

Delamere & Oakmere Parish Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH APRIL 2026 AT 7PM

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

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 and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Cooper sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Chair's Annual report

The Chair's annual report from Councillor D Rutter was as follows;

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Chair's report. We had a successful day at the Abbey Arms with a dog show, crafts and games and many thanks to Fiona for arranging this. This was followed by the Christmas tree light switch on which was nice to see many families coming to see Father Christmas and the tree being lit up. Thank you to United Utilities for sponsoring the tree and to all local companies that helped to finance the lights. It is great to have two new councillors this year with Tina Murray and Rex Tattersall joining the Parish Council and I look forward to giving positive ideas to us and I would like to thank Fiona, Andrew, Heidi, John and Caroline for all their help and encouragement through the year. Thanks also goes to our clerk, Joanne to keeping us informed of all Parish matters and Ted and Tom our Ward Councillors.

We now have a happy band of Highway Heros under Fiona's leadership that have been cleaning footpaths on Station Road and Abbey Hill and these have been making massive improvements in the Parish. We have been having six monthly meeting with Forest England which has been extremely helpful as the forest plays a massive role in the Parish. Our thanks goes to Adam for supplying bulbs which have now been planted in the Parish.

We welcome United Utilities to our meeting and they keep us updated with the pipeline situation and ongoing road closures. We all realise that this is not an easy task for them or residents as the road closure and diversions take effect.

Work continues on Little Wood to bring this back to nice little local walk and many thanks goes to Gary Hudson for sorting trees out and to Tarmac for paying to repair the board walk through the wood. We have two meetings a year with Tarmac and they keep the Parish Council up to date with what is happening in the quarry.

Hopefully Delamere stores will be reopening soon and Fishpool caravan park will shortly be re-opening and we wish both businesses well.

Many thanks to John Edwards for helping get the 40mph on the A556 from Abbey Hill to J&S motorcycles and we have not given up on having a 40mph from just before Delamere school but at the moment Highways have a different opinion on that but the Parish Council continues to ask for this. The Parish Council also have requested additional 20mph signage for Eddisbury Hill but again Highways are not that helpful.

We have had a planning proposal for nine houses Station Road and that brought out all the locals from Station Road opposing the planning application. The Parish Council has requested that this goes to Planning Committee so watch this space.

We do have an excellent magazine covering Delamere and Oakmere with news and adverts for our area and many thanks go to Andrew Bell and Louise Dick for all their hard work in putting this together.

We may be able to provide some benches for the bus stops by the Lounge and thank you Rex for looking into this.

Again many thanks to Joanne and all the Councillors for their support and we are doing our best to improve Delamere and Oakmere and if anyone wants to join us you are more than welcome as we have some space seats.

3 Open discussion

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

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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 and Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillor T Copper sent their apologies for the meeting.

2 Member's Code of Conduct and declarations of interest

Councillor F Goodier declared an interest in relation to item 15, Frith Avenue issues as she was a resident on this road. As such Councillor F Goodier did not take part in the discussion or decision regarding this agenda item.

3 Public Participation

Two representatives from United Utilities addressed the Parish Council with an update on the work and road closures in the area. The closure of Hatchmere cross roads would continue until the beginning of June. There were initial issues however these appear to have been resolved. Pedestrian access remains however they have put a concrete block in order to try and stop motorbikes using the pavements. Members of the public were urged to contact the Police with license plate numbers if the issue with motorbikes on the pavements continues.

The representatives confirmed that work on Abbey Lane is ongoing and is then due to reopen for a short period before another six month closure.

Several members of the public reported that there were ongoing issues with speeding on Eddisbury Hill and the situation was made worse by the current road closures which had resulted in a dramatic increase in traffic. The chair of the Parish Council, Councillor D Rutter confirmed that the Parish Council had contacted the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester requesting additional signage but they have stated that the current signage meets the legal requirements. Members of the public were asked if they felt that traffic calming measures including the installation of a safe walking space were solutions to the issues for Eddisbury Hill and the Parish Council asked for the members of the public to make any suggestions for improvements.

