

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2026, at Marton Church

Present

Cllr. John Rylands
Cllr. Sue Webborn
Cllr. Barrie Nolan
Cllr. Phil Cheetham
Cllr. Alistair Goodwin
Elizabeth Worrall – Clerk

1. To consider co-option of a new Councillor

Two candidates were present for the Councillor position. Both were asked to share, briefly, why they would like to become a Councillor. These insights were shared and heard by Councillors. It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Jane Ekin to the role of Councillor.

PART 1 - PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no public and press present.

There were two members of the public present.

The first question related to the matter of the hedge in the Churchyard. The Church created a new entrance to the Churchyard. As of this date, the Church and the Parish Council have not heard of any further action by Planning Enforcement. Cllr. Smetham confirmed that she had received a notification from Enforcement that Enforcement had investigated this – the hedgerow was not considered long enough to fall under the protected hedgerow legislation. Cllr. Smetham will send a copy of Enforcement's response to the Clerk for the Parish Council records.

The second question came from a member of the public in relation to a complaint made against a local farm, relating to signage. The member of the public believed that the Parish Council had made a complaint relating to signage in the village and asked the Parish Council to withdraw any complaint that they had made. The resident said that they planned to create a bike track and run clay pigeon shoots, on their property, not for financial reasons, but because they felt that the Parish Council had got involved in a situation that did not include them. The individual also plans to not cut their hedges and plans to make the village "not nice." The individual also raised concerns that the Church would soon be closed due to a state of disrepair. The Parish Council noted this comment but pointed out that they have absolutely no jurisdiction over the church - a common misconception because of the names - Parish Council/Parochial Church Council.

Cllr. Smetham confirmed to the member of the public that she had reported the signs

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 21st July 2026

Signed

Dated

initially, following concerns from a resident.

The Parish Council discussed the matter, after the member of the public had left the meeting, and agreed that they had not made a complaint, and hence, had nothing to withdraw. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Ekin would visit the member of the public, to discuss this matter in more detail. Cllr. Rylands will discuss the matter with Cllr. Ekin in advance of her visit.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Cllr. Nixon sent apologies in advance of the meeting.

3. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of May 2026

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

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

Cllr. Smetham confirmed that all Highways work, including the siding out, had been completed.

Planning would like input on the Local Plan scoping consultation; the deadline for comments, from stakeholders, is the 1st September 2026.

Opposition for the Peak Cluster pipeline is growing; Cllr. Smetham expects that this will be heard by the cabinet and will then be heard by the full Council. Cllr. Smetham is meeting with the Place Officer at Cheshire East, in August, to discuss this matter.

Cllr. Smetham confirmed her plans to retire, in May 2027. Cllr. Rylands thanked Lesley for all her service and her hard work.

6. To review and resolve to approve the draft advertising policy, in relation to signage of the Village Green and other Parish Council managed spaces

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy, with the agreed amendments:

- A link will be included to the maximum legal size of signs, from the Cheshire East webpage, or similar legislation
- The policy will clearly state that the Parish Council will contact sign owners to ask them to remove signs should they break the policy.

An update was provided on the current signage within the village.

- Marton Wakes. The Chair of the Marton Wakes committee had kindly spoken to Cllr Rylands to indicate that the Wakes signs will be taken down during the week;
- Peak Cluster. The signs were erected on 29th May 2026 for which three-month approval had been granted. The Chair asked Cllr Goodwin to discuss any required extension with those affected by Peak Cluster.

7. 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 will liaise with the site, at an appropriate moment. The Parish Council are not unduly upset about the issue but want to make sure the rules of planning are followed.

c) Cherry Barrow Farm – tipped soil and debris
This will continue to be monitored. The Clerk will write to planning enforcement, to provide them with an update.

d) Marton Church – removal of hedgerow
Cllr. Smetham will forward the correspondence relating to this to the Clerk. This will be reviewed by Cllr. Rylands. The Parish Council do not object to the removal of the hedgerow, or the car park, but want to make sure the rules of planning are followed. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

e) Brookside Farm – 25/1233/FUL
This has been approved with conditions and can be removed from the agenda ahead.

f) Church Farm – 25/3366/FUL
This has been refused, but will stay on the agenda, as this is pending an appeal.

g) Mere Barn – 26/1983/HOUS
This has been refused, and can be removed from the agenda ahead.

h) Cocksmiss Lane – 26/2426/FUL
Cllr. Rylands will work with Cllr. Smetham to review this matter. A comment will be drafted by Cllr. Rylands and then sent to the Clerk to submit.

i) Peak Cluster
A consultation will open in Autumn. The Parish Council will review and comment on these as and when they are received.

8. To receive an update on the Parish Council website and confirm a launch / transition date

It was **RESOLVED** that the old documents would be downloaded from the old website and would be uploaded to the new website. These items would not be linked onto webpages but would be held in archive.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would move to the new website

immediately. The Clerk will post a news story containing a link to the new website.

