**NEWHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes - Meeting of the above Council**

**Monday 29th September 2025 at Aston Chapel at 7.30 p.m.**

**Councillors:** J. Batho (Chairman), E. Forshaw, (Vice Chairman), A.G. Lawrence (Clerk),

R. Hibbert, Emma Sedgwick, Clr R. Bailey and one member of the public

Opportunity for Parishioners to speak – max 10mins and max 3mins per parishioner

Parishioners present raised the following:-

**1. Apologies:** Mrs J. Fenton, I. Wilkinson,

**2. Declaration of Interest** – if a member is present at a meeting of the authority, and they have a disclosable pecuniary in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting, they cannot take part in any discussion of the matter at the meeting or vote on it. They should disclose the interest to the meeting and follow the Council’s Code of Conduct.

**3. Minutes** of Parish Council held 13th August 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record on the prop., of E. Forshaw, sec., J. Batho

**4. Matters arising** from last minutes:-

1. CIL Expenditure – as per previous meeting. Further to the suggested prioritisation of the proposed CIL projects based on potential community impact, feasibility, and alignment with infrastructure funding criteria, it has been agreed that quotes should be obtained to commence CIL spending, with the following options to be considered:-

Emma Sedgwick will circulate the costing for the Speed Control Signs and the Public Footpath Kissing Gates – 3 quotes for each prior to the next meeting. Defibrillator will be installed with relevant certificates imminently. All details as below, and in addition the consideration of the 20mph in a heart shape, as per Wrenbury, for the 30mph area in Sheppenhall Lane and Wrenbury Road to be considered too.

1. **Speed Control Signs on Whitchurch Road** – Road safety is a major concern, and installing speed control measures will help protect pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. This aligns well with CIL regulations as it improves local infrastructure.

Radar Speed Signs: These signs display drivers' speeds and can be effective in reducing speeding. Costs are £3,368.75 per sign, depending on features and manufacturer. ([startsafety.uk]([https://startsafety.uk/collections/speed-limit-signs?utm\_source=chatgpt.com)](https://startsafety.uk/collections/speed-limit-signs?utm_source=chatgpt.com)" \t "_blank))

Installation Costs: Additional expenses include installation, support structures, and maintenance, which is estimated up to £2,000.

Quotes to be obtained. However CE should be asked if they can/should provide funding for this.

1. **Benches and Paving Improvements on Sheppenhall Lane** – Enhancing public spaces makes them more accessible and enjoyable for residents.

Benches: Public benches typically cost around £500 - 1,500 each, including installation.

Paving Improvements: Paving costs can vary widely based on materials and area size. For instance, paving costs can range from £60 to £150 per square metre, including installation. ([landscapingcost.co.uk]([https://landscapingcost.co.uk/how-much-does-a-patio-cost/?utm\_source=chatgpt.com)](https://landscapingcost.co.uk/how-much-does-a-patio-cost/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)" \t "_blank))

Quotes to be obtained but also positioning of such needs clarification of ownership of land to be situated on.

1. **Bus Shelter on Whitchurch Road**

Bus Shelters: would provide a practical benefit for commuters/children waiting for school bus. The cost of a wooden bus shelter can vary based on design and materials. £3,340 <https://www.nobutts.co.uk/Shelters-Walkways-Canopies/Bus-Shelters/Bexington-Bus-Shelter>. The meeting felt that a roof only with folding seats would be the best option but this would also be subject to CE Highway approval and Planning consent

Further to previous meeting - Clerk to write to try to ascertain bus collections and drop off for students, and whether these could be relocated to Sheppenhall Grove and the Bhurtpore to avoid the A530 and safety issues this causes.

Reply from Hannah Wood, Transport Operations Officer CE, and she says that the responsibility is ultimately with the parents who would decide what is best for their child, but Mikro Coaches also add the students are more than welcome to use either the Bhurtpore pickup-point.

1. **Public Footpath Kissing Gates:** Quotes to be obtained for most walked paths in the village which initially could be approx. 5 gates
2. Defibrillator – this is now ready for installation. Parish Council wished to note the following points in relation to this:-
* The installation must be by a qualified person/company, and necessary certificate, if appropriate to be issued to the PC
* A programme of ongoing service/maintenance needs to be established
* Training session for its use should be arranged for wishing to do so
* Insurance should be informed of its purchase and to check if any effect on current premium paid – Clerk to undertake. Clerk reported that the Defibrillator will be insured under the street furniture section of our Insurance Policy – sum insured 36k
1. Poppy Wreaths re Remembrance Day. Two Poppy Wreaths at £50. On the prop.,

Sec: is was agreed these should be purchased.

