

HENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2025, 7.30 pm at St Thomas Church Hall.

Part 1 Public and Press present

Present

Councillor David Nuttall DN
Councillor Mike Wood MW
Councillor Simon Browne (SB)
Councillor Janet Bailey JB
Councillor Jane Beeken JBE
Cllr Lesley Smetham LS (Cheshire East)
Sue Loxham-Clerk SL

No members of the public were present.

Public Forum

25/21 Apologies for absence.

None

25/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr SB is a member of the Millennium Green Committee

25/23 Minutes of last meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

25/24 PCSO/Beat Managers Report

PCSO provided the monthly crime reports for January. These were circulated prior to the meeting and showed nothing of interest.

25/25 Cheshire East (CE)

The following items were discussed and addressed where possible

- Concerns over potential future development of sites.

Cllr LS updated the council on CE's position regarding housing development. They were on track to deliver 1800 homes/year which exceeded their original Local Plan. The government raised CE's target to 2500 homes without any opportunity to revise the Local Plan. This leaves little scope for opposition to developments. Concerns were expressed about the possibility of increased development in Henbury. Cllr DN pointed out that the reclassification of a development to include ones of 9 homes means that this opens the door to small parcels of land in Henbury being ripe for development. The implication being that small developments don't need to consider infrastructure needs. Henbury Parish Council (HPC) will continue to monitor the situation.

- ChALC's involvement in devolution

HPC welcomed the involvement of ChALC but feared that devolution was already a fait accompli. Concerns were expressed as to the implications for the fate of Parish Councils. Cllr SB pointed out that currently there is no factual evidence as to what is proposed and Cllr LS agreed. HPC will monitor the situation.

- Local Transport consultation

It was agreed that the Clerk upload the consultation on to the Henbury website so that residents

can participate.

- Finance & Future plans

Cllr DN asked if Cllr LS could give an update. Cllr LS said that the £23m loan from the government had allowed CE to produce a budget but was unsure as to how the loan would be repaid. Most of the budget was spent on Adult Social care and SEN pupils and these costs have not lessened. She failed to see how the situation would improve with devolution as all councils were in the same boat.

25/26 Status Update on Major Development.

Cllr SB updated on Bellway development- replanting of the hedge had occurred on Whirley Road but hedging plants would take a long time to become established.

No updates on the rectification of the safety issues on the Broken Cross junction

25/27 Highways & Road Safety

Cllr DN updated a site visit with 2 CE representatives regarding safety barrier at Cock Inn bus stop. The CE reps found no evidence of the original wooden fencing as confirmed using Google maps, so Bellway were not liable to provide a barrier. They did find that the bus stop on the other side did not meet specifications and would have to be replaced. Highways have been asked to review the site.

Cllr DN updated the council on a very positive highways meeting arranged by Cllr LS. It not only allowed for a greater understanding of the budget constraints and problems, but it opened better communication links.

25/28 Flood Risk

Cllr DN reported that a resident is actively seeking a resolution to the flooding around the electrical substation as the flood water is adversely affecting his property

25/29 Footpaths

Cllr MW reported that he posted an article showing the HPC commissioned remedial work on footpath from Henbury to Whirley Rd on the Henbury website.

25/30 CIL money usage

Cllr DN had now received guidance on how to use the CIL money and so felt the council could progress to setting up the project, timescales and management. Cllr DN & MW would start the process

25/31 Lower Church Hall car park

The Clerk reported the smooth transfer waste management provider from Henshaw's to STE. Cllr JB reported that the bin was being emptied in line with the agreement.

25/32 Review of Trees

Nothing to report

25/33 Millennium Green Trust

Cllr SB reported that the Millennium Green was in the process of having the dead tree tagged by CE removed. Later in this month working parties will be working on the footpaths

25/34 Environmental Projects

Cllr SB reported that 170m of hedging had been planted IE (~900) and he was now in the

process of obtaining the grant funding from Mersey Forest.

25/35 Village Housekeeping

Cllr MW reported would be seeking answers from United Utilities as he had discovered that funding for the necessary valve replacement at Birtles had not been signed off, despite the village being without water again.

Cllr DN has secured the services of David Thomas to maintain the village greens spaces and verges. The terms of the contract have been circulated. He will start work on Friday 7/3/2025 to take advantage of the good weather.

25/36 Accounts

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

Balance of CIL account = £19,983.75

Balance of Main account = £ 41,664.11 (as per online Banking @11.37 26/02/25)

Monies received Nil

Payments

06/01/25	Xmas tree removal & Cutting back Sycamore+ branch clearance	£250.00
08/01/25	TCS Management fees	£61.92
14/01/25	SL clerks salary	£279.80
14/01/25	HMRC	£63.40
30/01/25	SL Stationery	£12.98
30/01/25	LCS gritting & ploughing 7th - 10th Jan	£1,260.00
01/02/25	STE bin Lower Church CP	£45.60
14/02/25	SL Techikk Computer repairs	£180.00
18/02/25	HMRC	£63.60
18/02/25	SL clerks salary	£279.60
19/02/25	DN stationery + keys for CH	£24.17
24/02/25	Laptop & 3 service agreement	£765.50

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

25/37 Planning Applications

None received

25/38 Clerk's Report / Parish Council Housekeeping

Pre-circulated governance policies namely Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and Financial Risk which had been reviewed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman who recommend approval were approved

The next meeting will be AVM, Wednesday 21st May 2025 @7.00pm. Council meeting to follow

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.