9. To receive updates on Village Maintenance Projects

a) Marton Environmental Plan

The Parish Council would like to produce a formal environmental plan to include tree and hedgerow planting and information about wildlife, including the information provided by the Wildlife Trust on wildlife corridors. Cllr. Cheetham is willing to take this over, from the current individual; Cllr. Ekin may know individuals within the village and will speak to them. An update will be provided at the next meeting by Cllr. Ekin.

b) Planters

Another one of the planters has been damaged. The Parish Council would welcome expressions of interest from any local businesses or individuals who would be willing to work with the Parish Council for new planters. Thanks were extended to the school for their donation and to Cllrs. Nolan and Cheetham for their hard work.

c) Oak Lane / Oak View Hedges

There was no update.

d) Village Green

Cllr. Cheetham has completed some tidying up work, removing some nettles and overgrown plants. Thanks were extended to individuals who attended the working party to help tidy up the village. Thanks were also extended to the Golf Club, for completing siding out work in advance of the Wakes; this was noted and made an impact.

e) Wildflowers

The wildflowers are blooming well – Cllr. Nolan will contact the local tradesman who flails these and will ask for this to be completed in September.

f) Litter pick

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

g) Litter signs / litter bin

Cllr. Smetham will chase up the collection of the litter bin located on the south side of Bunce Lane and the A34. This has not been collected for approximately 4 months.

h) Dog mess

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

i) The Spinney / Capesthorpe donation
This will continue to be on the agenda, for future discussion.

j) Highways

If there are willing volunteers, the Parish Council are willing to re-visit a community speedwatch. Cllr. Goodwin will liaise with local landowners to ensure the hedges are cut to ensure good visibility.

Councillors discussed "the dip" and whether the Parish Council should lobby Cheshire East to install solid white lines. Cllr. Smetham recommended a site called Crash Mat, to assist with cases. Cllrs. Goodwin and Ekin will look into this. The Clerk will write to the PCSO to see if she is willing to attend and assess the site.

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

BALANCE OF ACCOUNT - £15,579.91 (as of June 1st 2026)

PAYMENTS MADE

Arien Signs	£516.00
John Rylands Expenses (Village Meeting Notice)	£9.00
John Rylands Expenses (coffee morning – Feb)	£17.85
<i>The above was overpaid by £0.40 and will be reconciled in the next payment made to John.</i>	
HMRC	£156.40
John Rylands Expenses (Village Meeting)	£20.89
John Rylands Expenses (coffee morning – Mar)	£14.05
Clerk's Expenses (ICO)	£52.00
John Percival Expenses (compost / trees)	£70.00
John Rylands Expenses (Peak Cluster Notice)	£24.00
John Rylands Expenses (M&S – gift)	£42.00
John Percival Expenses (fruit trees)	£32.50
Clerk Salary (Jan – Mar 2026)	£235.16
CHALC	£74.00

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Clerk Salary (Mar – Jun 2026)	£235.16
HMRC	£156.40
Phil Cheetham Expenses (plants)	£153.92
DM Payroll	£62.40
Parishes Online	£258.00
TBC organisation – North Rode	
(donation as thanks for internal audit)	£20.00
Marton Church (donation for meeting hosting)	£20.00

RECEIPTS

Precept (1 of 2)	£2,000.00
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 21st July 2026

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Interest (end April)	£11.43
Interest (end May)	£10.90

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

11. Any other correspondence

Cllr. Rylands attended the Parish Council liaison meeting in June 2026. The matters discussed were Peak Cluster and the Wildlife Trust project to identify wildlife corridors.

The Clerk confirmed a change to her working plans, starting from September 1st, whereby she will be acting as a Clerk (for various Parish Councils) full time. The Parish Council were happy to support the Clerk in this.

Thanks were extended to Cllr. Nolan and the Church for hosting the meeting.

The Chair and the Parish Council also extended their thanks to the church organist, for their long standing service and the assistance they give to the church community.

12. To set meeting dates for 2027

The Clerk will send a proposed list of dates to Parish Councillors.

13. To note the date of the Village Meeting on the 8th September

1st December – Parish Council Meeting

Action Points

- The Clerk will send Cllr. Ekin's declaration of office to the Monitoring Officer.
- Cllr. Ekin will return the register of interests form, provided by the Clerk, to the Monitoring Officer, within 30 days of her appointment.
- Cllr. Smetham will send a copy of Enforcement's response relating to the Church hedgerow, to the Clerk for the Parish Council records.
- Cllr. Ekin will visit the member of the public who had questions about signage in the village.
- The Clerk will make the required revisions and will then post the advertising policy on the Parish Council website.
- The Clerk will write to Planning Enforcement, to provide an update on Cherry Barrow Farm.
- Cllr. Rylands will draft a comment relating to Cocksness Lane – 26/2426/FUL; this will then be sent to the Clerk to submit to planning.
- The Clerk and Cllr. Nixon will arrange for the archiving of all old material held on the old website, and for this to be moved to the new website.
- The Clerk will post on the old website, confirming this is no longer updated, and directing people to the new site.
- Cllr. Ekin will speak to the individual she knows who may be willing to get involved with the Environmental Plan.
- Cllr. Nolan will contact the local tradesman who flails the wildflowers and will ask for this to be completed in September.
- Cllr. Smetham will chase up the collection of the litter bin located on the south side of Bunts Lane and the A34.
- Cllrs. Goodwin and Ekin will look into "Crash Mat" and whether useful data on vehicular incidents in Marton is available.
- The Clerk will write to the PCSO to see if she is willing to attend and assess the site in "the dip" approaching Marton.
- The Clerk will send a proposed list of dates for 2027 to Parish Councillors.
- Cllr. Smetham will advise Marton if there is anything in the Scoping Consultation, for the new Local Plan, that they may wish to comment on.