment – Receipts and Payments Report October 2026</i> | |

To approve payments and note receipts and bank balances for September

Attachment – Payments, Receipts and Balances Report September 2026

To note the conclusion of the external audit.

Attachment – Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2025/26

- | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| 7 | FUTURE OF BURIAL PROVISION | 1955-2025 |
| | To consider the future of burial provision within Gawsworth. | |
| | <i>Attachment – Report 26-08 Future of Burial Provision</i> | |
| 8 | PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE | 2025-2045 |
| | To consider matters related to the Peak Cluster project | |
| 9 | PENNINGTONS LANE DEVELOPMENT | 2045-2115 |
| | To consider the responses to the maintenance and 'other' sections of the survey | |
| 10 | CHRISTMAS LIGHTING | 2115-2130 |
| | To consider reinstatement of the arch lighting at £1,485 + installation. | |
| | To consider matters related to Christmas lighting. | |
| 11 | REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY | 2130-2140 |
| | To consider matters related to the Remembrance Sunday road closure and traffic management | |
| 12 | PARISH MATTERS | 2140-2150 |
| | An opportunity for members to raise matters which require attention or future discussion. | |
| 13 | STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS | 2145-2150 |
| | To review the Strategic Plan, Parish Maintenance and Outstanding Actions logs. | |
| | <i>Attachments – Strategic Plan, Maintenance and Outstanding Actions logs.</i> | |
| 14 | QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK | 2150-2155 |
| | An opportunity to raise questions to the Clerk. | |
| 15 | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION | 2155-2200 |
| | A period for members of the public to address the meeting. | |
| 16 | DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING | 2200 |
| | To note the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 th November 2026. | |

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Minutes

of the council meeting held

Tuesday 8th September 2026 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

26/073 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

26/074 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dempsey and Woods.

26/075 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item.

26/076 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two residents spoke in relation to the proposed development off Penningtons Lane, expressing concerns about drainage and flooding and expressing opposition to development on the land.

Cllrs Hollinshead and Clarke arrived during this item.

A resident requested the street name signs in the Moss ward be replaced with those bearing the Parish Council name/logo.

26/077 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 8th September subject to a typographical correction.

26/078 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Wilson and Puddicombe who had advised they had nothing to report.

Cllr Smetham reported that the borough council was still failing in many areas, and that there had been no update on the matters around the letter concerning the Adlington New Town nor progress following submission of the notice of motion concerning Peak Cluster. Cllr Smetham noted the national scheme of delegation requiring changes to which planning applications can be considered by planning committees and changes to the constitution.

26/079 PLANNING

26/2910/HOUS – Loe House, 10 Longbutts Lane

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

26/3111/HOUS – The Dene, Lowes Lane

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

It was noted that an appeal against refusal has been submitted in respect of 25/3060/FUL (Land to the South of Foxhey, Harbour Lane)

26/080 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

It was noted that there had been no update recently.

26/081 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The parish maintenance and 'other' sections of the survey were discussed. The council considered all comments about maintenance and **RESOLVED** to progress the actions detailed in appendix A.

The council considered all comments in the 'other' section and **RESOLVED** to :

- a) ask school if there is spare space to increase parking provision
- b) look at trees in the parish
- c) trial a timed agenda to reduce overall meeting time
- d) promote creation of a skills bank

26/082 WOODHOUSE LANE WILDFLOWER PATCH

It was **RESOLVED** to return the area to grass with seed.

26/083 PARISH MATTERS

It was noted that the item on the churchyard had not been included on the agenda as information was awaited from the PCC.

