MINUTES OF A MEETING OFWISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 19.30

AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr. B. Squirrell (Chairman)

Cllrs. D. Lucas, M..Simon, M. Scarpa, E. Tatton, and N Devi

In Attendance Sarah Turnbull (Clerk) and 2 Cheshire Police Officers

42. APOLOGIES Cllrs. J. Robinson, D. Millington, J. Moore, G. Roberts and A. Coiley

43. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2026, be amended to include the correct name of Cllr D Millington and note that Cllr M Simon attended the meeting and be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / POLICE MATTERS / CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

The Police provided a report including updates on dealing with drug activity in Wistaston and issues with e-bikes and requested that the public report via 101 or online including make, model and anything that helps to identify the bikes and riders. Councillors asked questions including regular bike users not having lights at night or wearing helmets the Police suggested we include notices on the council website and social media; they can provide posters to assist encouraging riders to have the correct protection. Councillors asked what area the officers cover and they confirmed that it is Wistaston but they are extracted to other areas when required and our covers 3 areas locally.

Cllr Simon warned about scam text messages and the police officers confirmed that there are many scams now and to be aware and check everything. Cllr. Simon reported that Princess Drive is to be micro-surfaced along with Colleys Lane, both of which will come from the ward budget. After discussion about 30mph speed signs that are missing on Middlewich Road, Cllr. Tatton commented that they were removed during road works and not replaced, Cllr. Simon to investigate with CE. There have been a lot of bins not collected recently along with problems following the changes to who is collecting the larger items from residential properties. There have been complaints about the new Go To Bus which replaced the Flexi Bus as users can no longer block book in advance and this is causing problems. The A534 Crewe Road has a sunken bit of road that appears to have a temporary repair which is being monitored.

46. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Planning Applications
Planning views following consultation with Planning Subcommittee

26/2961/HOUS 62 Millrace Drive, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 6XA
Single storey rear extension bedroom and wet room
SUPPORT with no comments

26/2728/HOUS 18 Wistaston Green Road, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 8QH
Detached Double Garage
OBJECTED as in front of the house building line

26/2814/HOUS 441 Crewe Road, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 6QU
Demolish Garage and build new garage, demolish conservatory and build rear single storey extension for disabled use.
SUPPORT with additional comments in support

26/2848/HOUS Ash Cottage, Alvaston Court, Middlewich Road, CW5 6PE
Ground floor rear extension
SUPPORT with no comments

(ii) The following planning decisions have been notified from Cheshire East Council

26/2313/HOUS 591 Crewe Road, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 6PU
Single storey side extension & proposed single storey rear extension
APPROVED with conditions

26/2236/HOUS 15 Patterdale Close, Wistaston CW2 8NX
Single storey extension to rear & part garage conversion
APPROVED with conditions

26/2239/HOUS 3 Sandylands Park, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 8HE
Single storey side extension to form new garage
APPROVED with conditions

26/1507/FUL St Marys Catholic School Crewe
Resurface external play area
APPROVED with conditions

26/1788/HOUS 36 Princess Drive, Wistaston, Crewe CW2 8HS
APPEAL by applicant to decision

All the recommendations of the Planning Sub Committee were accepted.

47. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr. Squirrell read the Chairman's Report including the resignation of Diane Houston and the thanks passed to her from the council. The forthcoming Police Cluster meeting arranged by Willaston Parish Council and the need for a representative to attend. Cllr. Tatton offered and later in the meeting Cllr. Scarpa was added to attend too. The Chairmans Report was accepted.

48. CLERK'S REPORT

Council gave **APPROVAL** for the AGAR, annual return to be completed via a Digital AGAR Portal in 2027.

The External Audit has been completed for the financial years 2025/26 at a cost of £315.00 plus VAT (funded from Line 10 Audit fees) which is due for payment this month. There was 1 'except for' item as follows:

- Section 1 Assertion 10 has been completed incorrectly. No publication scheme has been adopted and, as a result, the council is in breach of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is consistent with the Internal Auditor's response to Internal Control Objection O.