Several members of the public also raised issues of speeding on another road in the Parish in particular outside the school on the main road.

A member of the public requested that a reminder about speeding was put in the next edition of the newsletter.

A member of the public also suggested improvements such as fencing around Eddisbury Hill Fort. Councillor D Rutter confirmed that representatives from the Parish Council were having a meeting regarding potential improvements for the site.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 23rd March 2026 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that she had requested that the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council removed the temporary signage on the A556.

The clerk confirmed that she had asked the Tree Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council to chase up the felling of the trees on the A556 on the thin strip of land near to Yonder Bungalow. They confirmed that the contractors are looking to book the work in, however as the A556 is a main road there is a long lead time and the process is being made more difficult due to Abbey Lane being closed since January.

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted Forest England twice requesting a bulb donation to the Parish but she had not received any response. Councillor D Rutter confirmed he will raise this with Forest England at the meeting regarding Eddisbury Hill.

6 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 20th April 2026 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

- (a) 25/01082/S73. Amended plans; Land Rear of The Gables Chester Road Oakmere. 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. There are concerns on Highways grounds regarding the proposed entrance as it is not big enough for trucks or refuse collection lorries.

- (b) 25/03925/PDQ, Planning appeal. Barn At Fishpool Farm Fishpool Road Delamere Northwich Conversion of barn into one dwelling. No comment.
- (c) No objections to 26/00489/FUL, Sandilands Tarporley Road Delamere. Installation of a secondary access (Retrospective), and installation of electric gate.

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 £3,302.20 as at 31st March 2026.

Savings account balance is £25,698.28 as at 31st March 2026.

Income received; £61.14 interest and £44 newsletter invoice.

RESOLVED that;

March 2026 debit card payments are as follows;

Cloudnext	website and email hosting	49.99	9.99	59.98
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April 2026 payments are as follows;

Joanne Monks	Pay for April	608.11
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for April	209.08
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses April	32.30
Andrew Bell	printing of newsletter	549.18
Cheshire Association of Local Councils	Training for Councillor Tattersall	25.00

8 Reconciliation of bank accounts as at 31st March 2026

RESOLVED that;

The banking reconciliation is as follows;

Banking Reconciliation 2025/2026	
NatWest balance 31.03.25	24752.67
Plus Precept	17520.00
Plus Income	18955.60
Less Staff costs	12,421.25
Less expenditure	19,806.54
Total	29,000.48
Current account 31.03.26	3302.20
Savings account 31.03.26	25698.28
NatWest balance 31.03.26	29000.48
Expenditure	19,806.54
Staff costs	12,421.25
Gross expenditure	32227.79
Precept	17520.00
income	18955.60
Gross income	36475.60

The bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2026 was £29,000.48.

9 Earmarking reserves

RESOLVED that;

Ear-Marked Reserves	Budget 2026/2027
Contingencies (ER)	1822.84
New Homes Bonus Fund (ER)	13285.59
Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	13,424.67
Xmas Fund (ER)	467.38
Total	29000.48

The total of the earmarked reserves must equal the end of year balance.

The clerk reported that the contingencies earmarked reserves is very low. This should be a minimum of 25% of the precept. The precept for the financial year 2026/2027 is £18,460 so this should be £4,615 as minimum amount.

10 Payment of Room Hire for Delamere Community Centre

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £137.50 was approved for payment of the room hire for the Parish Council meetings for the period 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. The cost of the room hire is £12.50 for eleven Parish Council meetings.

11 Website

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £50.00 plus VAT was approved for the gov.uk domain name.

12 Little Wood

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted Cheshire West and Chester Council to let them know that the work had been undertaken in Little Wood.

Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed that they would raise a job to clear the highway drainage assets upstream and once this has been done would contact United Utilities.

Councillor D Rutter confirmed that once this has been completed Tarmac would return and put up a fence.

13 Highway Heroes

The next event was planned for Sunday 26th April with a 9.30am start with breakfast at the Abbey Arms pub with a planned 10am start. The clerk was asked to post the event onto the website.

