



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
18TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.**

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance:

Sue Togay – Clerk

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

48. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

49. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

50. MATTERS ARISING:

Borough Councillor Attendance at Parish Meetings – As resolved the Clerk had contacted Councillor Janet Clowes, Leader of the Cheshire East Borough Council Conservative Party to complain about the ward councillors lack of attendance or response to emails.

Resolved: The Chair to also contact Councillor Janet Clowes to reiterate the Council's frustration with Councillor Gage's lack of attendance.

Planters – The Clerk had contacted Cheshire East to ascertain ownership of the areas the Council would wish to site further planters, and any potential permissions needed from Cheshire East. After an initial conversation she was awaiting a formal response

The Clerk had spoken to JD Services to attend to the existing planters to maintain the present planting and replant the annuals with some winter bedding. Further information was awaited.

Speedgun – the equipment had now been obtained and was being put to good use in the Parish.

Updating Council Documents – the Clerk had provided copies of the present Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to the Chair, and it was felt they should be reviewed. As the most up to date model documents produced by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) were only available to Association of Local Councils members, joining our local ALC (Cheshire Association



of Local Councils) was discussed. Information had been received and distributed for consideration.

Resolved: That Rope Partish Council join the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Remembrance Services – the Clerk had obtained two wreaths for the Council. Councillor Wilding had attended the Crewe Remembrance Service and Councillor Sue Jones had attended the service at St Mary’s Wistaston and the follow-on service at Wistaston Memorial Hall. A thank you letter had been received from the Chair of Wistaston Memorial Hall & Community Centre. Thank you to Councillors for their representation at these events.

Speed Indicator Devices – the Clerk had found some initial information on speed indicator device. Councillors had requested any recommendations from PCSO Meggs where they were being successfully used. Further consideration and information were felt to be needed for Councillors to consider purchase. The Clerk to ascertain who owned the SID on Fuller Drive.

Eastern Road – Following on from complaints regarding speeding on Eastern Road, the Road Safety Team at Cheshire East Highways had contacted the Clerk asking for its comments on speeding issues there. The location (near the junction with Rope Hall Lane) had now been added to Cheshire East’s Speed Management Measures. The Clerk had responded to confirm that Rope Parish Council would support any road safety measures that could be put in place.

Berkeley Academy – The Clerk had reported the problems occurring near Berkeley Academy as parents were parking in the gap between the yellow zig zag hatchings and obstructing the sightline from the car park.

51.. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

52. 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.

Parish Boundary Signs – the Clerk distributed maps indicating the sites of the Parish Boundary Signs. The sign on Eastern Road was again overgrown.

Councillors were reminded that there was a review of the Cheshire East Council wards. A ten-week consultation was at present live on the Cheshire East website until 9th December 2024.

The Clerk had also found problems obtaining a current boundary map of Rope Parish Council since the parish boundary view had taken place which had affected the parish. She had formally requested information from Cheshire East.



Hi- Viz Jackets - the Clerk had spoken to a local supplier and was awaiting confirmation that the items were ready for pick up and distribution.

The Clerk had completed the survey details for Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Council.

Dates of meetings for 2025:

Monday 13th January 25

Monday 17th March 25

Monday 19th May 2025

Monday 14th July 2025

Monday 15th September 2025

Monday 17th November 2025

53. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cheshire East Councillor Allen Gage was not in attendance.

54. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Oakhurst Drive overhanging Tree – the tree near 37 Oakhurst Drive was overhanging the pavement and causing an obstruction. Councillor Flaherty to report on Fix My Street.

55. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

An email had been received and circulated from Councillor Linda Buchanan requesting that Rope Parish Council consider a contribution towards the cost of installing speed cushions on Gresty Lane as a traffic calming measure. Three sites were indicated before the entrance to the allotments and before and after the row of houses on the lane. She indicated that she would be able to fund a large part of the project from her ward budget and that Shavington-cum-Gresty Pac are willing to part fund this project.