The documents have been displayed on the main noticeboard and website.
The Council **ENDORSEMENT** was given

Council **APPROVED** the grants request policy prepared by Cllr. Tatton. Council **APPROVED** the short form Request for Grant Aid prepared by the clerk to be used in 2027 for all groups applying for grant aid. The clerk has advised groups this year that the system will change next year and has requested an earlier date for return for requests this year. Council **APRROVED** the request to bring the budget and planning meetings forward to assist with preparation if possible and if required.

The clerk provided an update for information about Joey the Swan area and confirmed that the playground and equipment had now been cleaned very successfully, the gate to the play area has been repaired by the Contractors with no charge, and an Asian Hornets nest was dealt with the week before the Duck Race.

Council **APPROVED** the order of 2 wreaths for Remembrance Sunday and the donation to the British Legion as per previous years.

The clerk confirmed that it is each councillor's responsibility to declare any gifts and hospitality to the Monitoring Officer.

Clerk requested an additional item be added and it was agreed, clerk explained that a routine repair of the wood planks at Hinging Bank need replacement and was being dealt and alternative option was provided by the park ranger but at an increased cost, wood £525 or plasteco wood £1,505.00 Council **APPROVED** the higher, longer life material subject to a none slip surface and being fitted by the park ranger and conservation team.

The Clerk's report was accepted.

49. FINANCE

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Accounts for Jul 2026 totalling £5,329.95 and August 2025 totalling £5,507.22. The Receipts and Payments Statement for Jul / Aug 2026 have been approved.

50. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

WSLA. Cllr Squirrell reported that as usual during the summer there have been fewer bookings, but this has allowed for electrical maintenance work to be carried out. Following complaints about noise a monitoring exercise was carried out and suggestions made to the hirers. They are having problems with the renewal of their domain name and this is being looked into to resolve. WSLA have asked Wistaston Parish Councillors to consider joining their committee as they can have up to 4 councillors represented on their committee.

Community Council News & Events – Cllr Tatton and Cllr Devi advised the next meeting falls after this council meeting, in August it was reported that the new yellow gazebos had arrived, the Flower & Produce Show was a success but a request to advertise it more was suggested by a member of the public, Cllr Tatton is to set up a Instagram account for them. They have provided funding in the community including £300 for a pathway for disabled access at the Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club. There were concerns initially about a lack of water for the Duck Race, however the event went very well and was well attended, and they received a lot of positive feedback. Council agreed that Cllr Devi is to be the new representative for the parish council at the Community News and Events meetings.

Memorial Hall – Cllr Squirrell reported that they are awaiting the outcome of the planning application for the rebuild following completion of the environmental and bat surveys. The signing of the new leases with the Bowling Club and Tennis Club are still being dealt with but moving forward. Cllr. Tatton reported that Cllr. Squirrell is dealing with a new online booking system for next year with access via the website to view availability. A councillor is required to provide a report to the council and Cllr. Tatton agreed, noting that the meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month.

51. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The reports from Cllr Roberts and Cllr Lucas for August and September 2026 were received and accepted. Regarding replacement of wood on the paths at Hinging Bank this has already been discussed earlier in the meeting and quotations are in hand and the clerk will check with the park ranger about the wheel at Beech Drive mentioned on the September report.

52. Replacement of the finance chair was requested but, in the meantime, to meet our financial regulations another councillor is required to authorise payments and Cllr. Scarpa agreed.

53. Request for a policy for council training was discussed and the first draft provided is to be amended by Cllr. Scarpa. It was agreed that the Receipts & Payments document would have an additional line added specifically f. The clerk is to request from Chalc suggestions of how a training budget and policy is usually managed by parish councils. Clerk noted that previously training for councillors shared by email and approved by council.

Council **APPROVED** that a second draft be prepared and to add a line to the R&P

54. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC RESOLVED**: That the Press Public be excluded during consideration of the additional item not included on the Agenda. Pursuant of Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the act.

Council **ENDORSED** the Clerk and Park Ranger salary review

The meeting closed at 20.48