Councillor F Goodier stated it would be great if the Parish Council could get a sponsor to pay for the breakfast for volunteers for the event.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £100 was approved for the Parish Council to pay for a breakfast for the Highway Heroes event on Sunday 26th April.

Councillor F Goodier will ask the Abbey Arms to send the clerk an invoice directly or she will pay and reclaim off the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £150.00 plus VAT was approved for a banner to advertise the event.

Future dates for the event will be the last Sunday of each month.

Councillor T Murray will look into sponsorship for Hi-Viz vests with Highways Heroes on the back.

14 Benches (bus stops and Forest England)

Bus stop benches

The clerk confirmed that she had chased up Cheshire West and Chester Council with regards to the permission for the benches. They have confirmed that they have arranged for the notices to go up on the site. Permission has not yet been granted.

The clerk has requested a donation towards the cost of the benches twice from the local firm who said they would provide a donation however no response has been received.

Forest England benches

A member of the public contacted the clerk regarding the removal of the bench opposite Eddisbury Hill Farm at the end of this footpath just before Tarmac Road.

The clerk contacted Forest England and they stated that the bench has been removed as it was rotten and no longer safe. Forest England confirmed that they have taken delivery of some replacement benches and this will be installed shortly.

15 Frith Avenue issues

Councillor F Goodier declared an interest in relation to item 15, Frith Avenue issues as she was resident on this road as such Councillor F Goodier did not take part in the discussion or decision regarding this agenda item.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to contact Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding the flooding issues on Frith Avenue.

Councillor T Murray will contact the Food hygiene Department of Cheshire West and Chester regarding concerns.

16 Eddisbury Hill Fort

The clerk confirmed that he had arranged a meeting for Tuesday 21st April at 11am to discuss Eddisbury Hill Fort with Forest England and the Sandstone Ridge Trust and the clerk had circulated an agenda for the meeting. Councillor D Rutter and Councillor R Tattersall confirmed that they will be attending.

17 Village signage

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester and they confirmed that they had not yet received a quote from the contractors and they will chase this up.

18 Subscription for Mid Cheshire Footpath Society

RESOLVED that;

The annual subscription for the Mid Cheshire Footpath Society was renewed at the annual cost of £8 for 2026/2027.

19 Annual insurance

RESOLVED that;

The annual insurance was approved at the cost of £300.00.

20 Lake Vyrnwy and United Utilities project

This had been discussed under public speaking time and no action was required.

21 Forest England Concerts

The clerk had arranged a Teams meeting on Monday 20th April at 1.30pm with Forest England to discuss the concerts. Councillor C Topping reported that Forest England did take some points onboard and promised increased signage for the Portaloos for the concerts. They confirmed that there was no planned fireworks for the June concerts and they would increase the litter picking after the event.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would issue a questionnaire to residents both online and a paper questionnaire about the concerts. The paper questionnaire will be distributed with the next edition of the newsletter. The clerk was asked to prepare both for consideration before publication.

22 Eddisbury Hill speeding and traffic

The clerk confirmed that she had now contacted the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council three times regarding the request for additional signage for Eddisbury Hill. The same answer has been provided on all three occasions, that the signs and road marking are implemented in accordance with the Department for Transport guidelines and as such they cannot put up additional or temporary signage.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to contact Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors to see if they could assist with the request for additional signage.

The clerk was asked to submit a formal request to United Utilities to see if they could also raise the issue with the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The clerk was also asked to contact the school to ask if they could make parents aware of the 20mph limit for Eddisbury Hill.

23 Update from Cheshire West and Chester Councillors

There were no Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors present.

24 Councillor's report and future agenda items

The clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to ask them to sweep Station Road and clear out all the blocked drains.

The clerk confirmed that emails from Cheshire Association of Local Council would still be circulated even though the Parish Council had decided not to renew their membership.

25 Date and time of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting and the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 18th May 2026 at 7pm.

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