J Batho to undertake the Ceremony at Wrenbury, and J. Barker the Ceremony at Aston

**5. Highway matters:**

 a. CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL - NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

S14 (2) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cheshire East Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers issues this notice temporarily to prohibit traffic in the following length of road:-

Salesbrook Lane, Audlem Ward, Newhall, for the full extent. The alternative route will be via the following streets: - Sheppenhall Lane, Whitchurch Road, Dodds Green Lane

Location Map - https://one.network/?tm=145087709

Pedestrian access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Cyclists will be required to dismount in order for access to be maintained. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

The closure is necessary for Cheshire East Highways to carry out Jetting of Gullies

It is anticipated that the works will take place on the following date(s): Monday 22nd September 2025 to Friday 26th September 2025.

This notice will become operative on Monday 22nd September 2025 for a period of 5 days or for such less time as is necessary to enable the works to be completed.

Notice Date: 14th August 2025

1. CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL - NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

S14 (2) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cheshire East Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers issues this notice temporarily to prohibit traffic in the following length of road:-

Dodds Green Lane, Audlem Ward, Aston, CW5 8DL from the junction of Whitchurch Road to the junction os Salesbrook Lane. The alternative route will be via the following streets: - Dodds Green Lane, Whitchurch Road - Location Map - https://one.network/?tm=GB145838585

Pedestrian access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Cyclists will be required to dismount in order for access to be maintained. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.

The closure is necessary for works to be carried out by Openreach

It is anticipated that the works will take place on the following date(s): Wednesday 15th October 2025

This notice will become operative on Wednesday 15th October 2025 for a period of 5 days or for such less time as is necessary to enable the works to be completed.

Notice Date: 25th September 2025

 **c.** Glynn Davies - We have moved into the village of Aston on Sandy Lane and are concerned

with the noise and vibration being caused by HGV vehicles going to the mill and other factories within Wrenbury.(short cut through Aston)

  The road on Wrenbury Road , outside the junction of Sandy lane is horrendously potholed

causing severe noise and vibration to our home ,in that we are being woken up every morning with the noise from the lorries as they bounce over the potholes with no respect to other residents .

We were aware of the mill, and the road traffic, but the road into the mill is terrible and needs an inspection and major rectification, I have reported the potholes on the council website but something needs to be done as we are unable to sleep with the noise as noted this morning was 4 am and is repeated every day. I see this has been raised previously with your parish.

The vehicles do not obey the speed limits hence causing more noise, I would welcome an inspection of the road to show how bad it is and how fast lorries are travelling down Wrenbury but also Sandy Lane.

 Clerk has replied to say the matter will be raised at the next meeting.

And, further email from Mr Davies:-

Thank you for your response, and actions being taken. By way of update I logged the potholes, CE have advised as fixed with nothing done, I have again logged the potholes and will see if we get the same response.

The road especially near the mill is terrible hence why all the noise at all hours of the day and especially night.

The meeting echoed these concerns, and also highlighted that it is not specific pot holes but a very badly rutted and uneven surface, especially from The Spinney to HJ Lea Oakes. It was agreed that the Clerk would make a direct contact to Highways and also CE Environmental Health re the noise and vibrations affected householders. Chairman advised that PC N. Jervis will carry our speed checks in this area.

