



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
16TH MARCH 2026 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Andy Pennance -Chair
Councillor Chris Flaherty – Vice Chair
Councillor Richard Weilding
Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Sue Jones
Councillor George Jones
Councillor Malcolm Crook

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

84. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

85. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

86. MATTERS ARISING:

- **Damaged Boundary Sign, Eastern Road** – this had now been replaced.
- **Pedestrian Crossing, Laidon Avenue** – The Clerk would enquire if Councillor Gage had any further information.,
- **Planters** – these had been stripped-out, and further additional Spring planting had been requested. For the Summer months, it was requested that some more perennials for height and bedding plants for colour be added.
- **Street Name Plates** – the Clerk to enquire from Councillor Gage if there was any suitable funding as suggested previously for the street signs on Oakhurst Drive. It was also requested that enquiries are made to Highways to see if it possible to add a 'no through road' symbol to the sign if replacement not possible.
- **Rope Garden Nursery** – Notification had been received that the appeal against the breach of planning had failed. 'Subject to corrections and variations, the appeals against breach of planning had been dismissed and the enforcement notice has been upheld'. Various timescales had been given to restore the land to its condition before the breach took place.

87. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None.

88. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

All relevant correspondence received since the last meeting had been forwarded electronically to Councillors for their attention. All other matters were included in the body of the meeting.



Present work was taking place on 'Assertion 10' which is a new 2025/2026 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) requirement for parish/town councils focusing on digital, data and website compliance. This is major additional legislation compared to previous years. As Rope is a small council it has never had many policies in place but with the step change needed, there are now a range of policies which need to be put in place for approval and adoption. In addition, the normal audit procedure will commence. Councillors Pennance and Flaherty offered to formulate the Email Communications Policy and Social Media Policy respectively. The Clerk to provide information. On these and WCAG 2.2 AA Standards.

89. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Gage was not in attendance

90. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Acorn Bank Close – This had now been cut back.

Fuller Drive - Tree Work was being carried out by the brook.

Daffodils in verge, Rope Lane/Bankfield Avenue – the bank of daffodils that had been damaged by a vehicle had now recovered.

91. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

- **Rope Lane Bridge and Bankfield Avenue** – this was now heavily potholed. Clerk to report to Trace System.
- **Planter License from Highways on Rope Lane** – email sent to officer for update but there had been no response. The Clerk to request update again.

92. POLICING MATTERS:

- There was now a new PCSO covering the Rope Area – PCSO Alexis Barrington.
- Speedwatch sessions had been carried out on Rope Lane.
- Discussion took place regarding the traffic at Berkely Academy especially in relation to parking in Beechcroft Avenue and Ashville Court. Councillor Sue Jones will request the local PCSO attend in this area at relevant school closing/opening times.

93. PLANNING MATTERS:

Ref: Application Number: 26/0726/HOUS

Proposal: Single storey extension to the south and north elevations.

Location: 4 Rope Farm Barns, Rope Hall Lane, Willaston, Crewe, CW2 5DA.

Resolution: No objection.

94. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Councillor Andy Pennance as Chair had attended the Cheshire East Holocaust Memorial Service on behalf of the parish. After discussions the Clerk to look into the cost of a simple Chairman's chain.

95. FINANCE

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

A request had been received from St Mary's Church, Wistaston for a donation towards the upkeep of the graveyard.



RESOLVED: that an amount of £300.00 be donated to St Mary's Church towards the upkeep of the graveyard

B. PAYMENTS

137 Payments:

None.

Approved Payments:

S Togay Clerk's Salary March	£220.04	
HMRC – March	£ 54.80	
S Togay Clerk's Salary – April	£219.84*	26/27 financial yr issue
HMRC – April	£ 54.80*	26/27 financial yr issue
SLCC	£116.00	
JD Services	£ 80.00	
NLCC Room Hire	£ 39.00	
St Mary's Church (graveyard)	£300.00	

96. REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT.

The parish council risk assessment document had been circulated to councillors for consideration and review.

RESOLVED: After consideration of the Rope PC Risk Assessment, it was resolved that the present document was appropriate for the coming year.

97. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF IT POLICY.

A draft IT Policy document had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: the draft IT Policy was approved and adopted by Rope Parish Council.

98. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF PRIVACY POLICY

A draft Privacy Policy document had been circulated for consideration.

RESOLVED: the draft Privacy Policy was approved and adopted by Rope Parish Council.

99. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

It was discussed whether the councillor information on the website should include a photograph. Councillors decided not to include.

The Chair requested that a company called 'Thrive' which designs Shavington PC Website should be contacted to enquire about services and costs to update the present parish website.

Councillor Weilding had attended the 'Rotary Science Week'. He had noted that Berkely Academy had not attended and after discussion it was decided that Councillor Weilding would find out further information on how Berkely Academy could take part and if there were any associated costs that the parish could potentially fund.

The Clerk to contact Berkely Academy to enquire if there were any governor vacancies.

Consideration of ideas for the next newsletter at the May meeting.

100. DATE OF NEXT MEETING,

Monday 18th May 2026,