



## MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

19<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.05 pm

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

Councillor Simon Eardley – Cheshire West and Chester Councillor

There were two members of the public in attendance.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM

Residents raised the following matters:-

- Drainage issues on Grove Road. There had been no feedback from the organisations involved in the meeting with joint parties. The resident was thanked for his hard work in this matter.
- Parking around the school was not improving, and the layby on Grove Road was not used. The Police had encouraged that any issues be reported to them. The Chair agreed to draft a letter to the estate management of the school, on this matter.
- Broadband – a resident provided an update on his enquiries.

### RESOLVED

**That the reports be noted.**

### 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Parish Council welcomed Ms Catherine Morgatroyd to the meeting, who was the Principal Planning Officer – Planning Policy and the Lead of Neighbourhood Planning at Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Ms Morgatroyd presented detailed information regarding the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan, together with the constraints, which should also be considered. She also explained the procedure involved and advised that the Parish Council should wait until the Local Plan was finalised before a decision was made as to whether Mollington should embark on this project. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council would be eligible to receive CIL monies of 15% on any eligible developments, but with a Neighbourhood Plan, this figure would increase to 25%.

**RESOLVED**

That this matter be further considered next year (2027).

**6. DRAINAGE ISSUES ON GROVE ROAD**

This matter was considered under Minute 4.

**7. FINANCE AND BUDGET 2025-2026**

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

**(i) Transactions****RESOLVED**

That the transactions detailed below, be approved:-

<b>Payer/Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>
HugoFox	Emails INV-22142		£11.99
Dawn Coulter	Lights reimbursement		£42.00
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
MD Coxey & Co Ltd	Payroll Invoice 103962		£36.00
HMRC	January PAYE		£95.40
	January Salary		£126.93
M Clough	January Salary		£254.46
HugoFox	Emails INV 23234		£11.99
HugoFox	Website Subscription INV 23554		£143.86
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
HugoFox	REFUND for amended subscription	£11.99	
HMRC	February HMRC		£95.40
M Clough	February Salary		£254.46
	February Salary		£126.93

**(ii) Approval of Payments****RESOLVED**

That the payments detailed below, be approved:-

<b>Payer</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Litterpicker	March Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	March Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	March PAYE	Approx. £80.00
Litterpicker	April Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	April Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	April PAYE	Approx. £80.00
M Clough	Six monthly payment for Home/Office	£60.00
		£6.00
Unity Trust	Service charge for March and April	£6.00
		£2.99
HugoFox	Emails for March and April	£2.99

**(iii) Budget Expenditure to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026****RESOLVED**

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026, be approved:-

<b>Budget Head</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget Allocated</b>	<b>£ Difference</b>
Staff Costs	£5,276.05	£5,750.00	£473.95
Monthly Payments to Clerk for Home Office	£60.00	£120.00	£60.00
Travel	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Payroll	£108.00	£120.00	£12.00
Administrative Costs	£91.49	£100.00	£8.51
Room Hire	£22.00	£140.00	£118.00
Insurance	£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
Subscriptions	£284.82	£300.00	£15.18
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
Audit Fees	£136.50	£150.00	£13.50
St Oswald's School Field Licence	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00
Website	£526.63	£543.00	£16.37
Training	£50.00	£105.00	£55.00
Community Projects	£481.95	£3,745.00	£3,263.05
Gardener	£548.00	£800.00	£252.00
Remembrance Wreath	£114.99	£115.00	£0.01
Unity Trust Service Charges	£66.00	£80.00	£14.00
Repayment of PWLB Loan	£2,234.70	£2,235.00	£0.30
RINGFENCED CIL	£3,049.74	£3,605.10	£555.36
<b>Excluding Ringfenced CIL</b>	<b>£10,348.13</b>	<b>£15,000.00</b>	<b>£4,651.87</b>
<b>Including Ringfenced CIL</b>	<b>£13,397.87</b>	<b>£18,605.10</b>	<b>£5,207.23</b>

**(iv) Explanation of Variances**

**RESOLVED**

That the following virements made by the Clerk to balance the overspent Website Budget, be approved:-

- (i) £75.00 from Insurance Budget to Website Budget
- (ii) £85.00 from Remembrance Budget to Website Budget
- (iii) £23.00 from Internal Audit Fees to Website Budget

**(v) Bank Reconciliation to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**RESOLVED**

That the Bank Reconciliation detailed below as at 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026, be approved:-