The following matters were raised:

- The encroachment at Moss View Road/Congleton Road, and the path from Rising Sun Road to Penningtons Lane both required attention
- The step up to the village hall was a trip hazard
- The Church had requested the council provide a PA system for Remembrance Sunday

26/084 FINANCE

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

Payee	Detail	Amount
Northwich Town Council	Contract August 2026	868.80
Artisan Joinery Workshop	Deposit for Repair to Village Sign	303.60
A Keppel-Green	September Salary	568.12
A Keppel-Green	September Reimbursements (domain renewals, desk mic, home working allowance Q2)	193.49
M Herring	Ranger Works July and August	1,636.38
	Total	3,570.39

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

26/085 PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

26/086 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

The clerk responded to a question advising that no further correspondence regarding CIL had been received from Cheshire East Council.

It was noted that the Christmas lights switch on event would take place on 5th December.

26/087 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

26/088 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday 20th October 2026.

APPENDIX A: ACTIONS ARISING FROM MAINTENANCE SECTION OF SURVEY

Ref	Subject / Suggestion	Action
1	Hedges encroaching pavements	Promotion of issue in Gawsworth Gazette followed by councillors to undertake a walkabout of the parish (in sections) to identify problem areas. Issue to feature prominently in the Gazette, Clerk to write to all houses where action is required.
2	Dog poo bin to be installed at Benbrook Way by entrance to field / ginnel from Woodhouse Lane	Exploration of bin at the Lowes Lane end.
3	Pavements across parish require siding out	Councillors to survey pavements and identify those where work is required. Clerk to get quotes for works / put on Ranger job list where smaller.
4	Dog Fouling	Continued reminders about the issue in the Gawsworth Gazette
5	Replace Rising Sun Road street name plates with Gawsworth ones, replace faded signs	Councillors to identify where additional street name plates should be replaced
6	Rubble left on Lowes Lane where drainage pipe was installed – material disposed in hedge which was washed back onto road.	Clerk to raise with CEC Highways
7	Overgrown / dirty road signs	Councillors to identify, Ranger to attend to
8	The field at the spur of Lowes Lane (Dreamfield) has unsightly sheds and paraphernalia along the footpath.	Councillor to inspect and report back.
10	Grit box would be handy at the top of Hillcrest and Surrey Road	Council to request a grit bin.
11	Replace the trees on church Lane that have come down over the last couple of years	Council to explore replanting.
12	Parish Council should meet at least annually with Community hub directors	Communications working group to progress.
13	Water quality in Benbrook and other streams should be tested	Council to arrange to have the water quality tested
14	Pavements on Church Lane going up to the hall are very uneven and need attention	To be covered in councillor inspections.
15	Cutoff deadline for the noise at the parish hall and scout hut to be enforced	To be raised with hall operators.
16	The stiles on Woodhouse Lane need redoing so it's manageable with dogs and the one on Lowes Lane too	Consider as part of public rights of way improvement plan.
17	Clarification whether the car park is also hired for events on theses premises as sometimes the gate is	Removal of gate to be explored.

	shut to the car park when there is events	
18	Woodhouse Lane meadow unsightly	To be reverted back to grass.
19	The "Old Post Office" or car park of old vehicles on the crossroads is causing a big problem where the owner parks on the double yellow lines by the traffic lights	To be raised again with PCSO.
20	The tree at the corner of Harrington Drive and Church Lane needs pruning.	Inspect and raise with homeowner
21	Overgrown hedges obscuring views	Councillors to undertake a walkabout of the parish (in sections) to identify problem areas.
22	Car parking - Church Lane - cars on pavements, requiring school "walking bus" to veer out into the road. No room	School to be requested to better promote one-way drop off system, system to be promoted in Gazette and PCSO to be asked to promote.
23	Double Yellow Lines around school area and approaching traffic lights on Church Lane Junction up to cenotaph.	Goslings to be requested to look at lollipop person
24	Longbutts Lane has no provision for disabled parking in the area of the bungalows. Could we please have blue badge parking in the layby in the road?	Council to liaise with CEC / Peaks and Plains to dedicate parking space for disabled users
25	Wall in car park at St James Avenue breaking up	Council to raise with Peaks and Plains
26	Bushes that separate gardens at St James Avenue and the school need thinning out on home side	Council to raise with Peaks and Plains

