

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2024 AT 7.30pm AT ST PHILIP'S CHURCH, HASSALL GREEN

PRESENT

Councillors R Moss, A Curwen, J Batchelor, B Colcough, A Malbon
Councillor John Wray, Cheshire East Council
Six members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

42. MINUTES

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024.

43. MATTERS ARISING

The chair noted the resignation of Ralph Bason as clerk and suggested that Councillors might like to make a contribution to a gift.

It was suggested that the councillors should consider changing the banking process from paper based to online. The chair agreed to explore.

The chair reported that our ChALC membership fee hadn't been paid for 2024/25. It was agreed that the Council hold off from paying for the time being. Proposed by JB, seconded by RM. All in favour.

44. PUBLIC FORUM

Issues were raised about the lack of grass cutting and cleaning of the grids in the parish. This would be raised with Cheshire East Council.

The Parish Council was asked if it was legal to park a caravan on the grass in Charles Square. Councillors didn't know and said the issue should be referred to Highways or the Police.

The issue of the placement of the planters in Hassall Green was raised and it was agreed that those not being looked after by volunteers be moved. It was agreed that one from near the bus stop would go to Malkins Bank; one would go near St Philip's Church in Hassall Green; one would go to near the Salt Line in Hassall Green. Proposed by JB and seconded by AM. All agreed.

Issues were raised about the state of the speed limit signs on Roughwood

Lane, and the sign on Dubthorne Lane which had been knocked over. These issues would be raised with Highways at Cheshire East.

Nobody from Cheshire East had yet been out to look at the issues re the footpath under the motorway in Hassall Green or the run off of rain water from the field next to St Philip's Church. Councillor Wray agreed to follow up.

46. FUTURE OF PARISH COUNCIL

The chair outlined the issues stating that the Council had been unable to recruit a clerk to replace Ralph Bason who had retired in April. The Council had also been unsuccessful in recruiting new councillors. Both despite advertising twice with ChALC, requests on the website and on Hassall Green's facebook page, and advertising by way of an article in the Chronicle. The chair reported that it was increasingly difficult for her to carry on with the duties of the clerk given her lack of experience in the area. Also given that the Council now had only five out of ten members, any absences from meetings could make the Council inquorate. Advice has been sort from Cheshire East Council and ChALC on how to deal with the issues. The advice has been followed but have not resulted in any resolution: contacting neighbouring clerks; advertising; personal approach.

The chair outlined the advice given by Cheshire East in that the Parish Council could ask for a mini review of its governance arrangements with a view to joining up with a neighbouring council.

The councillors discussed the issues and advice given and agreed to postpone a final decision to give councillors more time to try to recruit both a clerk and more councillors.

46. AOB

It was proposed that Joan Ramsey be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Proposed by JB, seconded by AM. All agreed. The chair welcomed Joan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 19 September at St Philip's Church.