

HENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026, 7.30 pm at St Thomas Church Hall.

Part 1 Public and Press present

Present

Councillor Mike Wood (MW)
Councillor David Nuttall (DN)
Councillor Simon Browne (SB)
Cllr Lesley Smetham LS (Cheshire East)
Sue Loxham-Clerk (SL)

1 member of public was present Mr A Heathcote (resident).

Public Forum

26/01 Apologies for absence.

Councillor Jane Beeken JBE due to medical issue

Resignation

Cllr Mike Wood announced the resignation of Cllr Janet Bailey JB. He said that Janet would be sadly missed. She has worked tirelessly for the council for many years providing the council with not only valuable farming knowledge but also a keen eye for detail.

26/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr SB is a member of the Millennium Green Committee

26/03 Minutes of last meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the chair.

26/04 PCSO/Beat Managers Report

PCSO was circulated prior to the meeting and no issues were highlighted.

26/05 Cheshire East (CE)

The following items were discussed and addressed where possible

- NPPF is still being discussed to discover what is meant by Grey Belt
- CE has rejected the Adlington New Town development, but the government can still override the decision.
- Planning sessions are to be offered to parish council
- Cllr LS has been checking the S106 report and although S106 money has been generated within the Henbury Parish, Henbury will not directly benefit within the parish as it does not have the infrastructure where it would be used i.e. schools, medical facilities etc.
- Prior to the meeting Cllr LS circulated that CE has a CIL/S106 team. Cllr MW to raise a request for greater clarity on CIL money

26/06 Status Update on Major Development & 26/07 Highways & Road Safety

Bellway no new developments

Redrow/Jones development will start the construction of new roundabout on A537 on 22nd January 2026. Signs have now been erected. Cllr MW will be attending a meeting on 15th January with the developers and other CE councillors to discuss the impact of the disruption and full closure for a week starting 6th April. As there was no set agenda, he has sent a list of questions prior to the meeting which he hopes will be addressed.

26/08 Flood Risk

Cllr LS has been instrumental in getting CE Highways to clear the drains to alleviate the flooding on Church Lane/Chelford Rd and the ENWL substation. More work is still required which is due to start on 26th January.

Cllr SB noted that jetting of drains on Anderton lane and Dark Lane had also occurred which should eliminate flooding in those areas.

26/09 Utility Suppliers

Prior to the meeting Cllr MW circulated an email from United Utilities stating that the necessary work on the pressure maintenance valve could not start until June 2026 because they have been unable to obtain an earlier permit from CE.

Cllr MW stated that Henbury will therefore continue to have an interrupted water supply, as demonstrated last Saturday, until it is fixed.

26/10 Footpaths & 26/11 CIL money usage

The improvements to the Whirley/Henbury footpath i.e. widening and improvements to the surface, was paid for using CIL money. Cllr MW stated that the improvements have been well received and was pleased that the rural aspect of the path had been maintained.

26/12 Millennium Green Trust

Cllr SB reported that it was a quiet time of year for the green but the last meeting several options were discussed such as possible summer event, musical event involving students from Fallibroome. The Bonfire will go ahead using the same template as 2025. AGM will go ahead this year; it had been suspended since COVID.

Cllr SB stated that the hedge trimming programme would start soon and confirmed that Parish council hedge work would be included.

26/13 Environmental Projects

Cllr SB reported the securing of Mersey Forest grant for another year. This would allow a further 330m of hedge to be planted starting on 21st January at Marlheath Farm. 30 x AZ volunteers will be doing the planting. If they succeed in finishing the planting, then Cllr SB sought and gained assurances that the council would support more planting in March with local volunteers. Cllr DN sought and gained assurances that the repair to the Church Hedge would be included in the planned planting.

26/14 Village Housekeeping

- Gritting. Cllr MW stated he was disappointed with the service received. The only areas that were gritted were Church Ln and Hightree drive before the contractor ran out of salt. Lack of communication was sighted as the reason, and he was having a meeting on Friday 16th January to address the issue.
- Bin collections. Cllr MW stated there was a lack of clarity as to when the bins were to be collected which resulted in residents missing vital collections. CE posted explanation and dates but only after the event.

- Xmas tree lights. Cllr MW was asked about why the tree was illuminated very late. Cllr DN explained the plug socket needed to be replaced due to being damp and then the bad weather had hampered the work. Removal of the socket should eliminate getting damp and therefore needing a replacement.
- Dog Waste signs. It was suggested that the Students at Whirley Primary School be asked to design signs which could be positioned around the village. Action Cllr MW

24/15 Accounts

Cash book and bank reconciliation have been circulated prior to the meeting.

Balance of CIL account £19185.31^

^Money out transferred = £1300.00 to main A/C

Balance of Main account = £59327.21 (bank @15:56 5/1/2026)

Money in = £1300.00 from CIL A/C for *payment of footpath improvements less VAT

20/11/2025	HMRC November	£65.40
20/11/2025	SL Salary November	£287.80
28/11/2025	Bank Charges	£2.80
01/12/2025	*LCS footpath improvements	£1,560.00
01/12/2025	DN Battery Pack for Xmas lights	£45.59
16/12/2025	HMRC December	£80.60
16/12/2025	SL Salary December	£347.90
31/12/2025	Bank Charges	£1.05
2/1/2026	Website ThenMedia	£288.00
2/1/2026	STE Bin emptying	£81.90
5/1/2026	KR Xmas tree Install /removal	£220.00

Resolved the above payments be approved and signed for as a true and accurate record

26/16 Proposed budget/ Precept setting 2026-27 (took place on 18th November 2025)

Discussions from the last meeting were suspended until CE confirmed the reason for the drastically reduced. Due to boundary changes Henbury “lost” 46 houses. Cllr MW stated that Henbury will gain 16 houses when the Flora Development was finished. In the meantime, the finance committee circulated the amended budget to the whole council. The only increases in funding provision were for the Clerk and the grant to the Millennium Green. Decreases were made in other areas resulting in a budget figure identical to the previous year. The budget was agreed and approved by the council on 18th November 2025. The council is aware that it will mean a 16% increase to residents.

26/17 Planning Applications

None received

26/18 Clerk's Report / Parish Council Housekeeping

The annual review of Policies including the financial and Standing Orders will take by March meeting

The next meeting will be on 18th March 2026 @ 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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