MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ROPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2026 AT NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, FULLER DRIVE.

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

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
None.

39. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
None.

40. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41. MATTERS ARISING:
- Councillor Andy Pennance (Chair) was now appointed as a 'Person of Significant Responsibility' for Shavington Academy which involved an annual meeting.
- Use of Weedkiller – advise had been received that appropriate weedkiller had to be used by a trained person.
- Many policies had been created and adopted during 2026, and the Clerk would ascertain if there were any more relevant policies required,
- Parish Newsletter - this was in production. The distribution rounds would be circulated.

42. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.
None.

43. 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.

- Planter License, Rope Lane – Highways had confirmed that the process was unfortunately taking some time and therefore requested the present Public Liability Insurance document. The planters on Fuller Drive looked great and winter planting would be planted if and when appropriate.
- Bench, Oak Tree Walk – the clerk had spoken to Streetmaster and would provide further information to them to obtain the missing fixing.

- The Clerk had attended the recent Parish Police Cluster meeting with Councillor Sue Jones. The logistics of booking the meeting (every 3 months) and payment would be rotated between the Clerks of Willaston, Wistaston and Rope when a meeting date was confirmed by Councillor Gough of Willaston. These were informal meeting which are not minuted and require no 'terms of reference'. Any items requiring decision would be referred back to Councils for appropriate resolution.

44. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Gage was not in attendance.

45. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

- A tree had been cut down in Oaktree Walk and the stump may be appropriate to be carved. The Clerk to find out the details of local wood sculpture artists and costs.
- The hedge on the path from Evergreen Way to Acorn Bank Close had now been heavily cut back.
- The hedge at Laidon Ave/Rope Bank Avenue was still encroaching onto the pavement. The Clerk to report to traCE system.
- A resident had complained about trees on Cheshire East Land bordering their property on Brackenwood Close which were overgrown and encroaching on their property. The Clerk to site visit and advise.
- The hedge on Eastern Road had been cut back near the parish boundary sign.

46. HIGHWAYS MATTERS:

- Rope Lane Bridge – the potholes on Rope Lane Bridge had still not been repaired. There was a large amount of rubbish on the area beneath the bridge. The Clerk to report to Network Rail.

47. POLICING MATTERS.

- Councillor Sue Jones reported that the Speedwatch Team had carried out a successful session accompanied by the Police who had also calibrated their Trucam equipment to the Rope Speedgun and found it to be accurate. Arrangements were to be made for another Speedwatch session to take place on 21st October.
- It was noted that the carpark belonging to the Medical Centre on Rope Lane was being used as a pupil pick-up by the parents at Shavington Academy.

48. PLANNING MATTERS:

The following planning applications were considered for resolution:

Ref: 26/3128/HOUS
First Floor Extension
31 Glaisdale Close, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 6SF
RESOLVED: No objection.

26/3406/HOUS
Proposed removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey extension to rear.
24 Salander Crescent, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 6SA
RESOLVED: No objection.

26/3328
Change of use of Agricultural Barn to Vehicle Repair Establishment with MOT. No structural or aesthetic changes are required.
Rope Green Farm, Rope Lane, Shavington, Crewe, CW2 5BD.
RESOLVED: No objection.

26/3504/HOUS
Proposed Single Storey Extension
2 Bridge Close, Wistaston, Crewe, CW2 6RL
RESOLVED: No objection.

49. FEEDBACK ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS:

- Councillor Flaherty had attended the Wistaston Memorial Hall Meeting.
- Councillor Sue Jones had attended the Parish Police Cluster Meeting along with Councillors from Willaston, Wistaston and the Clerks of Rope and Wistaston. The local Sergeant and PCSO had attended to address any concerns which had mostly involved the inconsiderate parking at the schools in the area. Police attendance was requested at end of school day.

  It was asked how the Parishes could help the Police and response was to report incidents on 101 and take part in the 'Resident's Voice Survey'. The link to be circulated to all parishes.

  A further meeting to be held in January 2027 and three monthly thereafter and the Clerk to also forward information to the Clerk at Shavington to encourage attendance.
- Invitations had been received from Crewe Town Council and Wistaston Memorial Hall for Rope Parish Council attendance at their Memorial Services. Councillor Richard Weilding to attend the Crewe Service and Councillor Sue Jones to attend the Wistaston Memorial Hall Service. The Clerk to confirm attendance and obtain two wreaths on behalf of the parish.

50. FINANCE
A. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:
None
B. PAYMENTS.
Approved Payments:

S Togay Clerk's Salary Sept	£219.84
HMRC – Sept	£ 55.00
S Togay (stationery)	£ 7.28
Room Hire	£ 45.00
Councillor C Flaherty (plants)	£ 9.78
Royal British Legion (wreaths)	£ 50.00 – Section 137 payment.
Inprint Colour Ltd (newsletter)	£413.00 (confirmed post meeting)

S Togay Clerk's Salary – Oct	£439.84 (confirmed post meeting)
HMRC – Oct	£ 129.70 (confirmed post meeting)

51. CONSIDERATION OF CLERK'S CONTRACTED HOURS.

The Clerk provided a briefing note to councillors for consideration.
RESOLVED: Rope Parish Council agreed to an increase in the Clerk's contracted hours to six hours per week in order to reflect the increased workload. It was also requested that draft minutes are circulated within two weeks of the meeting.

52. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- It was requested that the Shavington Pantomime Posters are now removed from the noticeboards.
- As the noticeboard at Berkeley School is not easily accessible the Clerk to ascertain if the board can be moved to the nearby pathway by the substation.

53. DATE OF NEXT MEETING,

Monday 16th November 2026 to be Chaired by the Vice-Chair due to unavoidable absence.