

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7PM

Present: Councillor C Topping, Councillor D Rutter, Councillor J Edwards, Councillor A Bell and Councillor S Roberts.

Also, present Clerk, Mrs J Monks and two members of the public.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor C Topping welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor F Goodier and Councillor D Wheeler sent their apologies of absence for the meeting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush sent his apologies for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public reported that there had been a recent accident at the Abbey Arms junction.

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the lack of a free bus pass to Tarporley High School and requested if the Parish Council could act on this matter. The clerk was requested to put this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting and invite both the Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councilor's to attend to address residents' concerns.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 16th September 2024 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that she had updated the poster regarding how to report issues to Cheshire West and Chester Council and that the contact details for United Utilities are now on the website. The clerk was asked to send a copy of the poster to Councillor A Bell to include it in the newsletter. Councillor C Topping stated that she will laminate the pothole poster signs to put them up onto the Parish Council noticeboards.

Councillor F Goodier had drafted a list of questions to the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council. These were discussed and amendments made, and the clerk was asked to submit the list of questions to the Highways department.

Councillor A Bell will set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council and send the details to Councillor F Goodier.

6 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 14th October 2024 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

- (a) No objections were made to 24/01495/FUL, 39 Mere Crescent Oakmere, Two storey extension to side and rear with roof lights, single storey rear extension.
- (b) No objections were made to 24/02643/FUL, Station Farm Station Road Oakmere. Replacement dwelling.
- (c) No objections were made to 24/02876/P14, Installation of 731 solar photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the roofs of two Buildings. Kelsall Hill Equestrian Centre Organsdale Farm Middlewich Road Delamere.
- (d) 24/02783/S73, Sandy Brow Stables Tarporley Road Delamere. Redevelopment of equestrian buildings into 8 dwellings - Variation of condition 10 (affordable housing), condition 18 (allotments), condition 19 (allotment management scheme) of application 22/03741/FUL. The Parish Council objected to the removal of condition 10 - affordable housing as the community needs affordable housing.

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 £24,646.72 as at 30th September 2024.

£221.00 advertising income received in September 2024.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

Joanne Monks for Information Commissioners Office	Data protection fee	40.00
Joanne Monks	Pay for October	553.38
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses	32.30
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for October	197.67

8 Review of budget

RESOLVED that;

The budget was as follows;

Receipts	Budget	Actual (01.04.24 to 30.09.24)	Balance
Precept	14560	14560.00	0.00
Advertising Income	1500	979.00	521.00
VAT reclaimed	0	849.28	-849.28
Scottish Power	14	0.00	14.00
Net		16388.28	-16388.28
		0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	16074	16388.28	-314.28

Payments	Budget 2024/2025	Actual (01.04.24 to 30.09.24)	Budget Balance
Clerk's salary inc HMRC and Pension	10725	5336.70	5388.30
Clerk expenses	400	199.30	200.70
Room Hire	200	144.00	56.00
Printing of Newsletter	1500	395.99	1104.01
Footpath Society subs	8	8.00	0.00
Insurance	342	267.86	74.14
Training	100	0.00	100.00
Website & email	100	0.00	100.00
Contingencies	500	193.73	306.27
Payroll Services	300	309.50	-9.50
Community Engagement	100	0.00	100.00
CWAC dog bin charge	364	364.00	0.00
Donations	1500	0.00	1500.00
Data Protection fee	40	0.00	40.00
Cheshire Community Action subs	20	0.00	20.00
Election costs	0	0.00	0.00
Contingencies (ER)	1207.29	19.99	1187.30
New Homes Bonus Fund (ER)	13285.59	0.00	13285.59
Little Wood (ER)	500.00	0.00	500.00
Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	2296.22	1081.90	1214.32
Net Payments	33488.10	8320.97	25167.13
VAT		209.69	
Total Payments (excluding ear marked reserves)		8530.66	
Total Payments (including ear marked reserves)		8530.66	

9 Review of earmarked reserves

RESOLVED that;

The reserves were earmarked as follows;

	Budget 2024/2025	Actual (01.04.24 to 30.09.24)	Budget Balance
Contingencies (ER)	1207.29	19.99	1187.30
New Homes Bonus Fund (ER)	13285.59	0.00	13285.59
Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	2296.22	1081.90	1214.32
Total	16789.10	1101.89	16187.21

10 Newsletter printing costs

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £600 plus VAT was approved for the printing costs for the newsletter.

