

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 19.30

AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr. J. Moore (Chairman)

Cllrs B Squirrell, D Millington, G. Roberts, D Lucas, M.Simon, D Houston, J Robinson, V Shaw, K Garner and M Scarpa

In Attendance Sarah Turnbull (Clerk) Borough Cllr Alan Coiley and 2 members of the public.

42. APOLOGIES None

43. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2025, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / POLICE MATTERS / CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon has been involved as follows, she has responded to the members of the public that complained about the lack of response from the planning department at Cheshire East, being that all comments are noted and not replied to. In the past Cheshire East cleared the pathway between Crewe Road and Merrivale Close and is need of attention. Assistance was provided with a neighbour dispute. The new TRACE reporting tool is being used but is not for reporting utility type problems. Bin collection problems have been resolved following contact by a member of the public. Noted that the planning details are awaited following the pre-application notice for new housing. Consultations are accessed online with Cheshire East for any comments. Whilst at Crewe Fire Station Cllr Simon met the new Wistaston police officer, PC Halliwell. Cllr Roberts asked about what CE has in place around housing provision, Cllr Simon reported that CE has written to the housing minister to object to the increase and to slow the process down and avoid the loss of Cheshire farmland.

Cllr Scarpa suggested that the new TRACE reporting tool would be more easily accessible via an APP and is Cllr Simon able to put this suggestion to CE along with the resolve period being reduced as it may put people off using it. Can all the road signs that are hidden by trees and branches be fixed together to avoid reporting separately, Cllr Scarpa has reported the sign on Jubilee Bridge. Cllr Simon will raise these points.

Cllr Coiley advised that he is willing to raise residents' concerns around planning for new houses including drainage, roads, transport, cycle routes and GP's and hospitals. New bus routes are in place; the TRACE system is not fully operational but is working. Fly tipping has been removed from the cycle and footpath along Middlewich Road recently. Devolution passed this week with a large representation from the business sector which he attended. Cllr Coiley helped at the Wistaston Community Duck Race in September.

The Chairman welcomed the two applicants to the council meeting and asked them to introduce themselves as an addition to the resumes already provided with the council papers.

Eleanor Tatton has lived in Wistaston all her life and sits on the Memorial Hall Committee and is passionate about the area and the work of the council and supports vulnerable people.

Tallal McLean lives very close to the Wistaston border and complimented the council on how well the area is looked after, he explained that he is a hardworking person that wants to support the council and serve the community where he hopes to move to soon.

46. PLANNING MATTERS

All the recommendations of the Planning Sub Committee were accepted.

47. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman explained the history of speedwatch in Wistaston and that now we have the opportunity of joining with local councils to work together with the police. It was noted the Cllr Shaw has recently completed the speedwatch training and wants to be involved.

The June 2025 crimes were reported and discussed. Cllr Houston noted that a person has been arrested following a recent house burglary near Church Lane.

The Chairmans Report was accepted.

48. CLERK'S REPORT

Council **APPROVED** 5 memorial tree requests following an incorrect calculation. The clerk is to contact those on the list as soon as possible with the new information.

Council **ENDORSED** the work carried out to cut back tree branches between the Scout Centre and Field Lane in August 2025.

The Council **ENDORSED** the work carried out in August to clear a very overgrown footpath between Crewe Road and Merrivale Road following complaints, noted that this is not parish council land and does not belong to Cheshire East and needs to be approved by council in the future if work is required.

Council **APPROVED** a quotation from Cheshire East to repair a streetlight off Middlewich Road, due to the high cost of the repair Cllrs Simon and Coiley are going to query this with CE first. The Clerk is to obtain a response from CE before placing the order.

Council **APPROVED** a reply to the Freedom of Information request for a property in Beech Drive for the clerk to acknowledge the request and provide timeline for the information to be found and provided. Cllrs Garner and Scarpa offered to assist with the Chairman and Cllrs Squirrell and Roberts who have already provided history around the property.

The Clerk's report was accepted.

49. FINANCE

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Accounts for Jul 2025 totalling £4,777.98 and August 2025 totalling £3,001.49. The Receipts and Payments Statement for Jul / Aug 2025 have been approved.

50. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

WSLA. Cllr Squirrell reported that as usual August was a quiet month for bookings, but all is now back to normal. The cricket club have the practice nets in place. Kelvin Mellor negotiations are still on going around the new MUGA and he is looking into the arrangements around the drainage. The roof repairs have now been carried out.

Community Council – Cllr Moore was unable to attend the recent meeting and noted that we are looking for a new member to represent the council at the Community Council meetings and become involved. Cllr Squirrell noted that the Duck Race this month was excellent and possibly one of the best. Councillors are to email the clerk if they want to represent the council with this group.

Memorial Hall – Cllr Houston reported that it was a quiet August for bookings but now back to normal and fully booked including a new Baby Ballet class. CCTV has now been installed by Eleanor Tatton with more CCTV to be fitted in the car park. The change in title is still in hand and approval is awaited and this is needed before the rebuild can move forward. Community Consultations were held in August including 2 open days and meetings with neighbors. The open day sessions were well attended with positive responses and only 1 negative response given with false contact details. They are working through suggestions given such as how to improve the car park entrance and exit, Cllr Roberts suggest looking at the Highways or Roads manual for guidance on driveways. Eleanor Tatton has joined the new build team, taking this to 7 and this group is working with the Architect.

51. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The reports from Cllr Squirrell and Cllr Lucas for August and September 2025 were received and accepted. Comments requiring attention were dealt with by the Park Ranger. The Chairman requested that the new councillors become part of the environmental inspection rota and should join one of the existing members to be shown the route. Clerk to contact councillors and arrange the new rota.

52. CO-OPTION OF CASUAL VACANCY – A vote was taken with applicant Eleanor Tatton accepted to join the Council subject to completion of the necessary documents. Council **APPROVED** the co-option.

Cllr Alan Coiley and 2 members of the public left the meeting at 20.38

Council **APPROVED** and additional items as below.

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 20.40.