MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.

PRESENT:
Councillor Andy Pennance -Chair
Councillor Chris Flaherty – Vice Chair
Councillor Richard Weilding
Councillor Sue Jones
Councillor George Jones
In Attendance:
Sue Togay – Clerk

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Nick Churchil, l Councillor Malcolm Crook

21. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

22. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23. MATTERS ARISING:

An email had been sent to Councillor Gage regarding Street Name Plates and crossings but with no response.

The Clerk had confirmed the email received regarding Councillor Gage's expenditure of the Ward Budget which had been received under an FOI request.

The Chairman had been asked to become a member of the Members/Governor/Trustees at Shavington Academy which would meet annually.

24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None.

25. TO RECEIVE THECLERK'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.

The Clerk mentioned that the work created by recent audit requirements and increase in email traffic had indicated that more hours were required to fulfil duties of the role. Additional hours to be considered at a future meeting.

26. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Gage was not in attendance.

27. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

- A resident was clearing the weeds from Oakhurst Drive. It was requested that the Clerk enquire from the Borough Council the details of any approved public -use weedkiller. It was felt that residents who were carrying out voluntary

duties in the Parish should be mentioned with thanks within the forthcoming Newsletter as well as a reminder to all to 'look after your patch'.

- Acorn Bank Close had been cut back.
- The Clerk thanked Councillor Flaherty for cutting back the brambles at the noticeboard by Oaktree Walk.
- Councillor Jones had approached a resident near the Oaktree Walk who had agreed to assist with planter watering. The Planters had been tidied up and looked good. Councillors would be reimbursed for any plants or equipment required.
- A tree had been cut down in Oaktree Walk.
- The Clerk to contact the bench supplier to procure a replacement screw.

28. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

- A resident on Wisterdale Drive had contacted the Council regarding the poor state of the road surface. Councillor Flaherty had reported it on the traCE System. The Clerk to send email to Highways regarding this problem.
- Potholes were still bad on Rope Lane Bridge. The Clerk to send email to Highways.

29. POLICING MATTERS.

- The present PCSO had not been responding to any concerns highlighted to her. It was felt that better engagement was needed and it was intended to attend an up-and-coming surgery date.
- The concept of working together regarding Speedwatch across neighbouring parishes was not working at present.

30. PLANNING MATTERS:

Ref: Application Number: 26/2553/HOUS
Proposal: Demolition of front porch and construct a replacement, demolition of existing single storey side garage and replacement with marginally increased width and first floor extension over to extended footprint, rear first floor extension over approved single storey ground floor, minor increase in width of extant rear extension, internal modifications to existing property with dropped sills in some existing windows as part of overall replacement window to casement and proposed garden landscape works including shed outbuilding and covered garden seating area,
Location: INVERNESS, 29 Rope Lane, Wistaston, Crewe, Cheshire East, CW2 6SA
Resolution: No objection.

31. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

- The Chairman had attended the Shavington Academy Awards. Images and information were on the website and Facebook with permission.
- The Chairman had attended the Berkeley Academy Assembly. Images had been taken to be used on the website and Facebook with permission.
- Councillor Flaherty had attended the Wistaston Memorial Hall Meeting and had also represented the Hall at the Wistaston Summer Fair. Plans for the Memorial Hall rebuild had now been presented and work was continuing to raise money.

- Councillor Weilding had attended several successful events in Crewe – Afro Fest, Gay Pride and Crewe Day. It was felt that the parish should attend more events within the wider area in order to raise its profile. Local events could be mentioned in the Newsletter.

32. FINANCE

A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

A request had been received from Berkeley in relation to the annual prize from Rope PC which had been approved as an annual amount.
RESOLVED: that an amount of £100.00 be donated to Berkeley Academy.

B. PAYMENTS.

137 Payments:

None.

Approved Payments:

S Togay Clerk's Salary July	£219.84
HMRC – July	£ 55.00
S Togay Clerk's Salary – August	£219.84
HMRC – August	£ 55.00
S Togay (stationery)	£ 36.20
Cheshire East	£ 5.00
Clear Insurance	£ 621.07
Room Hire	£ 39.00
Councillor S Jones (plants)	£ 53.97

33. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 1SR QUARTER TO 30TH June 2026

RESOLVED: The bank reconciliation to year end 30th June 2026 was received and approved.

34. BUDGET REVIEW FOR 1ST QUARTER T0 3-TH JUNE 2026.

RESOLVED: The budget review to year end 30th June 2026 was received and approved.

35. TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

Email Communications & Acceptable Use Policy:

A draft Email Communications & Acceptable Use Policy had been circulated for consideration.
RESOLVED: That the Email & Communications & Acceptable Use Policy is approved and adopted by Rope Parish Council with the following amendment: Page 2, Item 4c – 'All members of the council will be issued with an email address which adheres to a format that is compliant with current legislation'.

Social Media Policy.

A draft copy of the Social Media Policy had been circulated for consideration.
RESOLVED: That the Social Media Policy is approved and adopted by Rope Parish Council with the addition of 'this page is maintained by Rope Parish Council on the Facebook Page. Document to be dated.

It is noted that the policies that have been adopted over the past several months should be reviewed on a rolling programme as considered necessary.

36. <u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</u>
Councillors are requested to consider articles for a newsletter and supply to the Chairman by the beginning of September.

37. <u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING,</u>
As the Chair and Vice Chair are not available for the 21st September meeting, Councillors will be asked to consider moving the September meeting to another date.

Please note the next meeting date is **Monday 5th October, 2026.**