11 Cheshire Community Action

This item was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

12 Banking

Councillor C Topping, Councillor F Goodier, Councillor A Bell and Councillor S Roberts were all set up for internet banking.

The clerk will ask Councillor S Roberts and Councillor F Goodier to authorise the banking for November.

13 Christmas tree/event

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Parish Council's insurance company, and they said that the Parish Council would be insured under the Parish Council's current policy but that the Parish Council would need to complete a risk assessment.

Delamere Community Association have also confirmed that a Christmas tree would be covered under their insurance policy, but the Parish Council would need to complete a risk assessment.

The clerk will undertake a risk assessment for the tree.

The clerk confirmed that she had asked Delamere Community Association for a donation towards the cost however they had refused to make any donation, but the lights could be stored at the community centre.

The clerk confirmed that she had applied for £750.00 from the Ward Members budget for Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush and Councillor T Cooper towards the cost of the Christmas tree.

Councillor S Roberts confirmed that she had requested a donation from L&Q.

Councillor C Topping reported that she had asked several local businesses for donations and had received some promises of donations.

A local firm had promised to construct a concrete base for the Christmas tree free of charge. The clerk will contact the firm and ask them if Monday 25th November would be okay for the installation.

The clerk will contact Delamere Community centre to book the community centre for Monday 25th November for the installation and Friday 29th November for a switch on event.

As such the approved budget of up to £2,500 was allocated as follows;

Councillor C Topping reported that the installation of an outside socket was a more complicated job than initially thought and had provided a quote for the work for £587.32 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that;

The quote for £587.32 plus VAT was accepted by the Parish Council. The clerk was asked to arrange installation for week commencing 5th November. Councillor D Rutter reported that the community centre may be able to claim the cost of this via the 106 monies from Cheshire West and Chester Council. The clerk will contact the Treasurer of the community centre regarding this.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of up to £850.00 plus VAT was approved for the installation and subsequent removal of the Christmas lights by company called Lighttech.

If Lighttech were not available, the amount of up to £850.00 plus VAT was approved for the installation and subsequent removal of the Christmas lights by Walker Sign Erectors Ltd.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of up to £1,050 was approved for the purchase of lights for the Christmas tree. The colour of the lights was delegated to the discretion of Councillor C Topping.

Councillor F Goodier will arrange the Christmas light switching on event for Friday 29th November.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of up to £150 plus VAT was approved for any expenses for the switching on event.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would apply for a alcohol licence from Cheshire West and Chester Council if required by Councillor F Goodier.

14 Introduction of car parking charges on railway stations

There was no update on this agenda item. The clerk was requested to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

15 Tommy statue

There was no update on this agenda item. The clerk was requested to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

16 Little Wood

The clerk reported that she had received notification that Tarmac have awarded the grant, and they will contact Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper regarding the third-party contribution.

17 Bushes near to speed sign

The clerk confirmed that the bushes had been cut back with no charge to the Parish Council.

18 Overall state of the village

This was discussed in depth. Councillor J Edwards reported that many of the roads in the Parish were 40mph or over and therefore required traffic management before any work could be undertaken.

Concerns were raised regarding the amount of expenditure for the two big financial projects that the Parish Council currently has, the Christmas tree at the community centre and the work at Little Wood. Finances would have to be reviewed before any financial commitment was made to any further big project.

The clerk was asked to put village scene on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

19 Earlsbrook Housing Development

The clerk had circulated the letter received from a resident on Earlsbrook housing estate and Councillor S Roberts confirmed that she had been contacted by another resident with concerns.

RESOLVED that;

This was not a matter that the Parish Council could pursue on behalf of the residents and residents were asked to contact the local MP regarding this matter.

The request from the residents of the Earlsbrook estate for the Parish Council to request Cheshire West and Chester Council to put up dog fouling signage. Councillor S Roberts confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester Council have not adopted the site.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to request dog fouling signage from the site owners for residents.

20 Renewal of old domain name

RESOLVED that;

The renewal of the old domain name - delamereandoakmere.co.uk was to be renewed at the cost of £7.99 plus VAT.

21 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

There were no Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors present.

22 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor C Topping asked the clerk to revamp and reissue the Parish Councillor vacancy notice.

Councillor J Edwards had received an email from a firm which provided free advice for Parish Councils.

Councillor A Bell asked Councillor C Topping to provide a chair's report for the next edition of the newsletter.

Councillor D Rutter will obtain three quotes for the work required for Frith Avenue. The clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

23 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 18th November 2024 at 7pm.

Chair signature.....Dated.....