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 16/10/2026

Council Detail Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
101 Administration						
1001 Ground Rent	0	2	2			0.0%
1870 Interest Received	958	2,000	1,042			47.9%
1900 Precept	44,777	44,777	0			100.0%
Administration :- Receipts	45,735	46,779	1,044			97.8%
4031 Subscriptions	630	635	5		5	99.3%
4100 Postages	70	180	110		110	38.7%
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	1,212	990	(222)		(222)	122.4%
4106 Computer Software/Hardware	210	210	0		0	100.0%
4107 Grants & Donations	25	600	575		575	4.2%
4109 Payroll Services	170	215	45		45	79.2%
4115 Print	0	100	100		100	0.0%
4120 Banking Charges	42	120	78		78	35.0%
4999 Miscellaneous Costs/Purchases	19	150	131		131	12.8%
Administration :- Indirect Payments	3,180	4,100	920	0	920	77.6%
Net Receipts over Payments	42,555	42,679	124			
102 Employee Costs						
4000 Salaries	4,101	6,700	2,599		2,599	61.2%
4001 Home Working Allowance	156	312	156		156	50.0%
4005 PAYE/NI	2,860	5,670	2,810		2,810	50.4%
4010 Employee Mileage	176	500	324		324	35.3%
4020 Employee Training	0	500	500		500	0.0%
Employee Costs :- Indirect Payments	7,293	13,682	6,389	0	6,389	53.3%
Net Payments	(7,293)	(13,682)	(6,389)			
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)			
105 Communications						
1025 Donations Received	0	300	300			0.0%

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 16/10/2026

Council Detail Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
1050 Advertising Income	90	200	110			45.0%
Communications :- Receipts	90	500	410			18.0%
4100 Postages	182	180	(2)		(2)	101.1%
4110 Website Costs	64	220	156		156	29.2%
4115 Print	352	350	(2)		(2)	100.6%
4116 Gawsworth Gazette	350	600	250		250	58.3%
Communications :- Indirect Payments	948	1,350	402	0	402	70.2%
Net Receipts over Payments	(858)	(850)	8			
<u>110 Parks & Woodland</u>						
4180 External Contractors	88	2,500	2,413		2,413	3.5%
4200 Park Maintenance	8,053	12,700	4,647		4,647	63.4%
4205 Woodland Maintenance	1,346	1,085	(261)		(261)	124.0%
4207 Park Improvements	2,070	6,600	4,530		4,530	31.4%
4208 Woodland Improvements	829	1,325	496		496	62.6%
4215 Tree Works	600	1,500	900		900	40.0%
4999 Miscellaneous Costs/Purchases	21	150	129		129	14.0%
Parks & Woodland :- Indirect Payments	13,006	25,860	12,854	0	12,854	50.3%
Net Payments	(13,006)	(25,860)	(12,854)			
<u>120 Operational Costs</u>						
1025 Donations Received	865	0	(865)			0.0%
Operational Costs :- Receipts	865	0	(865)			
4206 Parish Maintenance	2,573	3,535	962		962	72.8%
4210 Ranger Works	1,839	3,900	2,061		2,061	47.2%
4250 Parish Improvements	977	2,000	1,023		1,023	48.9%
4305 Streetlighting	145	300	155		155	48.3%
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	5,534	11,435	5,901	0	5,901	48.4%
Net Receipts over Payments	(4,669)	(11,435)	(6,766)			
<u>130 Special Projects</u>						
1901 Community Infrastructure Levy	541	0	(541)			0.0%
Special Projects :- Receipts	541	0	(541)			
Net Receipts	541	0	(541)			