<b>Bank Reconciliation 8th March 2026</b>	
<b>MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Financial year ending 31 March 2026</b>	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statement as at 28th February 2026	£
Current Account (07572433)	£18,941.45
Less: any unrepresented payments	£476.79
Add: any unbanked cash	£11.99

<b>Net bank balances as at 8th March 2026</b>	<b>£18,476.65</b>
<b>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows</b>	
<b>CASH BOOK</b>	
Opening Balance at 1st April 2025	£16,034.79
Add: Receipts in the year	£15,839.73
Less: Payments in the year	£13,397.87
<b>Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above</b>	<b>£18,476.65</b>

**(vi) Bank Statements**

The Chair reported that the Gardener, Grasshopper, had notified him that he would be relinquishing this role due to alternative work commitments.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the bank statements, detailed below, as circulated with the report, be received:-
- 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026
  - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- (b) That consideration be given to the role and scope required of a new Gardener at the next meeting.

**8. BROADBAND**

This matter was considered under Minute 4.

**9. HYNET PROJECT**

The Parish Council acknowledged that the village was heavily affected by this work and was currently looking untidy. Road surfacing that was affected due to severe sweeping would be reinstated when the project was completed. It was anticipated that there would be some mitigating finances to the village, but the details had still not been agreed.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

**10. PEAK CLUSTER**

The Parish Council noted that this Project was not as evasive for Mollington as the Hynet Project, and had more challenge than Hynet.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

**11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Chair reported on the following highways matters:-

- (i) Overwood Lane continued to raise concerns as the size of traffic was too large and heavy for the structure of the road and the edge of the road was significantly deteriorating.
- (ii) There were increasing incidents of dogs fouling the pavements throughout village. Councillor Coulter agreed to include an article on this matter in the Newsletter.
- (iii) Speeding outside Rose Farm continued to raise concerns and the Parish Council felt that this area would hugely benefit if it was a 20 mph zone.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

### **12. WARD COUNCILLOR'S BRIEFING**

The Parish Council received an update from Councillor Eardley on the following matters relating to the Parish. Councillor Eardley explained, in depth, his involvement in each matter:-

- Peak Cluster Project;
- Speeding/speed limits/surveys;
- Next round of HyNet / CO2 pipeline engagement meetings;
- Cheshire West and Chester Council Budget outcomes from 26 February 2026;
- Townfield Lane – surface preparation works;
- Planning matters;
- Numerous miscellaneous reports including flytipping and litter picking activity.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

### **13. PLANNING**

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **Comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders**  
(i) **Reference Number:** 26/00097/PIP  
**Site Address:** Land At Townfield Lane Mollington Chester  
**Proposal:** Permission in Principle for erection of two dwellings (Stage 1)  
**Objection submitted (correspondence circulated)**

## **RESOLVED**

**That the objection submitted, be ratified.**

- **Application considered by Planning Committee**  
(ii) Planning Application reference: **25/02561/FUL**  
**Location:** Land Adjacent Ness Cottage Coalpit Lane Chester  
**Proposal:** Material change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated hard standing and utility block (part retrospective)

Councillor Eardley reported that this application was considered by the Planning Committee 3rd March 2026 and was deferred to a future meeting on technical grounds. Councillor Eardley however, gave verbal remarks to the meeting setting out the key reasons for the application to be refused.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the update be noted.**

### **12. POLICE UPDATES**

The Parish Council had been notified that there were no incidents to report from the Police.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

### **13. PLANS FOR 2025-2026**

The Parish Council considered the following projects:

- (i) The purchase of a long planter, compost and plants for under the new Notice Board, up to the cost of £150.00, by Councillor Coulter;
- (ii) The new Notice Board was now erected but needed to be further secured. Councillor

- Brassington agreed to keep the key, and update the Board;
- (iii) Volunteers Day to be added to the next Agenda, but in the meantime, the Parish Councillors to consider this further;
  - (iv) Councillor Crowe agreed to weedspray any areas in the village that were growing weeds.

**RESOLVED**

**That authorisation to Councillor Coulter, to purchase a long planter, compost and plants for under the new Notice Board, up to a sum of £150.00, be approved.**

**14. PROJECTS FOR 2026-2027**

Councillor Eardley agreed to enquire about a new Welcome to Mollington signs and a Flytipping sign/poster.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

**15. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair was of the opinion that there were no items that required consideration as a matter of urgency.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Parish Council noted that the next meetings were as follows:-

- Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 7.00 pm at St. Oswald's Primary School.
- Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 at 7.30 pm at St. Oswald's Primary School.