1. Cllr Rachel Bailey – re: the 7.5T Weight Restriction on Baddington Old Railway Bridge. Summary: An assessment of the bridge has identified that it has reduced structural capacity and as a result a temporary 7.5 structural weight limit is being implemented via Cheshire East Council from Monday 29 September 2025 onwards. https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\_and\_roads/roadworks/baddington-lane-a530.aspx The bridge is owned by the Historic Railways Estate (HRE). The bridge is subject to ongoing investigations and the long-term solution will be considered based on the outcomes of these investigations and further work between CEC and HRE. Action to date: The Bridge sits within Sound and District Parish Council and the Cheshire East Audlem Ward. As its councillor I supported Sound PC in a recent site visit with Highways Officers at the Bridge, predominantly focussed on road safety but also raised concern as to ‘state of the bridge’ and potential impact of closure of the A530; I received, in confidence, a verbal notification of the proposed weight limit, late on Thursday evening. Since then, along with parish councillors, I have worked to ensure that, as far as possible, local logistic firms are notified of this limit in advance of its implementation. Both myself and James Pearson, Wrenbury Ward Councillor, have secured a meeting with CE Highways in the coming week as while the proposed diversionary route the A49 and A534 seeks to protect‘our rural villages and roads’, we are concerned that: - A timely solution for the bridge is now actively sourced; - Seek assurance as to regular maintenance/attention to diversionary signage; - Seek assurance as to how the proposed diversion route will be enforced; - How CE will protect the network of rural lanes including the risk of ‘rat runs’; - How CE will work with police and fire services in this regard to protect road safety; - How CE will continue to engage with businesses. - How CE will engage with local Parish Councils. I also hope to meet with representatives of affected Parish Councils this week to hear their views and thoughts, particularly as to how the likelihood of ‘rat runs’ can be mitigated. I would be grateful if you could let me know of your concerns/thoughts not only now but as the Weight Limit comes into force.

The meeting discussed the matter in depth, and the following main points were raised and on the prop., E. Forshaw, sec., Emma Sedgwick, submitted to Clr Bailey:-

* What is CE budgeting for the repair of the bridge and future use or is this the responsibility of HRE
* Logistics: Given the 7.5ton limit please can you advise of the impact for Newhall Parish - Residence relocation /diversion routes? Where are they (Burland/Ridley/Audlem)?
* Signage on the Sound bridge and approach roads? Roads not suitable for HGV Vehicle or similar? Enforcement options? (Not a police issue)
* Will HGV’s follow the diversion routes or try to find other ways along ‘B’ roads to avoid this issue?
* What is the point of contact to advise the parishioners if they have query?
* Impact on local business? What has been informed to Small Local Business/Private contractors?
* HIGHWAYS TEAM (Highways operations) - Local knowledge gathering from locals

Clr Bailey informed the meeting that she is facilitating meetings to find the best solutions to alleviate the impact on residents/communities, local businesses and hauliers. Clr Bailey further declared an interest re HJ Lea Oakes, and the landowner associated with the Bridge.

1. It was reported that there has been a problem with certain footpaths being impassable for some months due to maize being grown. It was agreed that PROW should be informed and especially at the very start of next year’s planting season.

**6. Correspondence**

***a. Cheshire East:*** none

1. Council seeks views on plans for active travel to make borough healthier, happier and greener

***b. Councillors:*** none

***c.*** ***Parishioners:*** as per 5b above

***d. Other:***

i. Clerks and Councils Direct

ii. ChALC's e-bulletin

**7. Accounts**

1. ***Income received since last Meeting:***
2. CE Precept – 2nd instalment £2375.00
3. VAT Refund received 16/6/25 £215.67
4. ***Accounts paid since last meeting:*** none
5. ***Accounts to pay at meeting:***

**PARISH COUNCIL**

 1. Chq. No. 000657 Purchase Order 144

A.G. Lawrence – Clerk Salary – July – September 2025 £682.98

2. Chq No 000662 Purchase Order 149

A.G. Lawrence – Clerk Salary – July - Sept 2025

(3.2% increase as 7/IV below) £17.83

A.G. Lawrence – Clerk Salary – April - June 2025

(3.2% increase as 7/IV below) £17.83 £35.66

3. Chq. No. 000658 Purchase Order 145 £14.60

HMRC – July – September 2025

4. Chq. No. 000663 Purchase Order 150

HMRC – July - Sept 2025 £4.40

HMRC – April - June 2025 £4.60 £9.00

 5. Chq. No. 000659 Purchase Order 146

A.G. Lawrence – Clerk Expenses – July – September 2025 £12.70

 6. Chq No. 000660 Purchase Order 147

 Zetland Group Ltd Planning Objection Funding £360.00

 (VAT £60)

 7. Chq No. 000661 Purchase Order 148

Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreaths £50.00

The above account(s) were unanimously approved for payment on the prop., of E. Forshaw,

sec., R. Hibbert

1. ***Expenditure against precept budget*** – circulated to Parish Councillors. Councillors were also advised that the Local Govt Services Pay Agreement for 2025/26 saw a 3.20% increase in pay rates. This will be reflected in pay v budget, and will show in future payment to the Clerk (+ £88.92 per annum), and as above
2. **Annual Audit**

**i.**

CH0147: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2025

This is an automated message to notify you that we have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2025 submitted to us for Newhall Parish Council.  By notifying us that Newhall Parish Council has claimed exemption there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by us for this reporting year.  Unless we receive any correspondence from local electors during the period for the exercise for public rights that requires us to contact you, you will not hear from us again this year, except to chase any outstanding fees.