Detailed Receipts & Payments by Budget Heading 16/10/2026

Council Detail Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
999 VAT Data						
115 VAT Refunds	1,751	0	(1,751)			0.0%
VAT Data :- Receipts	1,751	0	(1,751)			
515 VAT on Payments	2,615	0	(2,615)		(2,615)	0.0%
VAT Data :- Indirect Payments	2,615	0	(2,615)	0	(2,615)	
Net Receipts over Payments	(864)	0	864			
Grand Totals:- Receipts	48,982	47,279	(1,703)			103.6%
Payments	32,577	56,627	24,050	0	24,050	57.5%
Net Receipts over Payments	16,405	(9,348)	(25,753)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	16,405	(9,348)	(25,753)			

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS – OCTOBER 2026

Payments (for approval)

Payee	Detail	Amount
HMRC	Q2 PAYE	1,485.10
L and J Print	August/September Gazette Printing	100.00
Northwich TC	September Contract	1,228.80
Gort and March	Q2 Payroll	52.20
M Herring	September Ranger Contract	674.87
Marmax	2 no. benches	868.80
St James PCC	Christmas Tree Festival	25.00
Sport Equip	Replacement Basketball Back/Hoop	336.00
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Fee	1,008.00
A Keppel-Green	October Salary (inc NJC adjustment to 1 st April)	692.34
A Keppel-Green	Reimbursements (mileage, stamps)	70.60
	Total	6,541.71

Receipts (to note)

1st September to 30th September

Payee	Detail	Amount
Cheshire East Council	Precept (2/2)	22,388.50
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	113.07

Bank Balances (to note)

As at 30/09/2026

Account	Balance
Unity Trust Bank – Current	2,183.01
Unity Trust Bank – Savings (IA)	34,411.93
Virgin Money – 6 Month bond	45,356.56

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of

Gawsworth Parish Council - CH0080

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The AGAR has been amended.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

27/09/2026

REPORT TO GAWSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FUTURE OF BURIAL PROVISION



Report Reference	GPC 26-08
Meeting Date	20 th October 2026
Agenda Item	10
Prepared by	Clerk

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is for the Parish Council to make a decision on whether to support the extension of the Gawsworth churchyard.

1.2 BACKGROUND

St James' Churchyard is approaching capacity, with current estimates that the churchyard would be full by 2038. The Parochial Church Council has highlighted it faces financial challenges in operating the burial ground, which runs at a deficit and contributes to the wider financial challenges of maintaining the church.

In 2025, the Parish Council prepared a report which explored options for the future of burial provision in the parish. The report was last discussed in May 2025 where it was resolved that all options should remain on the table and to give no preference to any option pending further input from the community and an understanding of the view of the Diocese of Chester (which owns the land adjacent to the existing churchyard) with respect to an extension.

The 2025 community survey included questions on the future of burial provision. 86% of respondents confirmed they believe there should be an active burial ground in Gawsworth. 69% supported or preferred the parish council subsidising a churchyard and 70% supported or preferred the council operating a burial ground directly. The prefer response was stronger for the parish council operating the churchyard (21% vs 8%), possibly as this is linked to lower council tax costs. Respondents were invited to share any other views on the churchyard and possibility of its extension. Responses shared a variety of views; the most prevailing view was that any burial ground should prioritise/be exclusively for Gawsworth residents. Other views can be summarised as:

- General support for an extension and continued burial provision
- The need for non-religious and alternative burial/memorialisation options
- Burials should be at a cost to the individual not the council taxpayer
- Suggestions of grave reuse instead of extension

1.3 RELEVANT LEGAL BACKGROUND

All residents of a church parish has a legal right to be buried in the CofE churchyard, regardless of their denomination, additionally those on the church electoral roll have a statutory right of burial.

Under the Local Government Act 1972 s214, a parish council may contribute towards the expenses of any body in maintaining a cemetery in which inhabitants of the authority's area can be buried.

When a churchyard is full, the Parochial Church Council can apply for an Order to discontinue the burial of coffins in new graves. The Order will usually allow for burials to continue in existing grave spaces reserved by faculty, in vaults or walled graves and/or in existing family earthen graves. Cremated remains burials may also proceed.

