Delamere & Oakmere Parish Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF DELAMERE AND OAKMERE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7PM

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

Part 1, items to be considered in the presence of the press and public

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor R Tattersall, welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor D Rutter and Councillor A Bell sent their apologies 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

None declared.

3 Public Speaking Time

One member of the public addressed the Parish Council with regard to 26/02043/FUL, Forest England, Lobslack Nursery Stoneyford Lane Oakmere, as they had submitted a planning objection to Cheshire West and Chester Council. The member of the public objected to the proposed fence on the following grounds. The height of the proposed fence was excessive and was not in keeping with the height of the existing fences. The justification for the height given was deer protection, however, Forest England have confirmed that no deer population surveys have been undertaken in the area in the last six years, no deer damage has been recorded and no deer have been culled in the area. The location of the proposed fencing would obscure views of the open countryside and that it would be better located elsewhere. The member of the public asked for support from the Parish Council and requested that the Parish Council submit a planning objection to Cheshire West and Chester Council and that the Parish Council raise this as an issue at the next meeting with Forest England.

Two representatives from United Utilities addressed the Parish Council meeting with regards to the ongoing work in the area. Abbey Lane was currently closed as they were working on the second line and this was due to be reopened on 1st March 2027. United Utilities had undertaken investigation work on Station Road and were looking to formulate a plan for this work before Christmas in order to start this work from March 2027 onwards with a planned completion date for the whole project being December 2028.

The representatives were made aware of the traffic issues experienced by Eddisbury Hill following the road closures for the investigations. United Utilities confirmed that they will consult with residents and the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council to make a robust traffic management plan to manage the road closures. The representatives from United Utilities stated that they had a Community Investment Fund and they would look to make contributions to projects in the local area as compensation for the ongoing disruption.

4 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of Delamere and Oakmere Parish Council on Monday 20th July 2026 were approved.

5 Progress Reports and Outstanding Items

The clerk confirmed that the village sign had been installed by the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council have stated that they will not consider rumble strips on the A556 Chester Road.

The clerk confirmed that she had received the details of the number of trains cancelled at Delamere Station for the last twelve months from Northern, and the information has been circulated to every Parish Councillor for their attention. The clerk was requested to contact Mid Cheshire Railway Partnership for comments and action on this matter.

The clerk confirmed that she had circulated the response from Forest England with regards to the overgrown paths in Delamere Forest.

6 Planning

The planning applications that had been received up to Monday 21st September 2026 were considered.

RESOLVED that;

(a) No objections were made to 26/02109/FUL Kelsall Hill Equestrian Centre Organsdale Farm Middlewich Road Delamere Northwich CW6 0SR Proposal: Erection of a storage building for animal feed (Use Class B8).
(b) 26/02043/FUL, Forest England, Lobslack Nursery Stoneyford Lane Oakmere Northwich CW8 2GN The installation of replacement fencing and a replacement gate.The clerk noted that there had been a number of objections, which had been circulated to the Parish Council with regards to this planning application.

The clerk was asked to submit the following objection to the Planning Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council; The Parish Council considered the above planning application at its Parish Council meeting on Monday 21st September 2026 and wish to object on the following grounds;

1) The proposed height of the fence (2.4 meters) is excessive and unnecessary. It would be acceptable if the height was adjusted to 1.2 meters in line with the existing fence.

2) The position of the proposed fence. It would be better located further down the bank, where it would not obstruct the views of the open countryside, as Cheshire West and Chester Council have sought to preserve the views of the open countryside, particularly in this area. It would be better located in a different position in order to blend in with the landscape and open countryside.

3) The Parish Council is concerned regarding the need and justification for the fencing given that there is no fencing around the Whitegate Way, as there is no proposal to continue the same security fencing along this boundary of Forest England's land.

The Parish Council is requesting that this objection is taken into consideration, along with objections from local residents and that Forest England explore the possibility of a reduced height fence, relocating the fence, additional planting and the possibility of incorporation of a safe pedestrian route to the A556 before pursuing this planning application.

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 £9,435.77 as at 31 July 2026.

Savings account balance is £35,963.12 as at 31 July 2026.

Income received; £77.55 interest, £419.00 newsletter invoices and £750.00 grant from Cheshire West and Chester Ward Councillors budget.

Current bank account balance is £8,454.59 as at 31st August 2026.

Savings account balance is £36,031.26 as at 31st August 2026.

Income received; £68.14 interest and £114.00 newsletter invoices.

RESOLVED that;

No July debit card payments.

August 2026 payments are as follows;

Joanne Monks	Pay for August	607.91
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for August	209.08
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses August	26.00
Delamere Community centre	Room Hire for extra meeting	6.25

August 2026 debit card payments are as follows;

NBB recycle	bench for bus stop	Community Infrastructure Levy (ER)	245.94

September 2026 payments are as follows;

Joanne Monks	Pay for Sept	607.91
Cheshire Pension Fund	Pension contributions for Sept	209.08
Joanne Monks	Clerk Expenses Sept	33.70
HMRC	quarterly payment	630.21
Rex Tattersall	Gift voucher for questionnaire	25.00

8 Bank Transfer

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £10,000 was to be transferred from the current savings to the current account in order to cover future outgoing payments.

