



## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 19:00pm, Lawton Memorial Hall**

**Present:**

CLLrs: Cllr G Mitchell (chair), Cllr P Redstone, Cllr E Mitchell, Cllr K Newton and Cllr I Johnston

Cheshire East Council – represented by Cllr P Redstone

Clerk – Sue Davies

Assistant Clerk – Tracy Cushing

One member of the public in attendance.

**23-24/111 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Blease-Bourne, Cllr L Grimshaw and Cllr L McKinnon.

**23-24/112 To receive any declaration of interests regarding agenda items.**

Cllr E Mitchell noted that she uses Fairfield carpark most days for the purposes of work.

No declarations of interest made.

**23-24/113 Public Speaking – to allow any members of the press or public the opportunity to speak in accordance with Standing Orders**

A member of the public introduced themselves and expressed an interest in joining the Council.

**23-24/114 Approval of Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved by those present.

**23-24/115 To receive and note the minutes of Trustee and Committee Minutes:**

**a. Minutes of the Trustee Meeting held on the 12th of June 2023.**

Deferred.

**b. Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on the 2nd of June 2023 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023.**

Deferred

**c. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd of June 2023.**

Deferred

**d. Minutes of the Planning and Projects Committee held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Deferred

**23-24/116 Matters Arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere – to receive an update from the Clerk.**

- The Clerk reported that the change to the bank mandate has been submitted.
- Quality Council – the registration has been submitted.
- Community Engagement was progressed at the Lawton Memorial Hall Open Day. The Chairman reported that he felt the day as a whole was very successful.
- The Open Day and published material produced had taken precedence over the Newsletter.

**23-24/117 Finance:**

**a. To approve payments to be made.**

The payments outlined in Appendix 1 were approved for payment. (See appendix 1.)

**b. To receive and approve bank reconciliations and statements dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

The Council received the bank reconciliations dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**c. To receive receipts and payments to date in the financial year.**

The Council received and noted the receipts and payments to date.

**d. To receive the Q2 budget report from the Clerk and to agree any recommendations.**

It was noted that the staffing budget has already almost been met and will be significantly overspent at year end, due to support of Lawton Memorial Hall and agreed changes to the Clerk's pay since the budget setting. A fuller analysis was deferred until the December meeting.

**e. To consider initial proposals for the 2024-2025 budget to allow the clerk to produce a draft budget.**

The clerk raised that she needs to prepare a draft agenda and would welcome any suggestions from Councillors to include. It was agreed that an informal Teams meeting be called to brainstorm ideas.

**23-24/118 To receive matters from the Cheshire East representative present.**

Cllr Redstone reported that the Cheshire East finances continue to be struggling to provide services. He noted that Town and Parish Councils may need to pick up more services.

**23-24/119 Cheshire East Consultations: Car Park Charges.**

The Council considered the proposals and resolved to agree a response. (See appendix 2.)

**23-24/120 Quality Council Award – To receive a report from the Clerk on outstanding actions and to agree to the Quality Award.**

The Clerk reported that the Council has now been registered.

**23-24/121 Neighbourhood Planning: To approve the Terms of Reference of the working group/steering group.**

The Council agreed to defer this to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**23-24/122 Other Planning Matters**

**To consider responses to the following applications:**

**a. 23/3689D Sandbach Rd North, Church Lawton, ST7 3RG**

**Resolved:** No comment.

**b. To receive an update related to Grove Manor and agree any actions.**

No further update. The survey is being circulated to everyone in Church Lawton.

**c. To receive any updates on the enforcement action on the land adjacent to the Trent and Mersey Canal and agree any actions.**

It was noted that the topsoil is being levelled out. An update from Cheshire East Enforcement was received.

**d. To receive updates on outstanding and recently approved applications.**

No further updates.

**23-24/123 Parish Council contact details**

**a. To resolve to agree that the Parish Council use the Lawton Memorial Hall address as the official address for future correspondence and to agree arrangements around this.**

It was agreed that the Clerk can progress moving the official address to the Memorial Hall. It was further agreed that the Parish Council fund an improved post box subject to quotes being received.

**b. To agree in principle that the Parish Council purchase mobile phones for Clerk and Deputy and change the official number from the Clerk’s home phone to a mobile number. To further agree that the numbers be used as Lawton Memorial Hall back-up numbers.**

The Council agreed to the proposal in principle subject to quotes and potential contract details being brought back to Council.

**23-24/124 Community Engagement: To receive a report from the Clerk.**

The clerk fed back around progress. This has mostly been conducted through the open day at Lawton Memorial Hall.

