

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September 2026, at Marton Primary School

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Sue Webborn
Cllr. Barrie Nolan
Cllr. Phil Cheetham
Cllr. Jane Ekin
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no public and press present.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllrs. Nixon, Goodwin and Smetham sent apologies in advance of the meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest. Cllr. Ekin's Declaration of Interests form is still outstanding and needs to be returned to the Clerk and Monitoring Officer immediately. Cllr. Rylands will liaise with Cllr. Ekin on this.

3. To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of July 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes, and these were signed by the Chair.

4. To receive a report from the Cheshire East Ward Councillor, if present

Cllr. Smetham was not present.

5. To review and resolve to approve any received requests for advertising on the Village Green

It was **RESOLVED** to agree for the Peak Cluster signs to continue to be displayed until Saturday 31st October. The Clerk will e-mail the contact to let them know of the deadline. The Parish Council wished to note that they continue to dissuade signs from being displayed on the village green but that applications could still be made to the Parish Council for their consideration.

6. To consider planning applications and any others since the publication of the agenda:

a) Marton Meadows – 21/6443M – unauthorised tipping

This will continue to be monitored.

b) Barlows – caravan storage and non-compliance

This will continue to be monitored. Cllr. Rylands is continuing to liaise with the site.

c) Cherry Barrow Farm – tipped soil and debris

The change of use and additional debris / vehicles has been reported to Cllr. Smetham by Cllr. Rylands. Cllr. Smetham will follow this up with planning enforcement.

d) Marton Church – access

This will continue to be monitored. It was **RESOLVED** to remove reference to the hedgerow from future minutes and agendas and to instead refer to this as “access” moving forwards.

e) Church Farm – 25/3366/FUL

This will continue to be monitored.

f) Cocksmoss Lane – 26/2426/FUL

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the submitted Parish Council comment. The Parish Council raised no objections to this application but raised several issues which they are hoping can be addressed, to avoid impact on residents.

g) Mere Barn - 26/2964/HOUS

It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment of no objections. This will be submitted by the Clerk.

h) Peak Cluster

A consultation will open in Autumn. The Parish Council will review information and submit a comment as this becomes available.

i) Cheshire East Local Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the submitted Parish Council comment to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

7. To receive an update on the Parish Council website

The Clerk and Cllr. Nixon have transferred over historic minutes and documentation, and these will be held in archive. The last five years minutes and financial records are available for individuals to view on the website. Thanks were extended to the Clerk and Cllr. Nixon for their work on this.

8. To review and resolve to approve the Freedom of Information policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Freedom of Information Policy and for this to be displayed on the website. The Clerk will circulate this to all Councillors.

9. To consider arrangements and dates for Village Coffee Mornings in the period September 2026 – February / March 2027

Cllr. Rylands plans to see if there is any interest from villagers in a Saturday coffee morning. Cllr. Rylands will circulate a list of proposed dates (weekdays, and possibly a weekend), which will be circulated to Councillors and then to the wider village. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

10. To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

There was no update.

b) Planters

Another one of the planters has been damaged. Cllr. Cheetham will consider whether these should be repaired or replaced and will speak to local suppliers for quotations. An update will be provided at the December 2026 meeting.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

One of the hedges has been cut. Cllr. Nolan is awaiting an update from the contractor on when the others will be completed. If there is no update, Cllr. Nolan or Rylands will pass this on to Cllr. Smetham.

d) Village Green

Maintenance was completed on the green c. 2 months ago. The green is currently not in need of any additional maintenance, due to the hot weather. The Parish Council discussed whether additional planting was needed at the Village Green. The group discussed whether the Community Infrastructure Levy money could be spent on this – it was **RESOLVED** for Cllr. Rylands, Cllr. Cheetham and Cllr. Nolan to recommence consideration of how this money can be spent and whether this should be on the Village Green, the Spinney or something else. The Clerk will find out whether there are any TPOs present on the Spinney or the Village Green, which may impact on works.

e) Wildflowers

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the contractor, on the best time to flay the wildflowers.

f) Litter pick

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

g) Litter signs / litter bin

The Clerk has arranged for the collection of the litter bin located on the north side of Bunce Lane and the A34 (via a report submitted by TRACE). Thanks were

extended to the Clerk for her work sorting this. There was no further update.

h) Dog mess

There was no update – this will continue to be on the agenda, for future discussion.

i) The Spinney / Capesthorpe donation

This was discussed under Item 10d.

j) Highways

Cllr. Goodwin provided the following update via e-mail:

The SID on the northbound side of the A34 opposite Marton Church was obscured by overgrown bushes. These have now been cut back and the SID is fully visible again.

