



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY
19TH JANUARY 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

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Allen Gage

68. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

69. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair with the following amendment:
Item 56: Amend 'a' to 'at'.

70. MATTERS ARISING:

Speed Indicator Devices – After discussion it was proposed that Rope Lane and Laidon Avenue would be appropriate sites for SIDs. The Clerk to work alongside the Chair to ascertain suitable specification and Cheshire East costs of a fixed unit. This item was still outstanding.

Street Name Plates (SNP's), Oakhurst Drive – after discussion at the last meeting, it was advised that relating to the Highways Ward Budget Safety Based items, if there was a residue of £500 at the financial year-end this could potentially be used towards the SNP's. The balance would be known by January 2026 when the Parish could decide whether to match fund this project which had been advised at a cost of approximately £1,000. Councillor Gage had informed the Chair that he would report if there was any available funding as discussed.

Damaged Boundary Sign, Eastern Road – Instruction had now been given to Cheshire East Legal Department to proceed.

Pedestrian Crossing, Laidon Avenue – The Clerk would enquire if Councillor Gage had any further information.,

Planters – these had been stripped-out, and further additional planting had been requested.

Gresty Lane – the gulleys were being jetted out in response to Councillor Gage's endeavours.



71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None.

72. 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.

- **To Consider the Appeal under Section 137 ref Rope Garden Nursery -** The Clerk had attended the Public Enquiry regarding the Appeal from Rope Garden Nursery relation to a breach in planning. As yet not decision had been made.
- **VAT -** The Clerk had completed the VAT Claim for the Parish to date and £930.26 had been received.
- **Cheshire East, Holocaust Memorial Event –** the Clerk had confirmed the Chair's attendance at this event.
- **Noticeboard Keys –** the Clerk had tried to source further keys with no success and would continue to try and obtain.
- **Financial Paperwork –** the budget reviews and bank reconciliations were now up to date in line with internal audit recommendations. Work would now commence on bringing the Financial Section of the website up to date as well as consideration of review of Standing Order, Financial Regulations, Assertion 10 Digital and Data Compliance' and any additional policies that were now required due to present legislation. The Clerk was logging her hours and will add an agenda item to the March meeting relating to review of allocated hours.
- **The Precept Request for 26/27** had been completed and sent to Cheshire East BC.
- **IM Land Consultation –** all comments had been collated and sent to IM Land.
- **License for Planter on Rope Lane -** the Clerk had confirmed to proceed to Cheshire East Legal Department.

73. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Gage had sent his apologies but had confirmed he was looking into any available budget for street name plates.

74. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

Acorn Bank Close – there was an overgrown bush on Acorn Bank Close at the junction of the pathway.

75. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

- **Speed Bumps, Gresty Lane –** the Clerk had forwarded the email from Cheshire East Borough Councillor for Shavington, Councillor Buchanan explaining that the costs incurred relation to the proposed installation of speed bumps on Gresty Lane had now increased to an unaffordable level and would not therefore be going ahead.
- **Rope Lane Bridge –** this was now heavily potholed.



- It was noted that Cheshire the post.

East Director of Highways had left

76. POLICING MATTERS:

None

77. PLANNING MATTERS:

As IM Land had cancelled their attendance at this parish meeting, the clerk to re-invite them to a future meeting,

78. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

Councillor Flaherty had attended the Wistaston Memorial Hall meeting but there was no further update.

79. FINANCE

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

None

B. PAYMENTS

137 Payments:

None

Approved Payments:

S Togay Clerk's Salary Jan	£219.84
HMRC – Jan	£ 55.00
S Togay Clerk's Salary – Feb	£219.84
HMRC – Feb	£ 55.00
S Togay, Stationery	£ 6.80
S Togay (UK2 Email Hosting)	£ 8.50
NLCC Room Hire	£ 39.00

80. BUDGET REVIEW TO END DECEMBER 2025.

The Clerk provided a Budget Review to the end of December 2025 and clarified the future reporting schedule. The next report would be at the May Meeting relating to a budget review to the end of March and therefore the financial year end.

81. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Comments were requested in relation to the postal service in the area.

The Chair suggested consideration of a further Newsletter, but it was decided that this would only go ahead when we had sufficient updated news.

82. DATES OF NEXT MEETING,

Monday 16th March 2026,