

**CHURCH MINSHULL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2025**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Bob Schiller (Chairman), Cllr Brian Charlesworth, Cllr Jill Dobson, Cllr Sharon Kynaston, Cllr Nigel Lewis, and Cllr Mark Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Two members of the public.

**24/059 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**24/060 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Boote and Borough Cllr Becky Posnett.

**24/061 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**24/062 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

One member of the public referred to the garden flooding issues at their property, which had occurred more frequently over the past twelve months. It was suggested that the problem was exacerbated by the condition of a culvert on the other side of the riverbank, which had become overgrown. Councillors detailed their efforts in obtaining support from the Environment Agency, Cheshire East Council and other agencies regarding flooding in the village. To try to improve the situation, it was agreed that Cllr Schiller would liaise with the Environment Agency and Cllr Charlesworth would liaise with the landowner of the culvert.

The applicant from planning application 24/4617/FUL attended the meeting to discuss details of the application.

**24/063 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a true and correct record.

**24/064 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

There was no update. The Clerk was asked to obtain updates on a number of ongoing issues.

**24/065 FLOODING AND RIVER POLLUTION**

This had been discussed during Public Participation.

**24/066 HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Councillors discussed the large pothole that was causing problems on Over Road to the north of the village. It was noted that this had been logged on FixMyStreet, although Cheshire East Council had indicated that they would inspect the site within 20 working days.

Cllr Smith advised that no response had been received from Cheshire East Council regarding Public Footpath Number 4 and the Clerk was asked to contact the officer again.

It was noted that the sign in the 'chicane' on the south of the village had still not been repaired.

Cllr Lewis advised that he would seek a response from the Public Rights of Way team

regarding the obstruction to the footpath in Eardswick woods.

#### 24/067 PLANNING APPLICATION

App	Description	Decision
24/4617/FUL	Change of use of agricultural land and erection of up to 29 holiday lodges and 1 x managers cabin along with the creation of four ponds, internal access roads, associated parking, drainage, landscaping and ancillary storage at Aqueduct Marina	No objection

#### 24/068 VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr Lewis advised that a group of residents had formed a roster for the inspection of the defibrillator.

#### 24/069 BIODIVERSITY

Councillors discussed supporting the Great British Birdwatch and River watch.

#### 24/070 FINANCE REPORT

##### Payments

RESOLVED – that the following payments be approved:

Payee	Reason	Total	VAT	Net
St Bart's Church *	Room Hire	35.00		35.00
ICO *	Data Protection Fee	35.00		35.00
St Bart's Church	Room Hire	55.00		55.00

\* ratification

##### Speed Indicator Device (SID)

There was currently £2,200 in the budget for the purchase of a SID. However, Cheshire East Council had advised that their costs associated with permission and siting would take the overall cost to in excess of £4,000. It was noted that a SID recorded speeds but there was no enforcement functionality. This matter was deferred to the next financial year.

##### Local Council Award Scheme

The Clerk had circulated information regarding the Award Scheme, which contained three separate awards. The bronze award demonstrated that a council met the requirements for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. It was agreed to apply for the bronze award.

##### Budget and Precept 2025/26

Councillors reviewed the draft budget and precept options for the next financial year. Further information had been provided by Cheshire East Council regarding election fees for Combined Elections, the next being in May 2027. There would be no charge for uncontested elections and the estimate for a contested election is £259.00.

The draft budget was in the sum of £8,321.44. The precept in the current year was £6,500. Given the increase in potential costs associated with elections, and to provide the flexibility to purchase a SID or other village improvements in the forthcoming year, it was suggested that the precept be raised to £7,000, which would equate to an additional 84p per year (at Band D level).

RESOLVED – that:-

- i) The budget be approved as set out in the report in the sum of £8,321.44.
- ii) The precept be in the sum of £7,000

**24/071 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS**

Village Hall

Councillors referred to the communication from the Village Hall Trustees, which advised that “It has, regrettably, become very clear that the funds necessary for the planned redevelopment of the Village Hall will not become available in the foreseeable future, despite the valiant efforts of the various members of the sub-committee.” Thanks were conveyed to the Parish Council for their support in this project. Remedial works would, therefore, be necessary to improve the longevity of the Hall, with maintenance of the soakaways being investigated.

**24/072 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 11 March 2025 at St Bart's Church