9 Forest England meeting and concert feedback

The next meeting with Forest England was at 11am on Monday 28th September and both Councillor C Topping and Councillor T Murphy will attend and represent the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has received complaints regarding the new benches or perches in the forest particularly sited on Old Pale. The clerk was asked to chase up a replacement bench for opposite Eddisbury Hilll Farm and for this to be a traditional bench rather than a perch.

The clerk confirmed that Forest England wanted a separate meeting with regards to the concerts and the clerk was asked to arrange this for after the next Parish Council meeting so the outcome of the consultation could be discussed first by the Parish Council.

Councillor F Goodier reported that local residents of Chester racecourse receive discounted tickets and that an alternative to the concerts would be an outdoor cinema.

Councillor R Tattersall drew the winning number of the resident who had completed the questionnaire with regards to the concerts and he will give the resident the £25 voucher to claim at Delamere Stores.

10 Christmas

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of £980.00 plus VAT was approved for the lights for the Christmas tree at Delamere community centre. The Parish Council confirmed that the lights would need to be put up round and round the tree. The clerk will ask Councillor D Rutter at the next meeting whether there is a spare set of lights.

Councillor F Goodier will research the cost of baubles with regards to the idea of sponsorship for the tree.

The clerk was requested to apply for a temporary events licence in order to serve alcohol at the event.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £30.00 plus VAT was approved for an application for a temporary events licence.

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £200 plus VAT was approved for a banner for the event. Councillor F Goodier will seek permission for the banner from the Community Centre committee. Councillor A Bell was requested to advertise the Christmas event in the next edition of the newsletter which was due out mid-November.

Councillor C Topping reported that a local resident had requested a living Christmas tree. This was noted by the Parish Council, however, United Utilities had agreed to purchase the tree on behalf of the Parish Council and, as such, they had no control on the type of tree purchased.

11 Eddisbury Hill Fort

The clerk confirmed that she had contacted the designer regarding copies of the interpretation boards and the artwork has now been sent and a local business had agreed to pay for the artwork to be manufactured into signage. The new signage had now been installed on Eddisbury Hill Fort.

The Parish Council thanked both Councillor R Tattersall and Councillor H Dilliway-Nickson for their contributions for the new signage.

12 Litter bins

Cheshire West and Chester Council confirmed that they have undertaken two bin surveys and they will not consider litter bins to be installed at this time. Councillor F Goodier confirmed that she had arranged a meeting with a representative from Cheshire West and Chester Council onsite to discuss as such the clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

13 Little Wood

Four invoices from a resident for the total amount of £2,000 were received at the Parish Council meeting. As the expenditure had not been approved by the Parish Council before the work had been undertaken, the clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

14 Benches

The clerk confirmed that she had applied for a street licence for a new bench to be installed near J&S Accessories and this had been granted and the bench had been delivered.

Quotes for the installation of the benches had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Councillor R Tattersall confirmed that a local firm will install the two benches on the A556. The bench for Waste Lane near to J&S had only just been delivered and this will have to be built before it can be installed.

RESOLVED that;

Councillor R Tattersall signed the bench licence agreement for Cheshire West and Chester Council on behalf of the Parish Council and it was witnessed by Councillor T Murphy. The clerk will return the completed form to the Highways Department of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

15 Highway Heroes

Councillor F Goodier stated that another date will be arranged for October. The clerk was asked to contact Cheshire West and Chester Council regarding work needed to Station Road and to ask them to apply weedkiller the area and to request a sign from Cheshire West and Chester Council and for the provision of litter picking equipment.

16 Room hire

RESOLVED that;

The room hire charge of £6.25 for the hire of the community centre on 29th June 2026 was approved.

17 Dog poo signs and dispensers

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not approve any dog poo signage and dispensers at this time.

18 Future events/Community award

Ideas were discussed such as a dog show, best of show, community awards and Rose King/Queen. The clerk was asked to keep this as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

19 Councillor's report and future agenda items

Councillor F Goodier and Councillor C Topping both reported issues with their official email address. Councillor J Edwards will fix these issues.

Councillor T Murphy stated that the Parish Council should look at increasing its social media presence in order to encourage participation in events and in Parish Council news.

The clerk was asked to post three copies of the agenda to Councillor F Goodier so she could then put them on the noticeboard.

20 External Audit report and certificate 2025/2026

The clerk confirmed that the external audit for 2025/2026 had been completed and the external auditor's certificate had been uploaded on the Parish Council's website.

The external auditors stated the following opinion;

External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/2026

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The smaller authority has confirmed that the response to section 2 box 11 is incorrect and should be 'yes'.

The clerk reported that Section 2 box 11 asked the following;

Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?

The clerk had answered "no" as the Parish Council does not have any trust funds, however the correct answer was "yes".

There were no other matters on the audit report.

RESOLVED that;

The external audit report was noted and the amount of £210.00 plus VAT was approved for the external auditor charge.

21 Data Protection fee

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of £52.00 was approved for the renewal of the data protection fee.

22 Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 19th October 2026 at 7pm.

Part 2; contains confidential information and only Parish Councillors and the clerk were present.

23 National Pay agreement

This item has been removed as it was confidential.

Chair signature……..Dated…….