

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7PM

Present: Councillor C Topping, Councillor D Rutter, Councillor J Edwards, Councillor A Bell, Councillor F Goodier and Councillor H Dillway-Nickson.

Also, present Clerk, Mrs J Monks, two representatives from United Utilities for agenda item three, update from United Utilities and two representatives from Norley Parish Council with regards to agenda item 14, Delamere Forest concerts.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor C Topping welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor J Edwards declared an interest in relation to agenda item 14, Delamere Forest Concerts as he lived in the forest.

3 Update from United Utilities

The representatives of United Utilities reported that they are currently working with the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council with regard to traffic management for future works in the area and they are hoping to avoid road closures. They will prepare a press release for the next edition of the newsletter.

4 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public were present for this agenda item.

5 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 20th January 2025 were approved.

6 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted Abbeywood regarding fireworks and they had confirmed that they will in future post on the Facebook page if there are any events with fireworks to warn local residents.

The PCSO has sent the road collision data for both Fishpool and Abbey Arms junctions and this has been circulated to all the Parish Councillor for their attention.

The clerk reported that she was still awaiting a bill from Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to the village signage.

The clerk confirmed that all the outstanding invoices from the newsletter have now been paid.

Both Oakmere Cricket Club and St Peters Church have thanked the Parish Council for their donations.

The clerk had received a letter from the MP, and this has been circulated to all the Parish Councillors for their attention.

The clerk has circulated an email from a resident regarding the number of accidents on the Abbey Arms and Fishpool junctions.

7 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 10th February 2025 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

No objections to 25/00214/FUL, Land At Grid Ref 356646 371554 Gallowsclough Lane Oakmere. Demolition of existing building, and erection of two no. dwellinghouses (C3).

8 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 £20,496.41 as at 31st January 2025.

Income received; advertising income £181.00.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

January 2025 debit card payments;

North West Ambulance	Donation	220.00
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February 2025 Payments;

February 2025 Payments are as follows;

Joanne Monks	Pay for Feb	588.92
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for Feb	210.33
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses	32.30
St Peters Church	Donation	700.00
Oakmere Cricket Club	Donation	125.00

9 Savings accounts

RESOLVED that;

A business savings account would be opened with NatWest for a notice account either 60- or 90-days dependant on the best interest rate.

Councillor A Bell, Councillor F Goodier, Councillor C Topping and Councillor S Roberts and the clerk would be authorised signatures for the amount.

The initial deposit was to be £10,000 however a further deposit will be considered after the precept is received.

10 Renewal of Email and website hosting

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £49.99 plus VAT was approved for Cloudnext for email and website hosting.

11 Village scene

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would join Cheshire West and Chester Council's Highways volunteer scheme. The Lead Self-Help co-ordinator would be Councillor F Goodier. The Cheshire West and Chester Highways Volunteer agreement was signed by Councillor F Goodier as the Self-Help co-ordinator and the clerk of the Parish Council. Councillor F Goodier will request volunteers via social media.

The clerk will send the completed form back to Cheshire West and Chester Council. The clerk was asked to put Village scene on the agenda for the next meeting. The clerk will design a poster for a request for volunteers.

12 Christmas

Councillor C Topping had contacted a contractor, and they had advised the Parish Council looks at motifs from a professional lighting company.

The clerk had circulated a pre-loved brochure from a professional lighting company and the costs were around £400 to £500 each dependant on the design.

The clerk confirmed the following street lights were on Station Road Delamere.

Between Abbey Arms and Delamere Community centre on Station Road there are six street lights.

From Delamere Community centre to Delamere stores there are three streetlights.

From Delamere Stores to Eddisbury Hill there are six streetlights.

From Eddisbury Hill to Frith Avenue there are eight streetlights.

From Frith Avenue to Earlsbrook Housing development there are six streetlights.

The clerk had contacted the Town Council with regards to the offer of free Christmas displays however they had been already given out to other Parish Councils and were no longer available.

RESOLVED that;

Given the cost of the motifs this would no longer be pursued. A joint Christmas event at the community centre would be looked at for Christmas.

13 Future event

Councillor F Goodier will arrange for a meeting with the Abbey Arms Pub with regards to a summer event.

Councillor C Topping noted that a risk assessment will be required for any event.

14 Delamere Forest concerts

Councillor J Edwards declared an interest in relation to agenda item 14, Delamere Forest Concerts as he lived in the forest.

Concerns were raised from both the two representatives from Norley Parish Council and Parish Councillors regarding future management of the concerts.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to contact the National Event Manager of Forest Live and to arrange a face-to-face meeting at the Forest England offices for both Parish Councils.

The clerk will then send a copy of this for the attention of the clerk of Norley Parish Council for them to request a joint meeting as well.

15 School Transport

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to forward the reply from Cheshire West and Chester Council to the local MP.

The clerk was asked to contact Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush and thank him for his assistance in this matter.

16 Speed sign on Station Road

The sign is currently working and may have power issues due to being solar powered. The clerk will arrange for the tree to be cut back further in the future to see if this improves performance.

17 Grit bins

The clerk circulated the email from L&Q stating that they are unable to provide a grit bin on site.

The roads on the Earlsbrook estate remain unadopted and they are not likely to be adopted by Cheshire West and Chester Council for some time.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would purchase a grit bin to be sited on the hill on Mara Drive for the Earlsbrook estate. The expenditure of up to £200 plus VAT was approved.

18 Little Wood

Councillor D Rutter reported that there are ongoing flooding issues in Little Wood.

The clerk noted that Tarmac wanted a monthly update on the project and all the work must be completed by October 2025. The clerk was asked to submit a report stating that there was no change from the previous month due to flooding.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £20 was approved for the clerk to undertake a land registry of the neighbouring land. Councillor D Rutter will contact the clerk with the details required.

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 C Topping circulated details of a VE day flag which could be purchased for VE day. The clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor A Bell asked the clerk to put the newsletter expenditure for the printing costs on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor A Bell reported that Delamere station was introducing car parking charges from March.

Councillor F Goodier asked if a replacement key for the noticeboard could be purchased if it is not obtained from ex-Parish Councillor D Wheeler.

Councillor F Goodier asked the clerk if she could contact United Utilities and Cheshire West and Chester Council on behalf of a resident regarding Chester Road footpath. The clerk will contact the resident and request the report numbers for both Cheshire West and Chester Council and United Utilities and ask the residents consent to forward their details to the relevant parties.

21 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 17th March 2025 at 7pm at Delamere Community Centre.

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