# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF ACTON EDLESTON AND HENHULL PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ACTON PARISH HALL ON 19 JANUARY 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillor Carol Mace
Councillor Philip Percival
Councillor Nick Jackson
Councillor Tom Doyle
Councillor Claire Lewis-Jones

**APOLOGIES:**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Sarah Pochin, Jackie Hatton, Mike Burrows

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

## DISPENSATIONS

No Dispensation Forms were submitted.

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2022

**AGREED:** That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24 November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:** Members were asked to **RESOLVE AND AGREED** the following Note set out in the agenda as follows:

To update Members on the transition to the new Burland and Action Parish Council. Meetings were held at Cheshire East Council in November 2022. At these meetings, information was shared on the Community Governance Review process and the outcomes of the Review. These sessions were supported by ChALC. In total, seven mergers took place as a result of the CGR, creating new parish councils, one of which involves Burland in a merger with Acton, Edelston and Henhull Parish Council into the new Burland and Acton Parish Council. These changes will come into being on 1st April 2023, with elections to the new Council taking place on 4th May 2023. In terms of Council Tax, Cheshire East Council has determined the precepts of the newly created councils. The precept set for Burland and Acton Parish Council is £17,191 (taxbase is 513.06 and each Band D property will therefore pay £33.51). A request to review this amount by the existing councils was rejected by Cheshire East Council. Other areas covered by the changes and any transition period were discussed at these sessions, but no definitive advice was provided by CEC/ChALC, rather it was advised that discussions should take place between the existing parish councils affected by the changes. These issues included: -

• The role of the existing Clerks
• Bank accounts/assets/contracts To facilitate discussion on the above matters, as well as other factors relevant to the changes, meetings have been held between the Chairs and Clerks of Burland and Acton, Edelston and Henhull Parish Councils.

The following matters were agreed: -

• To retain both existing clerks and to review the position after 12 months
• To make arrangements for the precept to be paid into one of the existing bank accounts
• To hold 11 meetings per year and to hold these meetings on a Thursday evening at Acton Parish Hall Further to these initial agreements, further discussions have taken place between the two existing councils and ChALC.
The following information has been gathered from these meetings: - Burland Parish Council – Parish Council Meeting 12 th January 2023
• In terms of the bank account, the most straightforward approach is to retain one of the existing bank accounts and to arrange for the precept to be paid into this account – in this case, it is proposed that the Acton bank account is used for this purpose. The name of the account should be changed in May 2023 and the last action of Burland PC should be to transfer any monies to the Acton bank account prior to 1st April 2023 and then to close the Burland PC account. Cheques approved prior to April 2023 can then be given out in May 2023 from the new bank account. No payments can be made by the new Council until after the elections in May 2023. Therefore, any outstanding payments for Burland PC will have to be made at the last meeting of the council due to take place on 13th March 2023 and outstanding payments for Acton Edleston and Henhull Parish Council will have to be made at the last meeting of the council due to take place on 23 March 2023.
• In terms of the Clerks, the new council cannot have joint Clerks, but can have a Clerk and a Deputy Clerk. It is suggested that the Burland PC Clerk becomes Clerk to the new Council and the Acton, Edelston and Henhull Clerk becomes the Deputy Clerk. It is further suggested that this arrangement is reviewed after 12 months by the new Council. Therefore, although the new Council will come into being on 1st April 2023, no business will be able to be transacted until after the elections on 4 th May 2023. If any urgent decisions need to take place, this will be done by the Cheshire East Ward Councillor.

Based on the precept provided by Cheshire East Council, a budget for the new Council has been drawn up. The total budget is £20,575.42 which will be covered by the precept quoted with the remainder from reserves.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Pochin reported on the Highways Road Safety issues concerning Monks Lane, Burford Traffic Lights and the Windmill Junction on the Wrexham Road as follows:

**MONKS LANE, ACTON – 6 MONTH EXPERIMENTAL ONE WAY SYSTEM**

It was **AGREED:** That the Parish Council support the proposal for a 6 month experimental one-way system in Monks Lane, Acton and would like the trial to go ahead. During the 6 months trial Cheshire East Highways to take into account views/feedback from local residents and road users. Following this, the one way system stay in place for a further 12 months when feedback from the consultation will have been taken into account and changes made where necessary. The Parish Council voted 4:1 in support of the above.

**BURFORD TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

Cllr Pochin has requested costings for new white lines at the junction of Chester Road at Burford Traffic Lights after this matter was raised with her as a Road Safety concern. The issue may be that all the junctions need re-doing which involves major traffic works. Cheshire East Highways are going to assess the lines and report back to her. Depending

on the cost depends on whether this is a job that can be done relatively quickly and be paid out of her Ward Budget. It is now more of a priority to assess given the likely new one way system in Monks Lane which will increase the traffic at this particular junction.

**WINDMILL JUNCTION – WREXHAM ROAD**

Discussions had taken place with Cheshire East Highways regarding the Windmill Junction. It is suggested that the "Give Way" at the junction to the Wrexham Road be removed and this road be a continuous road being to the right from Cuckoo Lane onto the Wrexham Road. Traffic travelling up Monks Lane towards the Windmill Junction would have to give way to the continuous traffic coming from Cuckoo Lane.

**FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Pochin to contact Highways regarding the footpaths on the Chester Road from Wilbraham Road to Burford Traffic Lights and the footpath from Monks Lane to the Windmill Junction. These footpaths are only about 6" wide due to overgrowing vegetation and need clearing and sweeping. It is impossible for members of the village to walk along these footpaths safely.

**WELCOME TO ACTON SIGNS**

Cllr Pochin reported that the signs were on their way.

Cllr Pochin left the meeting at 20.17pm.

**CLERKS CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had no further correspondence to report.

**PLANNING MATTERS**

The following planning matters were **AGREED:**

22/5016N – THE WHITE HOUSE, DIG LANE, ACTON – Comments by 30 Jan 2023 – No comment from the Parish Council.

23/0035N – 20 MEADOWSIDE DRIVE HENHULL – Comments by 27 Jan 2023 – No comment from the Parish Council.

22/4934N – ACTON CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL – Comments by 1 Feb 2023 – No comment from the Parish Council.

23/0227N – 8 AYLESBURY ROAD, HENHULL – Comments by 9 Feb 2023 – No comment from the Parish Council.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Parish Council **AGREED** the following payments:

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|---|---|---|
| (a) | Acton Parish Hall – 19.01.23 | £15.30 |
| (b) | Clerks expenses 2022-2023 | £180.49 |
| (c) | Nick Jackson Gardening Services | £1000.00 |

**PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Nick Jackson reported that some hardcore was required to fill in the potholes in the Car Park. Philip Percival said he would contact Lathams about acquiring some hardcore. Nick also reported that some of the kerbstones had been knocked over by cars and needed re-cementing in position. This to be carried out in the Spring when the weather is milder.

Claire Lewis Jones reported about cracks on the Canal path that were getting wider and bigger. Claire to put all the information in an email to Carol Mace and Carol to forward to her contact at the Local Waterways Association to report this.

Philip Percival reported about fencing and planting that had been carried out by the Roundells at Dorfold Hall. He said it was good to see the amount of planting they had carried out – thousands of trees.

Carol Mace asked if a wooden bench seat could be put in the Wildlife Garden at the Church for Parishioners.

Tom Doyle reported that he would not be standing in the Elections in May 2023. He thanked the Parish Council for their kindness and support over the past few years.

Philip Percival said it would be a tragic loss Tom not standing but understood his reasons why.

Meeting finished at 8.45pm

The next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2023**