



17th September 2026

Commenced: 8.00 pm

Terminated: 10.00 pm

**Present: Councillor Wells (Chair)
Councillors Brassington, Coulter, Crowe, Jones and Plunkett**

Councillor Simon Eardley – Borough Councillor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from Members of the Parish Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Coulter declared an interest in Minute 13. She did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th July 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council welcomed Mrs Christine Jackson from Ince Parish Council who explained the process involved in obtaining a Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted, and thanks be extended to Mrs Jackson for attending the meeting.

5. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED

That the co-option of Oliver Johnson to the Parish Council, be approved.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance.

7. POLICE REPORT

The Police did not submit an update report.

8. FINANCE AND BUDGET 2026-2027

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	Receipts	Payments
HugoFox	Email INV-29568		£2.99

MD Coxey & Co Ltd	Payroll Fee		£38.40
Simon Eardley	Room Hire Contribution		£16.20
Information Commissioner	ZA432487		£47.00
HMRC	July PAYE		£95.20
M Clough	July Salary		£254.46
Lengthsman	July Salary		£127.13
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Fee		£7.00
HugoFox	Email INV-30720		£2.99
D Wells	Reimbursement for Verge Markers		£530.40
M Clough	Reimbursement for Street Licence		£266.00
Lengthsman	August Salary		£126.93
M Clough	August Salary		£254.46
HMRC	August PAYE		£95.40
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Fee		£7.00

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

Payer	Details	£
Lengthsman	September Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	September Salary (including backpay)	Approx. £320.00
HMRC	September PAYE	Approx. £100.00
Lengthsman	October Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	October Salary	Approx. £270.00
HMRC	October PAYE	Approx. £90.00
Unity Trust	Service charge for September and October	£7.00
		£7.00
HugoFox	Emails for September and October	£2.99
		£2.99
Cheshire Community Action	Joining Fee	£30.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure to 10th September 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 10th September 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Staff Costs	£2,383.95	£6,250.00	£3,866.05
Monthly Payments to Clerk for Home Office	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Payroll	£74.40	£120.00	£45.60
Internal Auditor	£143.35	£150.00	£6.65
Administrative Costs	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
Room Hire	£16.20	£150.00	£133.80
Insurance	£300.00	£375.00	£75.00
Subscriptions	£215.20	£300.00	£84.80
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£50.00	£3.00
Audit Fees	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
St Oswald's School Field Licence	£0.00	£375.00	£375.00
Website	£14.95	£300.00	£285.05

Training	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
Community Projects	£976.84	£3,600.00	£2,623.16
Gardener	£255.00	£1,000.00	£745.00
Remembrance Wreath	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
Unity Trust Service Charges	£35.00	£80.00	£45.00
Repayment of PWLB Loan	£1,117.35	£2,235.00	£1,117.65
RINGFENCED CIL	£0.00	£2,478.68	£2,478.68
Excluding Ringfenced CIL	£5,579.24	£15,575.00	£9,995.76
Including Ringfenced CIL	£5,579.24	£18,053.68	£12,474.44

(iv) Explanation of Variances

RESOLVED

That one of the duplicated Audit Fees Budget Heads be removed, and the funds transferred to the Community Budget Heading (total transfer £150.00).

(v) Bank Reconciliation to 10th September 2026

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Bank Reconciliation detailed below as at 10th September 2026, be approved.
- (b) That the ringfencing of the sum of £12,000.00, as a Budget Head for the Neighbourhood Plan, be approved.

<u>Bank Reconciliation 10th September 2026</u>	
MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2027	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statement as at 31st August 2026	£
Current Account (07572433)	£29,648.95
Less: any unrepresented payments	£85.00
Add: any unbanked cash	£0.00
Net bank balances as at 10th September 2026	£29,563.95
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	
<u>CASH BOOK</u>	
Opening Balance at 1st April 2026	£17,629.87
Add: Receipts in the year	£17,598.32
Less: Payments in the year	£5,579.24
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£29,648.95

(vi) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

That the following bank statements, as circulated with the report, be approved:-

- 31st July 2026

- **31st August 2026**

9. 2026-27 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay scales for 2026-27 to be implemented from 1 April 2026 which equates to a pay increase of 3.3%, be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Clerk be awarded an incremental pay increase to SCP 25, from 17th September 2026.**
- (iii) **That the Lengthsman's salary progression, be considered at the next meeting.**

10. WARD COUNCILLOR'S BRIEFING

The Parish Council received an update from Councillor Eardley on the following matters:-

- Thanks were extended to the volunteer team who were making a difference on a practical level to various parts of the village, and also to the Parish Council for the installation of verge markers outside the school
- Townfield Lane/Grove Road surface dressing works
- Well Lane – potential for some form of vehicle activated speed monitoring
- The Peak Cluster public meeting held on 20th July 2026 attracted approximately 90 people
- HyNet CO2 pipeline construction matters
- Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the impact on Borough Councillor 'call-in' rights
- Parkgate Road, Saughall (and Mollington) 50mph repeater sign replacements
- Public Rights of Way matters
- The use of speed limit stickers on domestic bins

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

11. PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **Comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders**
- (i) **Planning Application: 26/02362/FUL**
Address: 5 Home Park Mollington Chester CH1 6NW
Proposal: Single storey rear and side wraparound extension
RESOLVED
That the comments submitted by the Parish Council on 13th August 2026, as circulated with the agenda, be ratified.
- (ii) **Planning Application: 26/02305/FUL**
Address: Woodeaves Townfield Lane Mollington Chester CH1 6LB
Proposal: Removal of existing swimming pool building, link and conservatory. Erection of rear extension, and first floor extension including dormers, to front, side and rear
RESOLVED
That the comments submitted by the Parish Council on 18th August 2026, as circulated with the agenda, be ratified.
- (iii) **Appeal against the refusal of planning permission**
Application reference: 26/00097/PIP
Site Address: Land At Townfield Lane, Mollington, Chester
Description of development: Permission in Principle for erection of two dwellings (Stage1)

Appellant's name: Mr Chris Walsh
Planning Inspector ref: 6015418
Appeal reference: 26/00091/REF
Appeal start date: 3 September 2026
RESOLVED

That the comments submitted by the Parish Council on 7th September 2026, as circulated with the agenda, be ratified.

12. NEWSLETTER

The Chair raised concerns about the lack of progress on the Newsletter production, noting that the documents agreed upon at the previous meeting had not been produced as agreed.

RESOLVED

That all articles be forwarded to the Clerk by 30th September 2026, who will forward them to the Chair and Councillor Coulter.

13. VILLAGE BENCH

The Parish Council considered a quote for the purchase of a bench and its installation on Townfield Lane, following the approval of a Street Furniture Licence. (Details circulated).

RESOLVED

That the quote be approved in principle, following the approval of a Street Furniture Licence.

14. URGENT ITEM

The Chair of Council Business was of the opinion that the following consultation survey should be considered and completed as a matter of urgency due to a looming deadline.

15. LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION - CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL RESOLVED

That the online submission of the completed Local Plan Scoping Consultation, be ratified.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council noted that the date of the next meeting was Thursday, 19th November 2026 at 7.30 pm at St. Oswald's Primary School.