SBA Team - For and on behalf of PKF Littlejohn LLP

**ii.** Internal Audit Report – Minutes 27th May showed:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | The VAT column in the cashbook has been cast incorrectly to £236.10. The total VAT for the year totals £241.06. The correct amount of VAT has been included in the VAT reclaim form | *The cashbook VAT total for 2023/24**should be amended to the correct figure of£241.06* | **Recommendation Outstanding – no total is currently included in the 23/24 Vat column.** |

The Clerk raised this matter with JDH Business Services Ltd and has received email clarification that in fact the figure shown is £236.10 + and additional £26.00 making a total of £267.06

**8. Planning Applications**

**I. Applications received since last meeting: none**

**a.**

RE: 25/2921/HOUS Householder

Site address: Street Record Aston House Way, Aston, Cheshire East,

Development Proposal: Retrospective planning permission is sought for a wooden shed (dimensions H230 cms W 250 cms L 360 cms) at the rear of the property in the back garden and a wooden fence consisting of which runs for 14 metres along the side of the house (Four panels are 185 cms high, 1 panel is 160 cms high and 3 panels are 130 cms high).

No representation

b.

RE: 25/2174/FUL Full Planning

Site address: The Smithy Salesbrook Lane, Aston, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 8DR

Development Proposal: Provision of a replacement 18.29 x 12.19m industrial engineering shed

No representation

**II. Applications/Planning matters before this meeting:**

**a.**

RE: 25/3188/VOC Variation of Condition

Site address: The Royals Whitchurch Road, Aston, Nantwich, Cheshire East, CW5 8DJ

Development Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 on approval 21/6432N

No representation made.

**9. Police report for Audlem/Newhall/Sound**

Nick Jarvis 20438 – Police Community Support Officer (Nantwich Rural)

AUDLEM WARD CRIME DATA FOR JULY 2025

02/07/25. Suspicious Activity: French Lane baddington.

02/07/25. RTC: Coole Lane Austerson, one vehicle no injuries.

03/07/25. Domestic Incident Aston.

03/07/25. Domestic Incident Newhall.

04/07/25. Complaint Against Police: Coole lane.

04/07/25. RTC: Wrenbury Heath Road Sound, no injuries.

04/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Shropshire Street, 2 people arguing in the pub.

04/07/25. Violence/Harassment: St James Close, relates to a neighbour dispute.

04/07/25. Domestic Incident: Audlem.

05/07/25. Complaint Against Police: Audlem.

05/07/25. Road Related Offence: Whitchurch Road Aston, car reported all over the road.

06/07/25. Suspicious Activity: Daisy Bank Crescent, male seen tampering with a vehicle.

07/07/25. Road Related Offence: A530 Aston, vehicle reporting driving erratically.

08/07/25. Domestic Incident: Audlem.

09/07/25. Suspicious Activity: Mullburry Avenue Aston, relates to Facebook posts.

09/07/25. Assistance To Fire: Shropshire Street, vehicle on fire.

09/07/25. Suspicious Activity: Salford, vehicle stopped in Nantwich, female arrested.

12/07/25. Road Related Offence: Sandy lane Aston, reports of a possible drink driver.

16/07/25. Road Related Offence: Lodmore Lane Burleydam, vehicle reported driving all over the road.

16/07/25. Criminal Damage: Witton Close Audlem.

16/07/25. Concern For Safety: Heatley Lane Broomhall.

17/07/25. Suspicious Activity: Austerson, possibly drug related.

17/07/25. Violence/Harassment: French Lane Baddington.

17/07/25. Domestic Incident: Baddington.

17/07/25. ASB: Village View Close Audlem, youths throwing apples at a property.

19/07/25. Complaint Against Police: Broomhall.

19/07/25. RTC: Wrenbury Heath Road Sound, 2 children hit by a car, minor injuries.

21/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Cox Bank, more reports of male acting strangely on the canal.

22/07/25. Suspicious Activity: Cooperage Way Aston, 2 youths climbing into a restricted area.