Once an Order has been granted, the common law right to burial for parishioners ends, but the churchyard continues to be the responsibility of the PCC. The PCC can then, at any time, pass a resolution and serve notice transferring responsibility for the maintenance of a closed churchyard to the parish council which in turn can pass a resolution to pass it to Cheshire East Council.

All parish councils are burial authorities by virtue of s214 of the Local Government Act 1972 and may provide a burial ground within or outside the parish. There is no legal requirement to provide a cemetery.

1.4 PROGRESSION SINCE 2025

Since the *Future of Burial Provision in Gawsworth* report was published, the Parish Council had been awaiting conclusion of the survey, the preferred option(s) from the PCC and a response from the Diocese of Chester in respect of the sale of the land.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

2.1 OVERVIEW

In July/August, the Parish Council was advised that a resident had offered the PCC £25,000 towards the cost of creating the churchyard extension and that this was contingent on a decision being made before the end of the calendar year. It was confirmed that this offer was only for the PCC to extend the churchyard and not for a civil extension.

Following this, information has been sought to enable a decision to be taken.

2.2 POSITION OF THE DIOCESE

The Parish Council wrote to the Chester Diocese in June 2025, providing a copy of the *Future of Burial Provision in Gawsworth* report and asking it to advise whether the Diocese would



dispose of land to enable an extension and the process. An acknowledgment was received and in September the Parish Council was advised that the Assistant Archdeacon had met with the Rector and Cllr Richards and that they would revert once a further meeting had taken place.

In August 2026, when discussing the results of the community survey, it was stated in the Parish Council meeting that the Archdeacon would not agree to an extension (by releasing the land) if it was to be operated as a civil burial ground rather than a church operated facility. The Clerk wrote to the Diocese asking for confirmation.

In September, the Assistant Archdeacon advised that:

I need to confirm that the glebe land is not for sale. We have been approached by the parish and have had the land valued. Any further conversation has been between ourselves and the church following their approach to us.

Were it to be sold to the church, there would be a covenant attached that the land could only be used as a church burial ground.

Outside of the conversation initiated by the church, we have no intention of selling the land at this point.

The Clerk asked for confirmation that the correct interpretation of the above was that the Diocese would refuse to sell the land if it was to be operated as a civil burial ground rather than a church burial ground and the Assistant Archdeacon confirmed that sale to the church was the only sale option being considered.

In correspondence with the Rector, the Diocese has stated the value of the land (based on a Designated Advisors Report) is £30,000 - £35,000, and that it would accept the lower value of £30,000. The Diocese Property Manager stated that as a charity, it is under a duty to make best use of assets and cannot sell at an undervaluation nor give away the land.

2.3 POSITION OF THE PCC

In July, Cllr Hardy spoke with the Rector and it was stated that if the Parish Council does not commit to giving long term financial support for an enlarged graveyard, it will be closed. The PCC was uncertain as to whether it could find the £5,000 difference between the sum required by the Diocese and the potential donation.

In August, the Clerk sent an email to the Rector seeking information to inform this discussion with a view to including an item at the September meeting. As the PCC was not due to meet until after the Parish Council, the item was deferred to the October meeting.

In October, the PCC confirmed that the only option it would consider is for the Parish Council to provide a perpetual undertaking to fund the deficit of the churchyard.



3.0 GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION

3.1 GENERAL

Cllrs Hardy and Richards are both members of the Parochial Church Council. As this matter affects the financial interests or wellbeing of a body of which they are in a position of general control or management, in accordance with the councillor code of conduct they will be permitted to make a statement as a member of the public would and will then withdraw from the meeting and not participate in discussion and voting.

3.2 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The cost for acquiring the land is £30,000. It is understood the PCC would receive a donation of £25,000. It has not confirmed if it can fund the £5,000 shortfall or requires the parish council to fund this.

