

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2024 AT 7PM

Present: Councillor J Edwards, Councillor A Bell, Councillor F Goodier, Councillor C Topping and Councillor D Wheeler.

Also, present Clerk, Mrs J Monks.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor J Edwards welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor D Rutter and Councillor S Roberts sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Chair's Annual report

The Chair's annual report from Councillor J Edwards was as follows;

Approaching the end of my year as chair for Delamere and Oakmere Parish council ... and it's been a year of highs and lows.

Turning first to our friends and neighbours on the Earlsbrook Estate. Residents there have had to deal with failures from both the developer and the builder, all this coupled with significant lists of construction challenges. One part of this has related to flooding across the site and the pumps that are associated, so it's been good to see that United Utilities are leaning into finding the right solutions before they adopt the drainage system. We're limited as to changes we can expect as a parish council, but I was delighted to chair two quite positive and productive residents' meetings. It felt like change happened because of these meetings in terms of a slightly accelerated site plan, including dredging in the river and the installation of play areas, but also improved communication between residents and L&Q ... or at least an intention for improved communication if it is still a work in progress.

United Utilities also feature heavily along Abbey Lane, Station Road and beyond with their plans for the Vyrnwy Aqueduct modernisation programme. We're living through what might be called phase 1 right now with single carriageways on three areas right now but previously by the Abbey Arms and down Abbey Lane It's a big issue for our community over the next 2-3 years, particularly for local businesses but I am really pleased to see how regularly the company is engaging with us as councillors but also the wider community. It certainly makes it easier to raise questions and help mitigate some of the effects of this change.

We continue to face challenges down on Little Wood, not least with finding appropriate solutions to long-standing issues with flooding and the damage this causes to our infrastructure. I would like to offer my thanks to Gary for the hard work he put in to the site over the last 12 months and hope we can find a way to continue working together once we have found solutions to our funding challenges. Irrespective it's an asset to our community that we need to work hard to cherish and protect ... along with our field on Frith Avenue and our natural assets like Delamere Forest and the Old Pale.

While I'm talking about the Old Pale, I am truly grateful for the hard work that's been put in by Caroline and Fiona to get plans in place for our D-Day event on 6th June. I'm very much looking forward to fish and chips at Station House Café beforehand and then joining the team for a walk up to light the beacon on top of the hill. Hopefully this rain will have gone by then!

Finally ... a big thank you to all the councillors past and present who have contributed in their large and small ways to the work we do. A special thank you to Andrew for his hard work getting the newsletter over the line so frequently, and to those who contribute as authors or deliverers. And finally, to Joanne without whose hard work none of this would be possible.

Thank you.

3 Open discussion

No members of the public wished to speak at this point.

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2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

None declared.

3 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 18th March 2024 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council and requested a meeting with the Highways Department and Forest England. The Highways Department however stated due to limited staff and resources they are unable to attend meetings but would respond if the Parish Council provided a list of questions. The clerk was asked to contact Forest England to inform them of the response from the Highways Department.

6 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 15th April 2024 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

Objections were to be made to 21/03404/FUL, Replacement workshop building (amended plans) , Alcam Services Ltd Chester Road Oakmere. The Parish Council wished to object to this proposal as the land is contaminated and Natural England have identified this land as being at risk to residents. Also, the block plan indicates that there are ten trailer parking sites, these however have no approved planning permission.

7 Finance

The clerk reported that the current bank balances were as follows and bank statements showing these amounts were presented and signed by the Chair.

Bank account balance is £16,789.10 as at 31st March 2024.

£44.00 advertising income received in March 2024.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

Solopress	printing of newsletter	447.59
Cloudnext	domain name gov.uk	12.00
Cloudnext	emails gov.uk	59.98

Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses	44.10
KDE	installation of defib cabinet	232.48
Delamere community centre	Room hire 01/04/2024 to 31/03//2025	132.00
Joanne Monks	Pay for April	553.58
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for April	197.67

8 Payment of Room Hire for Delamere Community Centre

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £132.00 was approved for room hire for Delamere community centre for the period of 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. Room hire charge is £6 per hour for eleven Parish Council meetings.

9 Reconciliation of bank accounts as at 31st March 2024

RESOLVED that;

Bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2023 was £19,598.53.

Bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2024 was £16,789.10.

10 Earmarking reserves

RESOLVED that;

The reserves were earmarked as follows;

Contingencies (ER)	1207.29
New Homes Bonus Fund (ER)	13285.59
Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	2296.22
Total	16789.10

11 Charge for dog bins at Eddisbury Borehole

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £364.00 plus VAT was approved for payment for Cheshire West and Chester Council emptying the dog bins at Eddisbury Borehole for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

12 Subscription for Mid Cheshire Footpath Society

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £8 was approved for the membership of Mid Cheshire Footpath Society for 2024/2025.

13 Earlsbrook Housing estate

Councillor S Roberts had drafted minutes from the last meeting. The clerk was asked to circulate to all the Parish Councillors for their attention and send them to L&Q and United Utilities for approval before publication on the website.

The clerk was requested to contact L&Q and requested signage at the roundabout as there was poor visibility for pedestrians at this junction.

14 Little Wood

Councillor J Edwards reported that there were several trees which required attention and the clerk was asked to obtain three quotes for this work.

Councillor J Edwards reported that there was an issue with flooding at Little Wood and the clerk was requested to contact the owner of the neighbouring land regarding this issue.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk had obtained three quotes for repairs to the boardwalk in Little Wood. The clerk was asked to apply to Tarmac for a grant for £7745.00.

15 D-Day event

Councillor C Topping reported that the event was now live on Eventbrite and the charge for this was £7.99. The receipt had been given to the clerk and this would be claimed back along with any other expenditure after the event.

Posters were circulated and Councillor C Topping was continuing to liaise with Forest England regarding the event. The clerk was asked to put the poster and link to Eventbrite on the Parish Council's website. The clerk was asked to email Delamere school asking them to promote the event.

The clerk was asked to send a copy of the public liability insurance for the Parish Council when it was renewed in June.

The clerk was asked to contact the PCSO to confirm that he can still attend the event and that he would be a nominated first aider.

The clerk was asked to contact Northwest Ambulance and Cheshire Police to notify them of the event.

The clerk was asked to contact a local business to see if they would donate gas cylinders for the beacon.

Councillor D Rutter had contacted the Church and they would ring the church bells at 6.30pm.

Councillor F Goodier would contact the Abbey Arms pub regarding lanterns.

16 Christmas tree

Councillor C Topping had asked Forest England to supply a Christmas tree. The clerk was asked to contact the community centre to see if they would let the Parish Council put up a Christmas tree in the car park.

Funding and sponsorship for the costs would also be investigated.

17 Vacant Parish Councillors posts

RESOLVED that;

That the five vacant seats (Four in Oakmere and one in Delamere) were advertised.

18 Village signage

The Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed that the cost of the signage was £600 per sign. The clerk confirmed that she had received no reply from Tarmac regarding the £200 donation.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of £600 was approved for one sign to be located on the boundary outside Morreys nursery on the A556, near to the boundary of the A556 and A54.

19 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

There were no Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors present.

20 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor A Bell requested if past newsletters could be uploaded on the website. Councillor A Bell will send these to the clerk to be updated.

Councillor F Goodier requested that the tommy statue be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor F Goodier reported that the railway car park was introducing car parking charges for Delamere station.

Councillor F Goodier reported that there were some issues with footpaths and she had already reported the issues to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Councillor D Wheeler reported that he felt that speeding on Station Road had increased following the temporary traffic lights.

21 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm.

Chairman's signature.....Dated.....