

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024 AT 7PM

Present: Councillor J Edwards, Councillor D Rutter, Councillor A Bell, Councillor F Goodier, Councillor S Roberts 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 C Topping had sent her apologies for the meeting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper had sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor S Roberts declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the Earlsbrook Housing estate as she lived on this estate.

3 Public Speaking Time

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 12th February 2024 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk has been struggling to contact organisation as there have been considerable email issues and the email is still not working.

Once the new email system is set up the clerk will contact the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council and Tarmac regarding the village gateway signage.

6 Planning

No planning applications have been received.

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 £18,434.01 as at 29th February 2024.

£96.00 advertising income received, and £653.72 Cheshire West and Chester Ward Members grant for defibrillator cabinet and electrician.

RESOLVED that;

the following payments be authorised;

new defib cabinet	replacement defib cabinet	551.99
Joanne Monks	March pay	533.38
Joanne Monks	March expenses	32.30
Cheshire Pension Fund	March pension	202.06
HMRC	quarterly payment	401.60

8 Appointment of internal auditor

RESOLVED that;

Mr M Garnett, who has effectively undertaken the internal audit previously, be appointed to undertake the Annual Internal Audit for Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council for 2023/2024 in accordance with the requirements of the Annual Return.

9 Noticeboard at Hogshead Lane in Oakmere

RESOLVED that;

Councillor F Goodier volunteered to put the notices up on the noticeboard at Hogshead Lane.

10 NatWest account

RESOLVED that;

Lawerence Walters was to be removed from the bank mandate for the NatWest bank account following his resignation.

The clerk confirmed that Councillor C Topping, Councillor A Bell and Councillor F Goodier were set up for internet banking. Councillor S Roberts is in the process of being set up for internet banking.

11 Email, Website and domain and IT issues

RESOLVED that;

Councillor J Edwards and Councillor A Bell will be IT co-ordinators for any issues in relation to website, domain, emails and any IT issues.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council set up emails, website and domain with Cloudnext with gov.uk website and email address at the cost of up to £100 plus VAT and £110.00 for the domain name for two years.

12 Earlsbrook Housing estate

Councillor J Edwards confirmed that around thirty people attended the meeting on 5th March regarding the Earlsbrook Housing estate. Councillor S Roberts will email the minutes as soon as possible. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush also attended the meeting along with representatives from L&Q. It was noted however that the planned drop-in sessions had not been re-scheduled, and another meeting would hopefully be arranged for around June.

The clerk confirmed that L&Q have confirmed that the fencing along Oakmere Way will be repaired by the end of March.

13 Little Wood

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted Cheshire Wildlife Trust, but they were unable to provide a quote. Northwich Town Council have provided a quote. The clerk had also asked a local contractor for a quote, but none had been provided.

The clerk was asked to obtain a third quote for the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor F Goodier asked if a working group could be organised to undertake work in Little Wood. This will be looked at in the Autumn.

14 Legal advice and to consider joining Cheshire Association of Local Councils

To consider obtaining legal advice and to approve any action and expenditure including consideration of joining Cheshire Association of Local Councils at the cost of £562.24.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not join Cheshire Association of Local Councils for 2024/2025.

15 D-Day event

RESOLVED that;

A D-Day flag would not be purchased for the event.

Councillor F Goodier suggested that the local school be approached to see if they would like to get involved and make some flags for the event.

Councillor J Edwards and Councillor D Rutter will meet with the Forestry England prior to the event to have a look at the beacon.

Councilor D Rutter confirmed that parking would be available at the Station and the Station café will be open, but any food would have to be pre-ordered. Councillor F Goodier and Councillor C Topping have produced tickets via Eventbrite and a limited amount of paper tickets will be available at Delamere shop. The maximum capacity for the event is 200 and the tickets are on a first come basis. Councillor A Bell has negotiated disabled parking which is available on request only.

RESOLVED that;

Councillor C Topping would be reimbursed for any printing or laminating costs for the event. Councillor C Topping will have to send the receipts for any expenditure to the clerk.

16 Forestry England meeting

Councillor C Topping and Councillor D Rutter had attended an informal meeting with Forestry England on 11th March 2024.

The clerk was requested to arrange a daytime meeting for Parish Councillors from Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council and Norley Parish Council, Forestry England and Ward Councillors with the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss ongoing issues in the area.

Councillor D Rutter confirmed that the car parks in Delamere Forest are going cashless and the car parking charges will be increasing due to the costs of installation.

Councilor D Rutter confirmed that pre-sale tickets for the concerts are available to members and to residents who sign up on the email circulation list.

The clerk was asked to put Christmas tree on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting for consideration.

17 Safeguarding Policy

RESOLVED that;

The Safeguarding policy was adopted by the Parish Council.

18 Payroll for 2024/2025

RESOLVED that;

Shires accountants were appointed for processing the payroll and pensions for 2024/2025 at the annual cost of £309.50 plus VAT.

18 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

There were no Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors in attendance.

19 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor A Bell reported that the next edition of the newsletter was due out in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor A Bell reported that there were ongoing incidents with regards to motorbikes in and around the forest. These incidents have been reported to the Police and Forestry England. The clerk was asked to email the local PCSO to raise the concerns of the Parish Council regarding this anti-social behaviour.

Councillor F Goodier enquired regarding the tommy statue that had been purchased by the Parish Council. Councillor D Rutter will contact the resident concerned regarding this.

A member of the public asked if they could undertake some maintenance work to the noticeboard at the community centre and use it to advertise some local events. Councillor D Wheeler will supply the key if required.

Councillor D Rutter reported that there were several chevrons missing on Chester Road A556 on the bend. The clerk will report these to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their attention.

Councillor D Wheeler reported that there were several potholes on Eddisbury Hill. The clerk will report these to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their attention.

20 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 15th April 2024 at 7pm at Delamere Community Centre.

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