The cost of setting out the new churchyard was estimated at £12,500 in the 2025 report. The PCC has not confirmed if the specification that report, suggested by the surveyor, was agreeable. It is understood the parish council would be required to fund this work.

The current maintenance costs for the churchyard are c. £6,000 per year. Income varies depending on burials and memorial fees but in 2023 was c. £3,700 making a net deficit of £2,300. Additionally, the church has costs for tree work, wall and path repairs, though it has not incurred any costs for this in the last three years.

The PCC has not set out what costs it expects the parish council to cover, and whether it would be net of an income.

3.3 FORM OF AGREEMENT

It is advisable that any agreement be formed in writing with clear terms. These should include, *inter alia*:

- An agreed schedule of maintenance tasks that would be undertaken, at what frequency and what tasks fall outside the agreement
- A mechanism for routinely procuring the work and fixing the costs for a defined period

The PCC has requested a perpetual undertaking to fund the deficit of operating the churchyard. This would suggest the only form of agreement it would enter into would not provide for any dispute in the event of escalating costs and in effect would require the council to fund whatever deficit is incurred. A perpetual agreement would only be determinable in the event of breach of the agreement.

The PCC has not provided the maintenance schedule or confirmed precisely what costs it expects to be covered in the form of any agreement.



It would be irresponsible for the council to enter into a perpetual agreement where it has no control over the costs it will incur.

3.4 ABILITY TO PROCEED

At this stage, no investigations have been undertaken into whether the required planning and environmental permitting requirements would be met for the extension of the burial ground. Such investigations would not be concluded by the end of the calendar year and any purchase of the land would therefore be at risk. It is considered that this risk is low.

3.5 EFFECT OF CLOSURE OF THE CHURCHYARD

It is understood to be the PCC's position that if the council does not enter into an agreement to fund the churchyard, it will be closed in due course and the PCC is then likely to initiate the transfer of maintenance responsibilities to the Parish Council.

Should this progress, the council would be aware of the closure order being progressed. Any notice from the PCC would give the parish council three months to consider whether to accept responsibility or whether to serve counter notice on Cheshire East Council passing responsibility to it.

4.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The council should consider the request from the PCC to enter into a perpetual agreement to subsidise the deficit for the churchyard to enable it to provide an extension to the exiting churchyard.

If it is minded to enter into such an agreement, it should consider what terms it would require as part of any agreement and clarify the undertaking it is offering.

If it is not minded to enter into such an agreement, it should consider whether alternative options for providing future burial provision (i.e. a council operated burial ground on land elsewhere in the parish) should be explored.



MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT LOG

PENNINGTONS LANE AREA

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Missing speed limit sign	Opp. 90 Congleton Road		CEC	February 2026
Overgrown hedge/verge	Sussex Avenue /Congleton Road		CEC / Homeowners	June 2026
Damage streetlight/sign	Macclesfield Border	Speed limit sign on opposite side also now flat.	CEC	September 2026
Path overgrown	Rising Sun Road to Penningtons Lane	Ranger to attend to	CEC/GPC	September 2026
Verge requires edging out	Congleton Road / Moss View Road	Ranger to attend to		September 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
Narrowed pavement	Deans Farm to the Rising Sun	Awaiting quote for siding out	CEC	June 2026

WARREN END OF VILLAGE

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Rotting Stump	Woodhouse Lane	"The tree on Woodhouse lane will eventually be removed when we have sufficient funding available."	CEC	Ref 4669610 April 2026
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 Jct	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	Repair instructed.	Parish Council	April 2026

Grit Bin Required	Warren Close to Woodhouse Road	Request submitted to CEC. Chased October 2026.	TBC	January 2026
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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	Will be put forward for works in the future. Will be included in accessibility audit	CEC	
Fingerpost requires repainting	opp. Harrington Arms	On Rangers list.	Ranger	August 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
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

