

**WESTON AND CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 MAY 2023**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Anne Broome, Janet Chamberlain, John Cornell, John Densem, Steve Edgar, Anneline Kiddie, Alex Lewis and Rennie Schafer.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Councillor Janet Clowes and 7 Members of the Public.

23/001 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Cllr Densem be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year.

23/002 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Cllr Cornell be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing municipal year.

23/003 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

RESOLVED – that Mark Robinson be appointed as Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer of the Council.

23/004 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Chambers

23/005 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Edgar declared an interest in the Item relating to payments and took no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in Planning Applications 23/1143N and 23/1438N and took no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

23/006 VACANCIES

Following the Parish Council elections, the Clerk confirmed that there were four vacancies on the Parish Council. Any vacancies should be filled within 35 days of the election, therefore, Co-option would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

23/007 APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – that the Planning Committee comprises:

Cllrs Cornell (Chairman), Chambers (Vice-Chairman), Broome, Densem, Kiddie and Lewis.

23/008 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Clerk advised that the General Power of Competence granted Councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it was not prohibited by other legislation. The Parish Council was compliant with the necessary qualifications.

RESOLVED – that the Council adopts the General Power of Competence, as set out in the Localism Act 2011.

23/009 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councillors noted the minutes of the Crewe Green Parish Council held on 20 March and the Weston and Basford Parish Council held on 23 March.

23/010 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The provision of a defibrillator in Crewe Green would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

23/011 INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

The Clerk advised that the Information Commissioner's Office had directed the Council to undertake an internal review of the Council's response to a Freedom of Information request relating to spending in Wychwood Village. It was agreed that the review would be undertaken by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, with an update provided to the next meeting.

23/012 NEW COUNCIL

The Clerk outlined the forthcoming work programme required as a result of the establishment of the new Council. This included a new Council website domain, changing the name on the noticeboards and the revision of the Council's policies and procedures.

23/013 PLANNING MATTERS

1) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Cornell provided an update on the modification of the made Weston and Basford Neighbourhood Plan, following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and Cheshire East Council's Site Allocation and Development Policies Document. It was hoped to move to Regulation 15 submission in the near future and once the modifications had been completed, then consideration would be given to extending the Plan to include Crewe Green.

2) HS2

Weston and Basford Parish Council had submitted an objection to Planning Application 23/1335N which related to proposed HS2 works on sites north of Hough. Borough Cllr Clowes advised that she intended to call-in this application as it was considered that HS2 was not acting in accordance with the agreed letters of assurance.

3) Meeting with Cheshire East Planning Officers re MUSE Development (23/0593N)
Weston and Basford Parish Council had submitted objections regarding this application and met with the planning officers to convey these concerns. There was particular concern that all of the proposed developments would be accessing David Whitby Way using only one roundabout and the overuse of warehousing in the proposals. It was noted that there had been no further information regarding the South Cheshire Growth Village.

4) Planning Applications

Councillors received an update on decisions by the Parish Council's Planning Committee, Planning Inspectorate and Cheshire East Council.

23/014 HIGH SPEED BROADBAND – ENGLESEA BROOK AREA

Cllr Chamberlain advised that the cost of the scheme had reduced considerably and Openreach had commenced the required surveys required to progress the scheme. However, there were ongoing delays caused by BDUK.

23/015 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Cllr Schafer provided an update on Village Hall issues and confirmed that the Hall had regular weekly bookings on six evenings per week. The Committee's AGM would be held on 26 May.

23/016 REPORTS OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Borough Cllr Clowes referred to delays caused by Cheshire East Council in progressing the arbitration process between the Borough Council and landowner relating to Wychwood Village. There was also no update regarding the Traffic Regulation Order. There was also concern that the complaint from the residents'

group had not been submitted to Cheshire East.

23/017 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Edgar advised that he would be re-commencing the weed spraying and the Council authorised the purchase of additional weedkiller.

Cllr Kiddie referred to the condition of the glass on the Weston noticeboard and the Chairman confirmed that this would be reviewed shortly. There were also a number of obscured / damaged signs that required fixing. Councillors welcomed the report that the recent fete had been such a success and raised £1,800.

Cllr Lewis referred to the issues with the street lighting in Crewe Green. Cllr Edgar referred to the forthcoming receipt of CIL monies which would be utilised on refurbishment of the lights.

Cllrs Cornell and Densem had presented a shield to pupils at Weston Primary School as a special award for sports day winners.

The Clerk was asked to submit a formal request to Cllr Edgar for a dog waste bin to be sited in Englesea Brook. Cllrs Cornell and Edgar would liaise regarding a blocked drain in Englesea Brook.

23/018 OPEN FORUM – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A discussion ensued regarding the poor condition of a number of drains, which Cllr Edgar agreed to review.

23/019 FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk outlined the Council's current financial position and advised that the initial precept payment would be sought from Cheshire East Council.

Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be authorised:

Payee	Reason	Amount £
All Saints PCC	Room Hire 22/23	390.00
Johnsons Printers	Community Newsletter	400.00
Thomson Planning Partnership	Advice re MUSE Development	180.00
Mark Robinson	Clerk's salary & office expenses	1,212.74
Cheshire East CVS	Membership	100.00
Steven Edgar	Flowers for the Council	259.29
Scottish Power *	Street Lighting	187.25
Denise French *	Council Handover	155.75
HMRC *	PAYE	38.80

* ratification of payments made from Crewe Green PC account before its closure.

Banking

Councillors were advised that a bank account with Unity Trust Bank had been set up, at a cost of £72 per year.

23/020 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 08 June 2023, commencing at 7.30pm at the Weston Church Hall.