

**WESTON AND CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2024**

PRESENT:

Councillors: John Densem (Chair), Paul Bate, Anne Broome, Janet Chamberlain, John Chambers, John Cornell, Alison Heler, Annelene Kiddie and Rennie Schafer.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Janet Clowes and four members of the public.

At the commencement of the meeting, there was one minute's silence in respect of remembrance and former Cllr Steve Gladden.

24/054 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

It was noted that Cllrs Edgar and Lewis had resigned from the Parish Council. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Parish Council for the contributions that both Councillors had made to the Council.

24/055 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24/056 CO-OPTION

RESOLVED – that Alison Heler be co-opted onto the Parish Council as a Councillor for Crewe Green ward.

24/057 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

24/058 PLANNING MATTERS

1) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Cornell provided feedback from the Steering Group meeting held on 08 November 2024. The key areas of discussion were –

Cheshire Wildlife Trust – the ecological appraisals were being finalised and the final draft document was awaited.

AECOM – the design guide was being developed in accordance with the new national model.

Crewe Green – an article on the Neighbourhood Plan had been published in the Community News, although these had not yet been delivered to Crewe Green.

Exhibitions – Two exhibitions would be held in early 2025 for public engagement on the Plan.

2) South Cheshire Growth Village

Discussions were ongoing regarding the traffic mitigation proposals relating to this development.

3) Planning Committee Decisions

App No	Application	Decision
24/3636N	Demolition of existing single storey side extension and construction of single storey front and side extension at 21 Mere Road, Weston	No objection subject to consultation with neighbours
24/3633N	Development flags to be erected on highway land adjacent to the roundabout on David Whitby Way on Land to the West of David Whitby Way, Basford East, Crewe	Objection – as will create sign clutter on this junction and become a distraction to highway users

24/3632N	The removal and replacement of 5no. existing signs, the erection of 2no. new signs and the installation of 22no. lamp post banners on Land at Basford East, David Whitby Way Link West, Basford	Objection – detrimental to amenity and highway safety
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24/059 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr Chambers updated the meeting on the revision of the Plan. It had been sent to Councillors for consideration and Cllr Heler was asked to provide additional information regarding Crewe Green.

24/060 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

It was noted that the security lighting had been installed and the Hall would be repainted in the coming months. The Christmas lights would be erected soon.

24/061 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk provided a summary of the police incidents across the Parish Council area, noting the report from the Haslington PCSO had not been received again.

24/062 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

The local council award scheme existed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and provided a framework to support all local Councils to meet their full potential. There were three levels of achievement, with the foundation level (bronze) demonstrating that a council met the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.

Councillors agreed with that the Council should apply to attain an award, and it was suggested that the silver award should be a more appropriate goal for the Council, as this would demonstrate that a council achieved good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

RESOLVED – that the Council applies to the Local Council Award Scheme in order to achieve the Silver Award within the next two years.

24/063 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION

Councillors reviewed the ward boundary proposals for Cheshire East Council, which would result in a one member ward for Weston. Whilst the Parish Council was generally supportive of this in principle, there were two points of contention on the proposals.

The proposal would result in Wychwood Park and Wychwood Village being in different wards. It was suggested that as these should remain in the same ward given they were viewed as one community. Cllr Schafer agreed to provide suitable text for inclusion in the Parish Council’s submission. Borough Cllr Clowes commented that where amendments were suggested to proposals, the Boundary Commission would expect suggested changes elsewhere in the ward to ensure that the elector numbers for the ward were maintained.

There was also an historic issue where the boundary of Crewe Green ran through a number of houses and gardens along Sydney Road and it was suggested that the boundary should be moved to the road.

RESOLVED – that the Parish Council submits the following comments to the consultation:-

- Support for the creation of a one member ward for Weston;
- Objects to the separation of Wychwood Village and Wychwood Park;
- Proposes the re-alignment of the boundary on Sydney Road to be moved away from residential curtilages.

24/064 REPORTS OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Borough Cllr Heler referred to the following-

- The quotes for the Crewe Green streetlight repairs would be received this week from the Borough Council.
- Discussions had been held regarding the trigger for the S106 monies for the new Weston cemetery extension. It was suggested that a meeting of Borough and Parish Councillors and Borough Council Officers be undertaken as a matter of priority.
- The continuation of the white lining of Main Road would be scheduled.
- With regards the parking cameras on the White Lion car park, the Enforcement officer was considering whether this constituted a change of use and Cllr Cornell agreed to provide further information.

Borough Cllr Clowes referred to the proposal by Cheshire East Council to charge Parish Councils for all costs associated with the Parish Council element of Combined Borough and Parish Council elections. There was uncertainty regarding the actual financial impact of this and it would apply even in uncontested elections, although to a lesser amount. Further information would be expected shortly, but Parish Councils would need to consider the establishment of a reserve to cover these costs, with the next scheduled Combined elections being in 2027.

24/065 PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Schafer agreed to advise Borough Cllr Clowes of the location of the malfunctioning streetlamp, although it was likely that this was the responsibility of the developer.

Cllr Chambers referred to the forthcoming meeting with Lovells regarding Weston Woods as works were ongoing to complete the developer's responsibilities.

It was noted that Snape Lane would be closed on 19 November 2024.

The Lengthsman was asked to remove the graffiti from Basford Bridge.

Cllr Kiddie referred to the offer of two planters to replace two which had been stolen. It was agreed that the Council would support the provision of any plants.

24/066 OPEN FORUM – QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public referred to the response from D&G buses regarding the issues reported at a recent meeting. There were a number of points still outstanding and responses to these would be sought.

24/067 FINANCE REPORT

Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be authorised:

Payee	Reason	Gross £
Scottish Power *	Electricity	444.64
Zoom	Subscription (VAT element)	25.98
Mark Robinson	Salary and expenses (October)	1,155.31
Mark Murphy	Crewe Green Garden	245.00
Johnsons Printers	Community Newsletter	666.00
Andrew Thomson	Neighbourhood Plan	54.00
John Cornell	Neighbourhood Plan – printing costs	78.43
John Cornell	Planning Resource	555.00

24/068 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Thursday, 12 December 2024 at All Saints Church Hall, Weston