NANCY'S WOOD / GAWSWORTH PARK

Issue	Location	Notes	Responsible	Reported/Update
Gap in fence to rear field	Nancy's Wood	Ranger to assess	GPC	

PLANNING / HIGHWAYS ENFORCEMENT

Issue	Location	Notes	Ref/Update
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Use of building for residential accommodation	Middle Moss Farm, Lowes Lane	Awaiting follow up from Planning Enforcement	23/00979E 04/11/2024
Erection of building	Field off Shellow Lane		23/00271E
Operation of campsite	High Lane Farm		25/0130/ENF

STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION PLAN: 2026/27

OCTOBER 2026

REF	ACTION	LEAD	TARGET DATE	STATUS	NOTES
2601	Explore a soft plastics recycling point in the village	Green Gawsworth WG	31/08/2026	Outstanding	
2602	Purchase an IR camera to enable households to inspect their insulation/heat loss	Green Gawsworth WG	30/09/2026	Outstanding	Report prepared for November meeting.
2603	Provide water butts on the village hall/scout hall for use at the community garden	Green Gawsworth WG	31/07/2026	Outstanding	Report prepared for November meeting.
2604	Develop the business case for acquiring the land at Maggoty Lane for a new open space	Park and Woodland WG	31/08/2026	Outstanding	Awaiting quote for site clearance and analysis of Q from survey to inform discussion.
2605	Relocate picnic benches to play area	Park and Woodland WG	30/06/2026	Outstanding	On Ranger job list
2606	Develop options for a shelter	Park and Woodland WG	31/03/2027	Outstanding	
2607	Improve basketball area	Park and Woodland WG	31/12/2026	Outstanding	Replacement backboard and hoop awaiting installation.
2608	Develop planting in orchard area	Park and Woodland WG	31/03/2027	Outstanding	
2609	Clean and repaint the iron finger post	Park and Woodland WG	30/06/2026	Outstanding	On Ranger job list
2610	Create a bug hotel	Park and Woodland WG	31/10/2026	Outstanding	
2611	Plant additional woodland flowering bulbs	Park and Woodland WG	31/10/2026	Outstanding	
2612	Develop a communications strategy	Communications WG	30/09/2026	Outstanding	
2613	Develop six areas of councillor knowledge over the year	Clerk / Members	31/05/2026	Outstanding	Awaiting councillors to complete surveys.
2614	Develop PROW improvement plan	Footpaths WG	30/06/2026	Outstanding	
2615	Identify desirable permissive path routes	Footpaths WG	31/07/2026	Outstanding	
2616	Explore the submission of DMMO applications to register new PROW	Footpaths WG	31/08/2026	Outstanding	
2617	Undertake an accessibility audit of the parish	TBD	31/12/2026	Outstanding	
2618	Undertake a survey crossing points to identify areas for improvement	TBD	31/07/2026	Outstanding	

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

OCTOBER 2026

Action Ref	Creation Date	Source	Subject	Description	Responsible	Minute Ref	Priority	Status	Activity Log / Notes
2011		Discussion	Parish Paths / Walk Leaflet	Development of reworked Parish Paths Booklet	Cllr Woods / Gawsworth Hub		Low	In Progress	Text drafted, Clerk to work up publishable and web version.
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	In Progress	Survey issued to members – only Cllrs Hardy, Webb and Woods have completed to date.
2411	08/04/25	Decision	Danes Moss Sunken Lane	To be surveyed	Clerk	24/179	Low	In Progress	Surveyed, to be written up.
2502	12/08/25	Discussion	Funders signs for park	Awaiting installation	Clerk		Medium	In Progress	Awaiting installation.
2509	11/11/25	Decision	Community Orchard Information Board	Sign being designed	Clerk		Medium	In Progress	Currently being designed
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	Awaiting install date from CEC
2512	10/02/26	Decision	Replacement Trees to be planted	Gawsworth Park	Clerk	25/143	Medium	In Progress	Will be procured for autumn planting.