

TABLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7:00 PM

Venue: Mere & Tabley Community Club

Contact: clerk@tableyparishcouncil.co.uk

- **Present:**

Councillors (Chair), H. Gurney-Smith (HGS), A. Greenway (AG), S. Carson (SC), K. Newport (KN), D. Bailey (DB) N. Withenshaw (NW), S. Wharfe (SW) & B. Hartley (BH).

- **Also Present:** Ms. S Booth (Parish Clerk) & Rev Robert Thewsey
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1. Election of Chair for the Ensuing Year

- Nominations received for Chair: NW Proposed & KN & SW Second
Elected Chairperson: **Helen Gurney-Smith**
- Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by the newly elected Chair.

2. Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year

- Vice-Chair Nominations: HGS Proposed & KN & SW Second
Elected Vice-Chair: **Alan Greenway**
- Responsible Financial Officer Nominations: Parish Clerk
Appointed RFO: **Sharon Booth – Parish Clerk**

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and approved from: **TJ**

4. Declarations of Interest

- Declarations of Interest (DOI)
Resolved that there were no DOI made for this meeting.
- 2025-26 Declaration of Acceptance forms (DOA)
Resolved that Cllrs received, signed, and returned the DOA forms to the PC.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

- Minutes of the Annual Parish council meeting held on 13th May 2024 [P93]
Resolved that the minutes were proposed by AG and unanimously approved.
Resolved that there were no Matters Arising from the Annual minutes
- Minutes of the Bimonthly Meeting held on 10th March 2025 [P105–P107]
Resolved that the minutes were unanimously approved.
Resolved that there were no Matters Arising from the Annual minutes

6. Review and Adoption of Council's Policies and Procedures

- Standing Orders
Resolved that the Standing Orders were reviewed and adopted
- Financial Regulations
Resolved that the Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted
- Code of Conduct: Reviewed and Adopted
- **Resolved** that the Code of Conduct were reviewed and adopted

7. Chairperson

- **Resolved:** The Chair expressed thanks to all councillors for their hard work and dedication to Tabley Parish Council, as well as for their ongoing engagement with local groups and community issues. Congratulations were extended to Cllr Hartley on his appointment as Mayor of Knutsford. The Chair then presented the Council with a reflection on the year 2024–2025..

8. Parish Councillors' Reports (Updated by Rev. Robert Thewsey)

Each member provided a brief summary of their roles and responsibilities.

- **AG** informed the Council about updates at the Mere & Tabley Community Club. Recent events have been a success and received positive feedback. It was noted that such events are highly beneficial to the local community.
- **SW** shared that he has served as a Parish Councillor for Tabley for 55 years. He emphasized that the Council makes a real difference and holds influence on several projects and topics. He encouraged members to continue making their voices heard.
- **SC** introduced herself and outlined her role in the area, including her ongoing liaison with MP Esther McVey.
- **DB** reported that he oversees Highways and highlighted some ongoing issues. He stressed the importance of persistently following up with Cheshire East Council to ensure resolutions.
- **KN** shared that she is born and bred in Tabley and, in addition to her duties as a Parish Councillor, also maintains the village noticeboards.
- **NW** provided a brief update, confirming that he is a resident of Tabley.

9. Guest Speakers -Cheshire East Ward Councillor Report – Ward Cllr Kate Hague (WCKH)

- **Resolved** that the following concerns were sent to WCKH covering the below topics, responses to the issues were received and read out to the Council.
 - Accident Data & Speed Assessment on Tabley & Knutsford Road
 - Villa Farm update
 - Waterless Bridge

Action: To send a follow up email to WCKH regarding concerns that a meeting has not yet been arranged.

 - Pickmere Lane Weeds
 - Pickmere Bridge Signs

9.1 Knutsford Police

- **Resolved** that there was no report received for this meeting.

9.2 Rev Robert Thewsey

- **Rev. Robert Thewsey** provided the Councillors with a brief overview of his background and career journey. He currently oversees four churches. Rev. Thewsey expressed that everyone is welcome to attend services, and while he may not be able to attend every council meeting, he invited Councillors to reach out to him or visit the church if they require any assistance or support.

10. Open Forum

The Open Forum provides an opportunity for members of the public (MOP) to raise questions or comments on items listed on the agenda.

- **Resolved:** As no members of the public were in attendance, no matters were raised. The Chairperson therefore declared the Public Forum closed.