Resolved: Councillors requested that the Clerk contact Councillor Buchanan as follows:

- Have the residents been consulted?
- Councillor Buchanan refers to use of her ward budget. As our Ward Councillor does not attend Rope meetings, there has never been any indication of a ward budget being used in Rope. It is suggested that she contact Councillor Gage direct to ascertain if there is any funding from his budget towards the project.
- In addition, the Clerk to ask Councillor Gage if he has a ward budget which could be allocated to Rope Parish.

56. POLICING MATTERS:

There were no officers in attendance.

Speed gun sessions had been conducted. Councillor Flaherty provided the name of a volunteer who would like to take part. Councillor Sue Jones would speak to PCSO Meggs to arrange training.



There had been an incident of asb at the empty premises on Oakhurst Drive. Police had attended and not action was taken but names were taken.

Councillor Crook felt that the traffic problems at Berkeley Academy had improved.

57. PLANNING MATTERS:

It had been noted via information circulated on email that land off Rope Lane was up for sale.

58. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Councillor Crook had attended the Cheshire East Town and Parish Council Network Meeting on 17th September. The key issues discussed were relating to devolvement of services/assets to parish councils as a Borough Council money saving proposals.

Councillor Flaherty had attended the Wistaston Memorial Hall monthly meeting. The main item discussed at the moment was the rebuild of the hall. At present plans were at the architects to produce a design brief.

The Clerk had met with Councillor Bob Squirrell of Wistaston Parish Council who had very kindly assisted her with his technical expertise to solve the issues with the present email system. Grateful thanks to be given to Councillor Squirrell for his most useful assistance.

59. FINANCE

A. TO CONSIDER THE CLERK'S SALARY IN ORDER TO BRING UP TO DATE WITH THE ADOPTED NALC SALARY PAYSCALES.

The Clerk provided figures to Councillors relating to the increase within the present payscale of SCP 22.

RESOLVED: For the financial year 2024/2025, that the Clerk be awarded a pay increase within the payscale to SCP 30. This equates to an amount of £20.48 per hour which is equivalent to £3194.88 per annum. Backpay will be applied from April 2024 to October 2024. The next salary review will take place in November 2025.

B. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Shavington Academy had changed the date of the Shavington Academy Awards Evening to the Summer and had also extended awards to additional year groups. The Clerk to ascertain further information on how our donation is spent and details of proposals for the additional prizes so that the Council can consider the details of the awards and the amount to be contributed to the school. It was felt that this was a way that Rope Parish Council could raise its profile.

In addition, it was decided to approach Berkeley Academy Head in order that they may consider a similar offer of a Rope Award. Councillor Churchill to speak to the Head Teacher.

C. PAYMENTS

Section 137 Payments:

None



General Payments:

*Please note the amounts for November and December Salaries and HMRC payments will be confirmed post meeting as calculations were necessary due to pay award (see 59A).

S Togay – reimbursement for wreaths	£ 50.00
*S Togay Clerk’s Salary – Nov (including backpay)	£517.42
*HMRC – Nov	£129.20
*S Togay Clerk’s Salary – Dec	£212.99
*HMRC – October	£ 53.25
Room Hire NLCC	£ 36.00
Cheshire Work & Leisureware	£ 72.00

D. TO CONSIDER THE PRECEPT FOR 2025/2026

A financial projection had been provided shown the actual expenditure from April 2024 to end of October 2024 and the projected spend to the end of the financial year in 2025.

Discussions took place with regard to the budget and to the reserves held. There were no specific earmarked reserves, but the general fund was still high and therefore potential projects were discussed for the future to remedy this. These included provision of an SID, additional planters and increased amounts donated to the schools within the parish.

RESOLVED: that an amount of £6,105 is requested for the precept amount for the year 2025/2026 from Cheshire East.

60. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Monday 13th January 2025.