

BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL

5th March 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm Terminated: 9.05 pm

Present: Councillor Bradley (Chair)
Councillors Beresford, Freer, Tapper, Thomson and Williams

Councillor Wray – Cheshire East Council

There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moss.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the Parish Council.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2nd January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. CO-OPTION

Consideration was given to an expression of interest for co-option onto the Parish Council by Mr Mike Jones.

RESOLVED

That Mr Mike Jones be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the Public raised ongoing concerns over the gypsy and traveller site on Dean Hill. The Chair agreed to raise this matter with Sarah Russell MP and Councillor Wray suggested that residents continue to report concerns, with evidence wherever possible, to the Borough Council.

6. DEVELOPMENT CONCERN

This matter was considered under Minute 5.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **Comments submitted under the provision of the Standing Orders**
 - (i) **Application Reference Number:** 25/4762/FUL
Proposal: Change of use of land for siting of caravans (4 pitches) for residential occupation by Gypsy families with shared amenity building, hard standing and sealed septic tank in the grounds of Betchton Gardens.
Location: Betchton Gardens Newcastle Road, Betchton, Sandbach, Cheshire East, CW11 2WE
Comments were submitted on 4th February 2026.
 - (ii) **Appeal Reference:** APP/R0660/W/25/3377118
Appeal By: BLOOR HOMES LIMITED
Site Address: Land To The North And South Of The A533 The Hill Sandbach CW11 2WE

Comments were submitted on 18th February 2026.

RESOLVED

That the comments of the Parish Council, submitted to the Borough Council, under the provisions of the Standing Orders, as circulated with the Agenda, be ratified.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council considered feedback from the Chair and Deputy Chair on the implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Betchton. The Chair reported that a grant of £10,000.00 had been awarded from the Denise Coates Foundation, for this purpose. Members expressed their sincere thanks for this donation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Betchton be approved;
- (ii) That the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, be approved;
- (iii) That the membership of the Steering Group, comprising a maximum of 10 persons, including Councillor Tapper (to Chair and Lead the Steering Group) and Councillors Bradley, Jones and Thomson, be approved;
- (iv) All decision-making powers shall remain with the Parish Council (Terms of Reference to be approved at the next meeting).

9. BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT 2025-2026

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the following matters:-

(i) Transactions

RESOLVED

That the following transactions, be approved:-

PAYER/PAYEE	DETAILS	RECEIPT	PAYMENT
HMRC	December PAYE		£45.40
M Clough	December Salary		£181.71
	Service Charge		£6.00
M D Coxey	Payroll		£36.00
HMRC	January PAYE		£45.60
M Clough	January Salary		£181.51
	Service Charge		£6.00
Zurich Municipal	Annual insurance		£214.00
Zurich Municipal	Annual insurance increase due to increased precept		£86.00

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	PAYMENT
M Clough	March Salary (13 hours @ £17.47 p/h)	Approx. £182.00
HMRC	PAYE March	Approx. £46.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£6.00
M Clough	April Salary (13 hours @ £17.47 p/h)	Approx £182.00
HMRC	PAYE April	Approx £46.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£6.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure at 25th February 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure at 25th February 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary (including HMRC PAYE Costs)	£2,271.10	£2,400.00	£128.90
Office Expenses	£269.10	£270.00	£0.90
Insurance	£300.00	£350.00	£50.00
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
Training	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
Room Hire	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Poppies/Wreaths	£0.00	£130.00	£130.00
Community Projects	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Village Maintenance	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Website and Email	£288.00	£300.00	£12.00
Subscriptions	£236.45	£236.50	£0.05
Internal Audit	£136.50	£136.50	£0.00
Contingency	£252.99	£500.00	£247.01
	£3,901.14	£5,740.00	£1,838.86

(iv) Explanation of Variances

RESOLVED

That the balances in the Village Maintenance (£150.00), Poppies/Wreaths (£130.00) and Room Hire (£120.00) be vired to the Salary related expenses Budget Head.

(v) Bank Reconciliation as at 25th February 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 25th February 2026, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 25th February 2026	
BETCHTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2026	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statement as at 31st January 2026	£
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£9,113.62
Less: any unpresented cheques	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£300.00
Add: any unbanked cash	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	
Net bank balances as at 25th February 2026	£8,813.62
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	

CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance	
Unity Current Account (20519047) - 1st April 2025	£6,297.63
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£6,417.13
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Current Account (20519047)	£3,901.14
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£8,813.62

(vi) Bank Statements – Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED

That the following bank statements, as circulated with the Report, be received:-

- 31st December 2025
- 31st January 2026

10. TREE ON HASSALL GREEN, NEW INN LANE

Councillor Beresford reported on feedback received from Cheshire East Council which confirmed the Parish Council could replace the trees on New Inn Lane.

Councillor Jones agreed to look into the possibility of obtaining trees that could be donated to the Parish for this purpose.

RESOLVED

That the sum of £300.00 be allocated in the Budget for the purchase of new trees, from Community Budget.

11. UPDATE TO THE GRIT BINS

Following liaison with the Borough Council, Councillor Tapper reported on the current position regarding the grit bins.

RESOLVED

That authorisation for Councillor Tapper to ask Cheshire East Council to adopt the grit bin by the Pink Church and the two grit bins on Roughwood Lane, be approved.

12. MISSING PARISH COUNCIL SIGN

RESOLVED

That this matter be considered at a later date and added to a list of 'Projects', for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

13. NO MOW LOCATIONS FOR PLANTING/WILD FLOWERS

RESOLVED

That the Borough Council be requested to continue with the existing arrangements until further notice.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council noted that the date of the next meeting was Thursday, 7th May 2026, to be held at 7.30 pm at the Club House, Malkins Bank Golf Course.

This would be preceded by the **Annual Parish Meeting**, which would be held at 7.00 pm.

**15. URGENT ITEMS
RESOLVED**

The Chair agreed that the following items would be placed on the next Agenda for consideration:-

- **Water Concerns**
- **Asset Register**