



Minutes of Marbury & District Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2026 at 7.30pm at Marbury Village Hall

Present

Councillors Joe Briggs (Chairman), Lyndon Jones, Janet Makin, Fiona Wilson,

Also in attendance: Ward Councillor James Pearson

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Nigel Green (Vice Chairman), Marian Turnbull, Phil Shakeshaft and Rob Perry.

33. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

34. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved as a correct record.

35. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR JAMES PEARSON

Councillor James Pearson provided an update on matters relating to Cheshire East Council and the Parish.

The following matters were discussed:

- Cheshire East Local Plan consultation.
- United Utilities works, including works undertaken in Norbury and water pipe issues in Wirswall. Concerns were raised regarding delays to the works and complaints received from residents.
- Highway safety matters, including discussions relating to Delamere House in Crewe and the A49, including double white lines.
- The Government's speed strategy and potential reductions in speed limits on rural roads.
- Bradeley Green Lane and road closures.
- Bin collection issues, including missed collections, recruitment and Cheshire East Council's communications arrangements. The Ward Councillor had recently been invited to visit the distribution centre in Middlewich.

36. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Council.

The Council noted that at the previous meeting a member of the public had addressed the Council regarding planning application 26/1986/HOUS, Mere Cottage, Hollins Lane, Marbury, Whitchurch, Cheshire East, SY13 4LN.

The arrangements required liaison and additional administrative time, with 1.5 hours of Clerk's time allocated and agreed by the Council.

37. MATTERS ARISING / UPDATES CARRIED FORWARD FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

37.1 Neighbourhood Plan

The Council received an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group regarding progress on the Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Cheshire East Council has suggested a number of amendments, including technical and planning-related changes and the removal of some policy points where there is duplication or where matters are already covered by the Cheshire East Local Plan or the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Responses received from Cheshire East Council, United Utilities, Natural England, Historic England and other consultees require detailed consideration and tabulation by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

The Working Group is continuing to undertake this work. A further report will be brought to a future Parish Council meeting when the Working Group is ready to present the details.

37.2 Whitchurch Cemetery Update

An update was received regarding Whitchurch Cemetery, which is managed by Whitchurch Town Council.

The update included:

- Headstone restoration and planting following storm damage at the end of the previous year are now virtually complete.
- The cemetery has been entered as a standalone entry for Britain in Bloom / Heart of England, with results expected later in the year.
- Replacement of the car park barriers is expected to be scheduled for winter/spring.
- Tree works are expected to commence during September/October, subject to contractor availability. Following consultation with the Britain in Bloom team, the approach has been amended so that some larger trees will be pruned and controlled rather than removed and replaced. The works are expected to cost approximately £10,000–£11,000.
- Some trees affected by ash dieback will be removed where necessary for safety reasons and to help prevent further spread.
- Due to limited remaining space, preparation is underway for use of the newer section at the top of the cemetery, which was consecrated in 2016/17.
- Consideration is being given to a digital mapping project to assist with locating graves for the benefit of the cemetery and families.

37.3 Football Pitch / Recreation Matters

The Clerk reported that the playground inspection report had not yet been received and would chase this with the inspector.

37.4 Grounds Maintenance and Environmental Matters

A cut had been undertaken in the playground area. An invoice was awaited.

37.5 Police Update

There was no police update.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming cluster meeting on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 7.30pm at Goodwill Hall.

37.6 Church Update

The matter was referred to Any Other Business.

37.7 Defibrillators

The Council noted that two defibrillators are due for replacement. The Clerk will investigate whether grant funding may be available towards replacement costs.

37.8 Other Matters Carried Forward

There were no other matters carried forward.

38. LOCAL HIGHWAYS, DRAINAGE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council received updates and discussed the following matters:

Highways and Road Safety

Highways and road safety matters had been discussed with the Ward Councillor.

Councillor Fiona Wilson had followed up with Councillor James Pearson regarding the proposed new speed camera. The possibility of a second speed camera was also discussed, subject to available funding.

Flooding and Drainage

Flooding and drainage matters were discussed, including the importance of taking drainage and flooding considerations into account where relevant to planning matters.

Public Rights of Way and Footpaths

Public rights of way and footpaths were discussed, including the use of FixMyStreet for reporting issues.

Other Local Infrastructure

The issue relating to a static caravan at 12 Wirswall Road was noted.

39. PLANNING MATTERS

The Council considered planning matters, including new applications, applications awaiting decision and planning decisions received since the previous meeting.

The planning applications and updates were considered as set out in the relevant planning appendix.

The Council also noted the importance of considering relevant drainage and flooding matters when responding to planning applications.

Appendix A – Planning Applications and Updates was referred to for the detailed information.

40. FINANCIAL MATTERS

40.1 Payments for Approval – Appendix B

The payments listed in Appendix B were reviewed and approved by the Council. Councillors also discussed the option of opening an interest-bearing account with Unity Trust Bank, with a view to making better use of surplus funds while retaining appropriate access to the Council's money. Councillors were asked to consider the options available and the matter will be brought back to the Council for further consideration and decision.

40.2 Budget Monitoring – Appendix C

The current budget position against income and expenditure was reviewed, approved and noted.

40.3 Pay Award and Mileage Rate

The Council considered the implementation of the 2026/27 NJC/NALC pay award, increasing the Clerk's rate of pay at SCP 18 from £16.35 to £16.89 per hour, effective from 1 April 2026, including the payment of the backdated amount due.

The Council also considered the increase in the HMRC approved mileage rate from 45p to 55p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles, effective from 6 April 2026, including any adjustment required for mileage already claimed since that date.

AGREED

41. ASSETS AND PARISH PROPERTY

There was no update.

42. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council received notification from a member of the public regarding a property off Wrenbury Road, Marbury, which had been vacant for a prolonged period and where concerns had been raised regarding its condition and the surrounding land.

The Council noted that Cheshire East Council is aware of the matter.

The Parish Council does not have the power to serve a Section 215 notice. Cheshire East Council, as the local planning authority, has powers to investigate the condition of land and buildings and consider whether formal action may be appropriate.

The matter will be kept under review and, where appropriate, the Parish Council will liaise with Cheshire East Council.

43. COUNCILLOR AND CLERK UPDATES

There were no additional updates.

Councillors are kept updated on relevant matters affecting the Parish Council as issues arise.

44. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The position regarding speed cameras was noted for future consideration and further updates.

45. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next scheduled Parish Council meetings were confirmed as:

- Thursday 19 November 2026
- Thursday 28 January 2027
- Thursday 18 March 2027

46. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vicar raised a matter regarding the possibility of installing a small fingerpost sign on the verge near The Swan. The matter was noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Meeting closed at 8.40pm