22/07/25. ASB: Co-op Audlem, 4 teenagers have tried to purchase alcohol with fake ID.

22/07/25. Criminal Damage: Cheshire Street Audlem, damage to toilets and signs, youths spoken to, details taken.

23/07/25. Fraud: Newhall

24/07/25. Concern For Safety: Cheshire Street Audlem, found safe and well.

27/07/25. Theft of Motor Vehicle: Whitchurch Road Broomhall, keys left in the ignition and taken.

27/07/25. Suspicious Vehicle: Sheppenhall Grove Aston.

27/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Village View Close Audlem, dispute between a number of children.

28/07/25.Highway Disruption: Baddington, temporary traffic lights out.

28/07/25. Domestic Incident: Aston.

28/07/25. Violence Harassment: Village View close Audlem, relates to previous incidents.

28/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Audlem Wharf, threats from 6 people relating to work done at a local business.

28/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Wrenbury Road Aston.

28/07/25. Domestic Incident: Aston.

28/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Village View Close, dispute between youths.

29/07/25. Violence/Harassment: Coole lane, fight between co workers.

29/07/25. Road Related Offence: Audlem Road, reports of possible intoxicated driver.

29/07/25. Theft: Woore Road Audlem, civil dispute relating to tractor tyres.

29/07/25. Violence/ Harassment: Sandy lane Aston, relates to social media.

30/07/25. Domestic Incident: Audlem.

30/07/25. Domestic Incident: Aston.

31/07/25. RTC: Cock lane Broomhall, no injuries.

31/07/25. ASB: Shropshire Street Audlem. Reports of youths banging on narrowboats on the canal.

AUDLEM WARD CRIME DATA FOR August 2025

02/08/25. Highway Disruption: Paddock lane Audlem, tanker broken down, oil on the road.

02/08/25. ASB: Woore Road Audlem, relates to a civil dispute and Facebook posts.

06/08/25. RTC Fatal: Whitchurch Road Burleydam, van and motorbike.

06/08/25. Burglary Dwelling: Back Coole Lane, derelict property broken into, unclear if items taken.

07/08/25. Suspicious Vehicle: Heywood Lane, Audi left on farm drive.

07/08/25. Domestic Incident.

08/08/25. Criminal Damage: French Lane Baddington.

09/08/25. Complaint Against Police.

09/08/25. RTC/Violence/Harassment: Longhill Lane Audlem. Tractor and car have collided, altercation takes place between both drivers.

10/08/25. Domestic Incident.

10/08/25. Fraud: Mckelvey Way Audleem.

10/08/25. Road Related Offence: Austerson, reports of possible drink driver.

11/08/25. ASB: Shropshire Street Audlem, reports of 4 drunk people obstructing the fire brigade trying to deal with a sinking narrowboat.

11/08/25. Road Related Offence: Baddington, reports of a drunk driver, male stopped blew zero.

13/08/25. ASB: Whitchurch Road Aston, reports of 2 Ebikes.

14/08/25. Breach Of Bail: Austerson, male arrested.

16/08/25. RTC: Whitchurch Road Broomhall, car through hedge on its side, minor injuries.

17/08/25. Violence/Harassment: Mckelvey Way Audlem.

17/08/25. Stop and Search: Mckelvey Way, drugs seized.

18/06/25. Concern For Safety: Sound Lane Sound.

19/08/25. Domestic Incident.

21/08/25. Domestic Incident.

22/08/25. Complaint Against Police.

24/08/25. Suspicious Person: Cooperage Way Aston.

24/08/25. Suspicious Activity: Mill Lane Hankelow, items tampered with outside an empty property.

25/08/25. Domestic Incident.

25/08/25. Suspicious Person: Cox Bank Audlem, male intimidating a female on the canal.

27/08/25. Found Property: Mckelvey Way Audlem, pocket knife found near play park, knife seized and destroyed.

27/08/25. Violence/Harassment: Coole lane Newhall, relates to a missing handbag.

28/08/25. Domestic Incident.

28/08/25. Violence/Harassment: Atcherley Close Austerson.

29/08/25. Violence/Harassment: Wrenbury Road Aston.

30/08/25. Suspicious Activity: Green Lane Audlem, relates to a suspicious letter posted.

31/08/25. Domestic Incident.

Concern was also raised re the recent lock down of schools due to an incident being raised.

**11. Next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council:-** Monday 8th December

**Meeting Closed**