11. Standing Monthly Agenda Items and Updates

11.1 Cllr S. Carson provided a general update.

- Following her recent attendance at a meeting with MP Esther McVey, which was also attended by approximately 25 representatives from other Parish Councils, a key concern raised during the meeting was Cheshire East Council's (CEC) lack of responsiveness to reported issues. It was noted that, as CEC is currently under special measures, there is a dedicated budget available for addressing some pothole repairs. Residents and Councillors are encouraged to continue reporting highway issues via the "Fix My Street" platform.
- Cheadle Lane: It was reported that the bridge has collapsed.
- Cheshire Showground Traffic: Traffic management during the recent event appeared to be effective, potentially due to the improved signage placed on the metal railings near The Windmill Pub.
- Community Engagement: Cllr Carson mentioned a conversation with a non-local visitor who had voluntarily carried out a litter pick in the area.
- Parking Issues: Ongoing parking problems on Holly Grove have resurfaced. Cllr Carson has contacted Network Rail regarding this issue. She also noted a concerning increase in unlicensed and untaxed vehicles being abandoned in the area, reportedly delivered by low loader.

Action Item: Add to the next meeting agenda parking at The Windmill Pub.

11.2 Cllr B. Hartley provided an update on behalf of Knutsford Town Council

- BH informed the meeting of his recent appointment as Mayor of Knutsford and outlined events he will be attending in this capacity.
- The Market Hall has officially reopened and will double as an evening event space once daily operations conclude. Planned events include an early disco bingo and, on 9th November, a 1940s music dance in support of Remembrance Day.
- The proposed new doctors' surgery is still awaiting further progress.
- Plans for alfresco dining in the town centre will not proceed due to ongoing vehicle access issues in the area.
- Cllr Hartley also shared an update on newly opened businesses in Knutsford.

12. Recent Cheshire East Planning Submissions

- 25/1174/HOUS – Partridge Rise, Moss Lane, Over Tabley
Description: Erection of single storey side and rear extension, extension to rear dormer, and installation of open porch.
Received: 01/05/25 | Circulated to Cllrs: 01/05/25
Resolved that there are no comments to make regarding this application.

13. Finance

- **Resolved** that the Council have reviewed and approved the annual accounts for the 2024–25 AGAR submission.
- Unity Trust Bank Accounts as of 30/04/25:
 - Current Account T1 (20448354): £3,698.33
 - Instant Access Account (20448367): £1,162.35
- **Resolved** that the Councillors were informed of the following receipt of:
 - CEC 1st 2025-26 Precept Instalment: £1,953.50 received.
- **Resolved** that the following payments were approved:
 - TPC/RA/120 – Unity Trust (DD) – £6.00
 - TPC/RA/121 – CHALC Fees – £130.65 (Cheque 300068)
 - TPC/RA/122 – Clerk's Salary Mth 1 & 2 – £AR (Cheque 300069)
 - TPC/RA/123 – HMRC Mth 1 & 2 – £66.66 (Cheque 300070)

13.1 CIL Funds and Donation to St Paul's Church

- Councillors discussed potential projects within Tabley to utilise the remaining CIL funds of £181.05, which must be spent by November 2025.
- Councillors enquired if the Council agreed for continuation of the £400 donation to St Paul's Church for the current year.

Resolved It was agreed that the £400 donation to St Paul's Church will be made again in the fiscal year 2025–26.

Point of Reference (POR): AG declared an interest in this item.

14. Exclusion Resolution

- Public session concluded. Members of the public were asked to withdraw.
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15. Any Other Business

- SC: An update was provided on the proposed dog field. It was noted that a complaint had been received from a resident regarding noise from a recent event held at Cheshire Showground.
POR: *The Clerk read aloud a response from licensing in relation to an enquiry made about the complaint.*
- **AG** provided SC with a photograph concerning the footpath issue and confirmed that the water burst has now been resolved.
- The blocked gully on Tabley Hill Lane (THL) remains listed on the FixMyStreet (FMS) reporting system.
- It was reported that several new televisions have been fly-tipped on Swains Walk. The incident was reported to the police, who attended promptly.
Councillors urged all residents to continue reporting any suspicious activity or incidents they observe.

16. Date of the Next Meeting

- Monday 7th July 2025 at 7:30 PM at Mere & Tabley Community Club.

Meeting Closed at: 8.30PM

Minutes Prepared By: Sharon Booth (Parish Clerk)

Chair Cllr H Gurney-Smith

10th March 2025