



**CHURCH  
LAWTON**  
Parish Council

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024, 19:30pm  
LAWTON MEMORIAL HALL**

**Present:**

Cllr M Blease-Bourne; Cllr I Johnston, Cllr L Mackinnon, Cllr E Mitchell and P Redstone,  
Cheshire East Councillor – represented by Cllr P Redstone

Clerk – Sue Davies

Two members of the public both co-opted during the meeting.

Jasmine Turner – administration assistant of Lawton Memorial Hall.

*In the absence of the chairman, it was agreed that Cllr I Johnston open the meeting.*

**23-24/160 To receive nominations for and to elect a Vice-Chairman for the Parish Council**

A nomination for I Johnston was received and seconded. No other nominations were received.  
Cllr I Johnston was elected vice-chairman of the Parish Council by a majority show of hands.

Cllr I Johnston chaired the remainder of the meeting.

**23-24/161 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr G Mitchell.

**23-24/162 To receive any declaration of interests regarding agenda items.**

None.

*It was noted and agreed at this point that there be an alteration in the order of agenda items.*

**23-24/163 Co-option of councillors onto Church Lawton Parish Council:**

The Council has received two applications for co-option onto the Parish Council. Each candidate left the room in turn to allow the other five minutes to introduce themselves to the Council and answer some questions. It was confirmed that both are eligible to stand.

Subsequently, it was proposed, seconded and agreed by absolute majority that M Whittle and R Young collectively be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Cllr Whittle and Young both signed their declaration of office witnessed by the Clerk.

**23-24/164 Public Speaking – to allow any members of the press or public the opportunity to speak in accordance with Standing Orders**

Cllr Blease-Bourne introduced Jasmine Turner to the Council as the new administration assistant for Lawton Memorial Hall. Jasmine gave an update to the Council who welcomed her to the role.

*Mrs Turner left the meeting at this point.*

*The Clerk admitted two representatives of Sainsbury's to the meeting by Teams.*

A planning consultant and a Sainsbury's representative answered questions around application 24/0130C.

**23-24/165 Other Planning Matters**

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

**24/0241C 2, Knowsley Lane, Church Lawton, ST7 3AX**

The Parish Council **resolved** to make no objection to this application.

**24/0130C Former Twyford Bathroom Site, Linley Lane, Alsager, ST7 2DF**

The Parish Council **resolved** to support the application with the following comments:

1. The Parish Council look forward to seeing a detailed drainage scheme.
2. The Parish Council ask that a badger survey is undertaken for assurance that sets won't be disturbed.
3. The Parish Council ask that S106 money is prioritised to solving the drainage issues at the bridge on Linley Lane.
4. The Parish Council hope to be consulted on any improvement to the bus services required and look forward to discussion on this matter.

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

The Clerk reported that there are no further updates on this item.

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

No updates to report.

**23-24/166 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved by those present subject to a couple of proof reading corrections.

**23-24/167 Committee Memberships**

The Council **resolved** to add Cllr Mackinnon and Cllr Whittle to the Planning and Projects committee.

**23-24/168 To receive and note the minutes of Trustee and Committee Minutes:**

Deferred.

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

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**23-24/169 Updates on key items not covered elsewhere – to receive an update from the Clerk. <sup>1</sup>**

Deferred.

**23-24/170 Finance:**

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

It was noted that approval of 365 provision and the Acronis backup was required – see item 171 – but other payments were deferred.

**b. To receive and approve bank reconciliations and statements dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

Deferred

**c. To receive receipts and payments for the 2023/2024 financial year up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

Deferred

**d. To receive a budget summary from the Clerk and to agree any recommendations put forward.**

Deferred

**e. To receive councillor checks on the accounts Q1 to Q3.**

It was noted that the Councillor assigned to checks had resigned and that these were still outstanding.

**f. To review bank mandates and to agree any changes required.**

The bank mandates were reviewed. It was agreed to add Cllr Young and Cllr Whittle as online bank signatories.

**23-24/171 Email/365 provision.**

The Clerk reported that the 365 accounts and Acronis back-up required payment to ensure continuity of service and hadn't been able to be presented to Council earlier due to the inability of being able to call a quorate meeting.

The Council noted this. It was further agreed that, out of good practice, this service would be tendered prior to the next renewal.

**23-24/172 Clerk's mobile phone: To consider options presented and agree the package to be used.**

Item deferred.

**23-24/173 Corporate risk assessment**

Item deferred although members were asked to forward any comments to the Clerk.

**23-24/174 To receive matters from the Cheshire East representative present.**

Cllr Redstone updated regarding a challenge by some councillors at Cheshire East around the legality of the delegation of the carpark charges to committee.

Questions were raised about the state of the roads.

Cllr Redstone raised about the mobile library and potential cuts.

**23-24/175 Members Item: Odd Rode Bus and Community Support.**

Cllr Redstone raised about the Rode Runner service of which he is a designated driver. It was agreed that the Clerk enquire about the use of the bus for Church Lawton to help members of the community who may have difficulty in getting out and report back to the next Council meeting.

**23-24/176 Neighbourhood Planning:**

Cllr Johnston updated the Council on the progress and explained the local green spaces work which were underway.

**23-24/177 Cheshire East Consultations: Crossing Strategy Consultation 2024.**

None of the Councillors present had any comment.

**23-24/178 Community Liaison Group Update**

Update deferred.

**23-24/179 Police update: To receive a police and PCSO report.**

Deferred

**23-24/180 Community Speed Watch: To receive an update on Community Speed Watch.**

Deferred

**23-24/181 Environmental Improvement:**

Deferred

**23-24/182 Highways Issues:**

None raised.

**23-24/183 To receive any correspondence or other matters from the Clerk.**

- The Clerk informed of correspondence from the High Sherriff with and invitation to his service of thanks to the community on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- The Clerk informed of further correspondence from the High Sheriff inviting some members to an informal coffee. The proposed date was Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, at 11:00pm. It was agreed that the Clerk attend along with Cllrs Johnston, Blease-Bourne and Redstone.
- The Clerk informed of correspondence regarding bins in front of the Church which needs resolving.

**23-24/184 To receive any other reports from the chair or members.**

Deferred.

**23-24/185 Training/meetings and courses:**

**a. To consider any training requirements.**

Deferred.

**b. To note training attended.**

Deferred.

**23-24/186 Future Agenda Items**

Deferred.

**23-24/187 To agree Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7:00pm, Lawton Memorial Hall.**

**23-24/188 Exclusion of press and public: To resolve under 1960 (Admission to meetings) Act to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**

The Council resolved to exclude the press and public for the next item.

**23-24/189 Staffing Issues To receive a report in relation to staffing matters and the assistant clerk appointment and a re-grading proposal.**

Cllr Blease-Bourne provided an update and that the deputy clerk had resigned. The resignation letter was read out to the Council and the reasons were noted. The Clerk reminded of the confidentiality of the contents.

The council agreed to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Blease-Bourne to initiate the recruitment. Final appointment would be brought back to Council.

It was agreed that the Council would buy some flowers in thanks to all of the excellent work of the deputy clerk.

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

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