



20th November 2025

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.05 pm

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

Councillor Simon Eardley – Cheshire West and Chester Councillor

There were three members of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brassington and Jones.

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 18th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

- (i) The Chair of the Village Hall Committee enquired about a contribution from the Parish Council, towards a maintenance contract for the defibrillator. The total cost of the contract was £600.00 for two years, the cost of which would be shared with the three parishes.

RESOLVED

That the Chair notifies the Village Hall Committee that the Parish Council will contribute £200.00 towards the cost of a two year maintenance contract, on receipt of payment.

- (ii) Councillor Eardley responded to questions relating to the ongoing drainage issues on Grove Road. The Parish Council particularly expressed thanks to a local resident for his work to improve the condition of the ditch.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and that the thanks of the Parish Council, to the resident, be forwarded via Councillor Eardley.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Chair reported that he had been advised that a Neighbourhood Plan offered significant power for Parish Councils and residents.

RESOLVED

That the Cheshire West and Chester Council Neighbourhood Planning Officer be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council, to explain in detail, the process required to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan for Mollington.

6. DRAINAGE ISSUES ON GROVE ROAD

This matter was considered under Minute 4.

7. FEEDBACK FROM CONNECTIONS MEETING

The Chair reported on his recent attendance at the Connections Meeting and highlighted the following matters:-

- Presentation received from the Borough Council's Chief Executive and Head of Highways on a City plan;
- 5G connectivity boosters;
- Northgate phase 2;
- Investment of electric vehicle fleet, mowers and vans;
- A Bus Franchise Pilot.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. SPEED LIMITS THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE

Members discussed the possibility of introducing a speed limit on Town Lane.

RESOLVED

That the Borough Highways Officer be invited to attend a meeting of the Parish Council, or alternatively, a site visit is arranged with the Highways Officer and Councillors Eardley and Wells (or another Parish Councillor).

9. MEETING WITH HEAD OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Chair and Councillor Eardley provided feedback on their recent meeting with the Head of the Primary School. Discussions had taken place including kerb markers and the Hynet project.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

10. 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 following transactions be approved:-

Payer/Payee	Details	Receipts	Payments
M D Coxey	Payroll fees		£36.00
D Wells	Reimbursement for wreath and poppies		£114.99
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
John McDonald	Gardening - Email invoice 27/09/2025		£35.00
	September Salary		£126.93
M Clough	September Salary		£254.46
HMRC	PAYE September		£95.40
HugoFox	Website due to no Grant		£120.00
HMRC	PAYE October		£95.40
M Clough	October Salary		£254.46

	October Salary		£126.93
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
John McDonald	Gardening - Email invoice 31st October 2025		£80.00
Dave Wells	Car park fee		£6.50

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

Payer	Details	£
	November Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	November Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	November PAYE	Approx. £80.00
	December Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	December Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	December PAYE	Approx. £80.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure to 12th November 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 12th November 2025, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Staff Costs	£3,368.89	£5,750.00	£2,381.11
Monthly Payments to Clerk for Home Office	£60.00	£120.00	£60.00
Travel	£0.00	£110.00	£110.00
Payroll	£36.00	£120.00	£84.00
Administrative Costs	£6.50	£100.00	£93.50
Room Hire	£22.00	£140.00	£118.00
Insurance	£300.00	£375.00	£75.00
Subscriptions	£284.82	£300.00	£15.18
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
Audit Fees	£136.50	£173.00	£36.50
St Oswald's School Field Licence	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00
Website	£346.80	£250.00	-£96.80
Training	£50.00	£105.00	£55.00
Community Projects	£109.95	£3,745.00	£3,635.05
Gardener	£533.00	£800.00	£267.00
Remembrance Wreath	£114.99	£200.00	£85.01
Unity Trust Service Charges	£42.00	£80.00	£38.00
Repayment of PWLB Loan	£1,117.35	£2,235.00	£1,117.65
RINGFENCED CIL	£3,049.74	£3,605.10	£555.36
	£9,625.54	£15,000.00	£8,979.56

(iv) Explanation of Variances

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLVED

That the sum of £100.00 be transferred from the Travel Budget to the Website Budget.

