Gawsworth Parish Council

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Minutes

of the council meeting held

Tuesday 20th October 2026 in the Gawsworth Village Hall

26/089 PRESENT

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

A Keppel-Green (Clerk)

26/090 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

26/091 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Hardy and Richards declared a prejudicial interest in 26/093 as members of the Parochial Church Council.

26/092 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke in relation to the proposed Penningtons Lane development stating they had counted cars with 130-200 cars turning into Penningtons Lane from Congleton Road per day, and that a new estate in Macclesfield of 152 houses has around 97 car movements in the same period.

A resident asked what was discussed with Asteer Planning when the council with them. Cllr Webb advised it was an online meeting, where the council raised the concerns highlighted by the community including flooding, traffic and water supply. Cllr Webb stated she felt Asteer were listening to the concerns raised and liaising with Cheshire East Council regarding traffic.

A resident referred to a Supreme Court decision of 2017 which found against Cheshire East Council then due to a lack of a five-year housing land supply. They further stated that the local plan is the document which will guide decisions, and that the NPPF is guidance.

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26/093 FUTURE OF BURIAL PROVISION

Cllrs Hardy and Richards were given opportunity to make a statement to the council before they withdrew from the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Shepherd preside over this item.

Reverend Colin Wilson, Rector of St James Church, was invited to address the meeting. Rev Wilson explained that the land sought for an extension was originally glebe land and that all such lands were transferred from parishes to the dioceses in the 1970s. The Chester Diocese had agreed to sell the land to the Church for £30,000 and a resident has offered to donate £25,000 to the Church towards this; the Church can fund the £5,000 balance to acquire the land.

Rev Wilson highlighted that the churchyard operates at a deficit but the PCC had agreed to extend the churchyard if the Parish Council committed to underwriting the costs of maintaining the extension. It was stated the extension could be delivered in phases and that he was confident the community would deliver in-kind support to significantly reduce the necessary set up costs.

Rev Wilson took questions from the council, and it was confirmed that the PCC would continue to be responsible for maintaining the existing churchyard and that it would bear responsibility for funding and securing planning permission and necessary consents.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council fund the maintenance of the churchyard extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to a formal agreement being approved, to give a perpetual undertaking to fund the maintenance of the churchyard extension subject to the agreement setting out that the specification and costs shall be reviewed from time-to-time by the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council and set by mutual agreement with both parties acting reasonably.

Cllrs Hardy and Richards rejoined the meeting.

26/094 PENNINGTONS LANE DEVELOPMENT

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the pre-application consultation highlighting the following:

- significant concern that the proposed access is from Penningtons Lane which is not designed for the level of traffic, even if widened
- concern that without a properly designed link road first, developments will frequently cut across Penningtons Lane degrading the use of the road for users
- concern over the impact on surface water drainage and flooding which occurs
- concern over the impact the development will have on surrounding properties in terms of amenity and overlooking, with the need for strong buffers

- concern over the adequacy of the water and sewerage system/supply
- disappointment at the lack of amenity/facilities provided
- uncertainty as to the impact the development will have on the Danes Moss SSSI
- the increase in light and noise pollution from the development
- the need for the preservation of veteran trees on the site

26/095 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held 8th September.

26/096 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Wilson, Puddicombe and Smetham.

Cllrs Wilson and Puddicombe submitted a report which stated that the recent announcement on Peak Cluster was welcomed for Gawsworth but there continued to be uncertainty about the proposal and misinformation; the councillors continue to be lobbied by those expressing support for carbon capture and storage and whilst they supported the motion at Cheshire East Council to oppose the project at this time, they emphasise it is an early stage and future proposals will need to be considered appropriately.

The report further noted that the Penningtons Lane proposals were at an early stage and that they have received a number of emails in objection but remind objectors to ensure they are also sent to the developer. The councillors have made their own comments regarding affordable housing, infrastructure and highways improvements needed, but would not wish to comment further publicly in case they need to sit on committees deciding applications in due course.

Cllr Smetham had submitted report highlighting that the council had been required to change its constitution to implement changes to decision making in planning, with government preventing many types of application being determined by committees and instead requiring their delegation to officers.

26/097 PEAK CLUSTER PIPELINE

It was noted that a revised route had been published which significantly reduces the direct impact of the line on Gawsworth. Cllrs Shepherd and Webb have booked to attend a 'pipeline conversation' meeting with Cheshire East Council on 13th November.

Cllr Hollinshead undertook to meet with a farmer who is particularly affected by the change in route.

26/098 FINANCE

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

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 1st April)	692.34
A Keppel-Green	Reimbursements (mileage, stamps)	70.60
	Total	**6,541.71**

The receipts since the previous meeting were noted.

The notice of conclusion of the external audit was noted and the Clerk explained the error in the original accounting statements related to the figure for the fixed asset register in the previous year.

26/099 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

It was noted that the cost of replacing the arch was just over £2,000.

It was agreed to instead look to install additional lighting around the Pleasance which could be installed locally and reused annually.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a budget of £800 for the purchase of lights for the Pleasance and Penningtons Lane Christmas tree.

26/100 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was reported that the traffic management for the road closure had previously been undertaken by volunteers, who were no longer willing to do it and it had been referred to the parish council to facilitate. The Clerk reported that the previous arrangement seemed to have been informal without legal authority to close the road, and that for the council to do it, it needed appropriate traffic management.

It was noted that either professional traffic management would be arranged, or a councillor would undertake the necessary training to implement it.

26/101 PARISH MATTERS

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The following matters were raised:

- The litterbin by the A536/Harrington Arms was overflowing
- The village sign was still awaiting repair
- A hedge along Gawsworth Road requires cutting as the height is clipping vehicles/causing them to drive in the centre of the road
- A building is being constructed off Woodhouse End Road and it is uncertain as to whether there is planning permission

26/102 STRATEGIC PLAN, PARISH MAINTENANCE AND ACTIONS LOGS

The logs were noted.

26/103 QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

The clerk responded to a question advising that no further correspondence regarding CIL had been received from Cheshire East Council, but the council had received a payment in respect of another development.

The clerk confirmed the deadline for submitting articles for the November Gazette would be 28th October.

26/104 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present. The clerk read comments on the Facebook stream which included uncertainty as to requirements for formal traffic management qualifications to undertake road closures, disappointment that the arch would not be renewed and queries on the churchyard.

26/105 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday 10th November 2026.

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