

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2026 AT 7PM

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

Also, present Clerk, Mrs J Monks and one member of the public.

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor D Rutter welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Lush sent his apology. Councillor T Murray sent her apology for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

None declared.

3 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public reported that they were concerned about the speeding on Eddisbury Hill particularly around 5pm. Councillor D Rutter confirmed that the Parish Council had contact Cheshire West and Chester Highways Department regarding the issue and he was aware that the police had been monitoring the speed of cars on Eddisbury Hill and the school were going to make parents aware of the issue.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 16th February 2026 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed that the following properties had received notification regarding the planning application for the Hollies;

Moss Cottage, 9, 39, 41 43, 45, and Delamere Community Centre, Station Road, Delamere and a site notice was displayed.

Both Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors confirmed that they had requested that the planning application was considered by the Planning Committee of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The clerk had received a response from Cheshire Wildlife Trust regarding an ecological survey for the land at Station Road and a copy of this has been circulated to all the Parish Councillors for their attention. They have confirmed that they will not be able to undertake a survey without the landowners permission and that the developers will be required to submit their own ecological surveys and biodiversity net gain information at a later stage in the planning process.

6 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 23rd March 2026 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

- (a) No objections were made to 26/00362/FUL, Yonder Bungalow Chester Road Delamere. Proposed re-roof and build-up of existing external walls to create additional storey, single storey side and rear extensions, erection of porch. including the alterations of windows and doors and materials to all elevations.
- (b) No objections were made to 24/02403/FUL, Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2 no. buildings to include 5 no. individual residential units (amended description) Abbeywood Estates Abbey Lane Oakmere.
- (c) No objections were made to 25/01082/S73, Residential development of 5 dwellings -Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 13 (boundary treatment), 16 (Turning and Parking), 17 (hard and soft landscaping works) and 18 (Details of residential ancillary building) of planning permission 22/00325/S73. Land Rear of The Gables Chester Road Oakmere. There are concerns on Highways grounds regarding the proposed entrance as it is not big enough for trucks or refuse collection lorries.

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.

Current Bank account balance is £4,826.53 as at 28th February 2026.

Savings account balance is £25,637.14 as at 28th February 2026.

Income received; £53.38 interest and £26 newsletter invoice.

RESOLVED that;

February 2026 debit card payments are as follows;

Cheshire West and Chester Council	Street Licence for benches	258.00
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March 2026 payments are as follows;

Joanne Monks	Pay for March	607.91
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for March	217.13
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses March	32.30
HMRC	Quarterly payment	630.01
Delamere Community centre	Room for Little Wood meeting	21.00

8 Payroll services for 2026/2027

RESOLVED that;

Shires accountants were appointed to process the payroll for the financial year 2026/2027 at the annual cost of £389.50 plus VAT.

9 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 2025/2026 in accordance with the requirements of the Annual Return.

10 Little Wood

Councillor D Rutter confirmed that the meeting regarding Little Wood was well attended and one of the parties present had offered to undertake some drainage work. Once this work had been completed the clerk was asked to contact Cheshire West and Chester Council to confirm that this had been undertaken.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £21.00 was approved for room hire of Delamere community centre on Monday 9th March. Previously up to £20 had been provided.

11 Highway Heros

Councillor F Goodier reported that the next event was on Sunday 29th March at 10am meeting at Delamere Community centre. The focus will be on weed clearing, hedge cutting and litter picking. Councillor F Goodier confirmed that some equipment had been provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council for the event.

It was noted that the hedges could not be cut due to nesting season, however in the case of highway visibility issues it would be possible.

12 Bus stop benches

The clerk confirmed that she had applied for a Street Licence for two benches at the agreed locations and are in the process of being confirmed.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £185.00 plus VAT for each bench. (£370 plus VAT in total) was approved.

The clerk was requested to order two benches and ask the local company for a donation towards the cost of the benches and street licence. The clerk will also make enquiries with regards to a plaque for the benches.

13 Summer Event

RESOLVED that;

A summer event will not go ahead.

14 Eddisbury Hill Fort

The clerk confirmed that she had received a response from the Visitor Experience Manager for Forest England regarding Eddisbury Hill fort. The Beat Forester and the Ecology & Heritage Works Supervisor from Forest England and a representative from the Sandstone Ridge Trust will meet with representatives from the Parish Council on 21st April 2026 at 11am to discuss.

Councillor D Rutter confirmed that the meeting would be at the Forest Offices and then would follow on with a site inspection of the Hill Fort.

The clerk was asked to put the following as agenda items;

- Replacement of signage
- Fencing
- Gauze on the ramparts
- Reinstatement of the path
- Wildflowers
- Any other business.

The clerk will circulate a draft agenda before issuing to all parties.

15 Village signage

The clerk has asked the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to provide two quotes for signage, one near the layby on the A49 and other near to the Lounge. The clerk will chase this up in time for the next Parish Council meeting.

16 Speeding

The clerk had circulated a reply from the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the signage on Eddisbury Hill. The clerk has also asked for 20mph signage markings to be considered for the road.

The clerk will contact the Highways Department again asking for 20mph signage to be considered for the road and to request that the speed monitoring was undertaken at a better location on Eddisbury Hill.

17 Forestry England

Councillor D Rutter and Councillor C Topping had attended the Parish Council bi-annual meeting with Forest England and representatives from Norley Parish Council.

Forest England had provided an update including the new play area and work being undertaken on Blakemere lake.

The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with them before the June concerts to discuss the issues raised last year which included the unannounced fireworks and the provision of Portaloos for the event.

The clerk was also asked to send a copy of the proposed questionnaires to Norley Parish Council for their attention as it was the intention to do a residents survey after the June concerts.

Councillor C Topping also reported that she had raised the concerns again with regards to the Parkrun held on Christmas day with Forest England.

The next planned meeting was on 28th September.

The clerk was asked to submit another request to Forest England for the purchase of bulbs to be planted around the Parish.

18 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

There were no Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors present.

19 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor J Edwards reported that was still temporary signage on the A556 which needed to be removed. The clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council requesting this is removed.

Councillor A Bell reported that the next edition of the newsletter was going to be delivered by the end of the week. 900 copies had been printed and these will be distributed to local houses by volunteers.

Councillor F Goodier reported that she was awaiting the cable ties for the posters. Councillor T Murray had confirmed at the last meeting that she would purchase these.

Residents had reported an issue with a property on Frith Avenue and the clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting and the clerk was asked to report the signage to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their attention.

Councillor J Edwards reported that there was a considerable loss of wildflowers across the country and the clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the meeting with regards to Eddisbury Hillfort.

Councillor D Rutter reported that the trees earmarked for removal had been marked on the A556 near to Abbey Hill but has yet they have not been removed by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The clerk would contact Cheshire West and Chester Council and ask for them to be removed as soon as possible.

Councillor D Rutter confirmed that he will write a Chair's report for the next meeting in April.

20 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 20th April 2026 at 7pm at Delamere Community Centre.

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