(v) Bank Reconciliation to 12th November 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 12th November 2025, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 12th November 2025	
MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2026	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statement as at 31st October 2025	£
Current Account (07572433)	£22,323.49
Less: any unpresented payments	£86.50
Add: any unbanked cash	
Net bank balances as at 12th November 2025	£22,236.99
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 2025	£16,034.79
Add: Receipts in the year	£15,827.74
Less: Payments in the year	£9,625.54
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£22,236.99

**(vi) BANK STATEMENTS
RESOLVED**

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

- 30th September 2025
- 31st October 2025

11. FORWARD PLANNING – DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

Members considered a draft Budget for 2026-2027, in preparation for the release of the Tax Base.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Draft Budget be further calculated on receipt of the Tax Base;
- (ii) That the appointment of Davenport Accountants as the Internal Auditor for 2025-2026, be approved;
- (iii) That the appointment of M D Coxey as the payroll provider for 2026-2027, be approved;
- (iv) That the appointment of Grasshopper Services for 2026-2027, be approved.

12. BROADBAND

Councillor Eardley reported that he would arrange for Mr Mike Duggine (the Broadband Officer from the Borough Council) to provide a written note or attend a future meeting of the Parish Council, when any updates on Broadband were available.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and this matter be retained as a standard agenda item, for any future updates.

13. HYNET PROJECT

Members noted that monthly updates, via meetings, were being provided by Hynet.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contacts Cerys Percival at Hynet and asks her to provide a timetable of activity over the next 6 months.

14. WARD COUNCILLOR'S BRIEFING

Councillor Eardley reported on matters relating to the Parish, including:-

- Planning Matters;
- Meeting with the Head Teacher of St. Oswald's Primary School;
- Drainage issues – Grove Road area;
- Hynet matters;
- Broadband matters;
- Shropshire Union Canal Repair;
- Cheshire West and Chester consultation prior to 2026 budget;
- Littering and fly tipping incidents;
- Planned highway repairs.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

15. PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **New Planning Application**
 - (i) **Reference Number:** 25/03571/PDQ
Site Address: Warren Farm Townfield Lane Mollington Chester Cheshire CH1 6LB
Proposal: Conversion of agricultural barn into 3 dwellings and associated building operations within the residential curtilage

Members noted that this was the fourth planning application, for this proposal, and the Parish Council's comments remained the same.

RESOLVED

That following confirmation from Councillor Eardley, the Parish Council's objections are submitted again, highlighting that this is the fourth planning application for this proposal.

- **Comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders**
 - (ii) **Reference Number:** 25/02774/FUL
Site Address: Warren Farm Townfield Lane Mollington Chester CH1 6LB
Proposal: Retrospective planning application for the erection of a new agricultural building and extensions to the front and rear of the existing feedstore building.
Objection Submitted (Correspondence circulated)

- (iii) **Reference Number:** 25/02561/FUL
Proposal: Material change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated hard standing and utility block (part retrospective)
Site Address: Land Adjacent Ness Cottage Coalpit Lane Chester
Objection Submitted (Correspondence circulated)
- (iv) **Reference Number:** 25/02261/FUL
Proposal: - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) habitat creation/enhancement, water quality improvements, Footpath raising and widening, additional tree planting, and engineering works (realignment of the water course).
Site Address: Chester Wetlands Deva Lane Upton Chester
No comments submitted.

RESOLVED

That the comments of the Parish Council, as detailed above and submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders, be approved.

16. GOVERNANCE

RESOLVED

That the IT Policy for 2025-2026, as circulated with the Agenda, be approved.

17. PLANS FOR 2025-2026

The Parish Council noted that the new Notice Board had still not yet been installed and this was now a significant delay, since the date of its purchase. Councillor Coulter was storing the planters until the new Notice Board was in-situ.

The Chair reported that residents had raised concerns over the broken Tommy silhouette which had been installed for Remembrance Day.

RESOLVED

That the Chair be authorised to obtain a quote for the installation of the Notice Board, by a local builder.

18. NEWSLETTER

The Parish Council considered the content for the next Newsletter, which would include information relating to the Hynet project.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there was no business that required consideration as a matter of urgency.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next date of the Parish Council was Thursday, 15th January 2026 at 7.30 pm at St. Oswald's Primary School.