- 23-24/125 Community Group update:**  
It was noted that a meeting is imminent and will be attended by Cllr Blease-Bourne and the Clerk.
- 23-24/126 To receive a police update and PCSO report from the Clerk and Cllrs Redstone and Johnston.**  
No further updates from the Clerk and Cllrs Redstone and Johnston.
- 23-24/127 Community Speed Watch: To receive an update on Community Speed Watch.**  
No further updates.
- 23-24/128 Environmental Improvement: To receive an update on the lengthsman service and environmental improvement and to agree any actions.**  
The Clerk highlighted that Councillors need to forward items. Cllr Johnston reported that several signs needed the vegetation removing from around them.  
The proposal to Alsager will be progressed.
- 23-24/129 Highways Issues: To receive any highways issues from the Clerk or members.**  
None raised.
- 23-24/130 To receive any correspondence or other matters from the Clerk.**  
None reported.
- 23-24/131 To receive any reports or items from members.**  
None reported.
- 23-24/132 Training/meetings and courses:**
- a. To consider any training requirements.**  
Cllrs Redstone and Johnston are registered on an online Neighbourhood Plan training course.
  - b. To note training attended.**  
None reported.
- 23-24/133 Future Agenda Items**  
None raised.
- 23-24/134 To agree Date of next meeting:**  
The council agreed the next meeting will be Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 7:00pm, Lawton Memorial Hall.

**Appendix 1 – Payments approved.**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Inv. No</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
ChALC Training	RandR – Cllr Redstone	2023/166	£25.00	£0	£25.00
ChALC Training	Induction TC/PR	2023/203	£25.00	£0	£25.00
ChALC Training	Planning TC	2023/219	£30.00	£0	£30.00
LCAS	Registration	14357	£60.00	£0	£60.00
CTC	Streetscape	TC14061	£233.98	£46.80	£280.78
CTC	Streetscape	TC14062	£233.98	£46.80	£280.78
Shires Acc.	Payroll	SHI-1637	£144.00	£28.80	£172.80
NALC	Training	7453794959	£43.37	£8.67	£52.04
SLCC	Branch conference	SLCC/23013	£70.00	£0	£70.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£865.33</b>	<b>£131.07</b>	<b>£996.40</b>

**Payroll Sept 2023 - £1365.70**

**LCAS – Local Council Award Scheme**

**CTC – Congleton Town Council**

**NALC – National Association of Local Councils**

**ChALC – Cheshire Association of Local Councils.**

Signature of the Chair of the meeting where the minutes were approved:

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## Cheshire East Car Parking consultation

**Church Lawton Parish Council strongly objects to the proposals for the following reasons:**

Church Lawton adjoins Alsager and many of our residents use Alsager as their service centre. Most Church Lawton residents cannot walk into Alsager and must use public transport or a car. Very little of the Parish is served by the infrequent buses which leaves using private cars as the only way for most of our residents to use the services of Alsager.

Especially, there is an elderly population in Church Lawton who will be especially impacted by having to pay when using services but have no other way to access Alsager's services other than by driving. The social aspect of the services of Alsager by this sector of the population is crucial.

There are Church Lawton residents who work and need to park in Alsager. For many parking charges will take up a significant part of their earnings.

Some Church Lawton residents have businesses in Alsager and paying to park will impact their viability due to increased costs. There will be a reduced customer footfall and recruitment of staff will be more problematic. Loss of businesses will lead to localised unemployment and lead to decline of the centre in Alsager. Business will be driven over the county border into Kidsgrove, Staffordshire where there is substantial free parking and services.

Church Lawton doesn't have a primary school. Many of the parish's children attend school in Alsager. Having parents pay car parking charges to take their children to school seems grossly unfair. More parents will park on the surrounding roads making the environs of the school less safe for the children.

Displaced parking will become an issue for those travelling through Alsager and will increase congestion. Pavements will also be impeded causing problems for disabled and for those with children in prams and pushchairs.

**If the proposals are passed by Cheshire East, then Church Lawton Parish Council feel Cheshire East Council must implement the following:**

The Parish Council considers it essential that Cheshire East implement methods of paying that are both swift but also accessible to use for those who don't have the internet and modern technology.

Cheshire East Council should substantially reduce the price of parking permits to be more affordable to more people and introduce free parking badges for old-aged pensioners. Cheshire East should allow some free parking time for essentials such as collecting prescriptions, attending funerals or dropping and collecting children from school.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting where the minutes were approved:

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