The “Dip” on the A34 south of Marton Church to Marton Brook has had six reported accidents over the last 26 years. This may not be enough for intervention from the Police or Highways. This will be considered at the next meeting.

11. To review and consider any amendments to be made to the insurance policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the insurance policy.

12. To consider the arrangements, if any, for Remembrance Sunday

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of £350.00 to buy two “We Remember” statues from the Royal British Veterans Shop. The Clerk will send a specification to all Councillors; once a Councillor offers to store these, the Clerk will arrange the purchase.

13. To consider the arrangements, if any, for Christmas decorations within the village

Cllr. Nolan will arrange a small working party to install the Christmas lights. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a £50.00 budget figure for purchase of one new set of lights and new batteries.

The Clerk will send Cllrs. Rylands and Nolan the specification for the lights purchased in 2024, for their information.

14. To consider increasing the Clerk’s salary to SCP14 (£15.82/hour), following three year’s employment by the Parish Council

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk’s salary increase to SCP14.

15. To confirm that the Clerk’s pay will increase in line with the new NALC pay-scale as of 1st October 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new NALC pay-scale for salary payments.

16. To confirm back pay arrangements for the period 1st April – 30th September 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve back pay for the Clerk for the period 1st April – 30th September.

Cllr. Webbourn stated that the Clerk was “worth every penny” and this sentiment was echoed by all Councillors.

17. To receive and resolve to approve the accounts for payment:

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT – £14,791.71 (as of 1st August 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE

DM Payroll	£62.40
Parishes Online (website)	£258.00
Phil Cheetham Expenses (plants)	£153.92
Clerk Salary (Mar – Jun 2026)	£235.16
HMRC	£156.40

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Jul – Sept 2026)	£235.16
HMRC	£13.60
Zurich (Insurance)	£214.00

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

Interest (end June)	£11.61
Interest (end July)	£11.07
Planter donation (Marton Primary School)	£50.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and for the Chair to sign the bank reconciliation.

The Parish Council wished to note the below list of possible CIL expenditure.

These include:

- Road signs
- New planters
- A re-work of the Spinney
- A re-work of the Village Green
- Parish Boundary signs

18. Any other correspondence

There was no other correspondence.

19. To note the date of the Village Meeting on the 1st December

Tuesday 2nd February 2027

Tuesday 16th March 2027 (village meeting - in school hall)

Tuesday 11th May 2027

Action Points

- Cllr. Ekin will return the register of interests form, provided by the Clerk, to the Monitoring Officer, as soon as possible.
- The Clerk will e-mail the contact to let them know of the deadline for removal of the Peak Cluster signage on the Village Green.
- Cllr. Smetham will follow up on Cherry Barrow Farm with planning enforcement.
- The Clerk will submit a comment of no objections to Mere Barn - 26/2964/HOUS.
- The Clerk will circulate the FOI policy to all Councillors and ask for them to confirm receipt.
- The Clerk will post the finalised FOI policy on the Parish Council website.
- Cllr. Rylands will circulate a list of proposed coffee morning dates (weekdays, and possibly a weekend), which will be circulated to Councillors for approval.
- Once approved, the Clerk will circulate the coffee morning dates to the Village via an e-mail.
- Cllr. Cheetham will consider whether the damaged planters should be repaired or replaced and will speak to local suppliers for quotations.
- Cllr. Nolan will monitor the progress of the hedge cutting on Oak View / Oak Lane and will continue to liaise with the contractor.
- If there is no progress on the Oak View / Oak Lane hedges throughout the autumn, Cllr. Nolan or Rylands will pass this matter on to Cllr. Smetham for her to follow up.
- Cllrs. Rylands, Cheetham and Nolan to consider how the CIL money could be spent on a project to improve either the Spinney or the Village Green.
- The Clerk will confirm whether any TPO's are present on the land at The Spinney.
- The Clerk will send a specification for the Remembrance Statues to all Councillors; once a Councillor offers to store these, the Clerk will arrange the purchase.
- The Clerk will send Cllrs. Rylands and Nolan the specification for the lights purchased in 2024, for their information.
- Cllrs. Rylands and Nolan will arrange for the purchase of new Christmas lights and batteries.
- Cllr. Nolan will arrange a small working party to install the Christmas lights