

CHOLMONDELEY & CHORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk

Carol Jones
Clerk

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**Parish Councillors are summoned to a
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

DAY/DATE: TUESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2021

TIME: 7.30 PM

**VENUE: CHOLMONDELEY BOWLING PAVILION
CHOLMONDELEY**

Enquiries to: Clerk: Carol Jones

Phone: 01270 812065
Issue date: 18 November 2021

Signed *C M Jones*

To: Councillors C Hopley (Chairman), A D Fennell, S Aspinall, I Cundy, M Furse,
A Gresty, R Keys, S Langton and P Probin

Copy: Borough Councillor W S Davies

Notes for Members of the Public

Please note that this is a face-to-face meeting and the number of attendees is limited owing to Covid-19 guidance, especially in view of the recent increase in cases.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement under the Public Question Time slot, are asked to submit them in writing to the Clerk (carol.jones@cholmondeley-chorley.co.uk) by 3.00 pm on the day of the meeting. These will be read out at the meeting and written responses will be provided.

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, the nature of that interest, and in respect of disclosable interests, to leave the meeting prior to the discussion of that item.

Whilst the Clerk can advise on the Code of Conduct and its interpretation, the decision to declare, or not, is the responsibility of the Parish Councillor, based on the particular circumstances.

3 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 October 2021.

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GUIDE TIME – 7.35 PM

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders (i.e. its Constitution) members of the public are able to ask a question or make a statement, both of which must relate to matters which fall within the remit of the Parish Council.

5 REPORT OF BOROUGH COUNCILLOR W S DAVIES

Councillor Davies to report on Cheshire East Council matters of interest and in particular any issues relating to the Parish Council.

GUIDE TIME – 7.50 PM

6 DRAFT BUDGET – 2022-23

The Parish Council is asked to agree its budget for 2022-23. The date for precept requests is 14 January 2022; however, if the Parish Council is able to bring forward its January 2022 meeting to 18 January 2022, it is likely that a request to provide the precept request on 19 January 2022 would be accepted.

The following documents are enclosed:

- Clerk's report
- Up-to-date financial statement
- Budget monitoring statement to September 2021 and draft budget proposals 2022-2023.

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7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Parish Council is asked to authorise the following payments:

£45.00	Coderra Ltd. – set up data table to hold all new documents
£82.44	C M Jones – reimbursement for outstanding payment to ChALC
£25.00	C M Jones – reimbursement for training session for C Farquharson
£60.00	Cholmondeley Bowing Pavilion.

Note: the fee for use of the bowing pavilion has been reduced to £20.00 for each meeting. This fee covers the cost of the meetings on 5 October, and today's meeting, and also for a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting.

GUIDE TIME – 8.20 PM

8 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE (BOUNDARY REVIEW)

Decision Required: Comments to be made to Cheshire East Council by 28 November 2021.

Cheshire East Council has been reviewing the boundaries of parishes across the whole of Cheshire East, as Government guidance suggests it is good practice to review governance arrangements every 10-15 years.

The review, which follows central government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance, is to ensure community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and facilitate convenient and effective local government.

This was an item on the agenda for the meeting held on 5 October 2021, at which time the Clerk stated that discussion could be deferred to this meeting. This is now a final opportunity to make any comments and to assist the Parish Council, the Clerk has set out a summary of the implications for Cholmondeley and Chorley parishes.

The [Community Governance Review draft recommendations report](#) makes a series of draft proposals for consultation, beginning with parishes where no changes are being proposed, to other relatively minor proposals, and, finally, to more significant area or boundary changes – largely adjoining the borough’s urban parishes – which have a knock-on effect for surrounding parishes. Maps showing the details of potential boundary changes can be found via [this link](#).

For ease of reference, the full document (229 pages) will be sent to Members under separate cover, partly because it is 2 MB and cannot be sent as part of the normal agenda and its documents.

A detailed summary of the proposals for Cholmondeley & Chorley parishes can be found on pages 36 and 37 of the document and a detailed summary of the proposals is appended below.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish	No. of Councillors	Electors 2018	Ratio of Electors per Councillor (2018)
Cholmondeley	6	134	22.3
Chorley ¹	5	90	18
Cholmondeley & Chorley (combined)	11	224	20.4

Compared with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2 – page 18) Cholmondeley and Chorley Parish Council has a relatively high number for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a Council with this number of electors.

The recommended number of seats (councillors) for each parish will be four for Cholmondeley and three for Chorley. This is based on their respective shares of the Parish Council’s electorate (using the 2025 forecasts – see table below). This approach minimises the disparity between the parishes’ ratios of electors to councillors.

¹ It should be noted that Cheshire East has two parishes called Chorley, one of which is near to Wilmslow.

Parish	No. of Councillors	Electors 2025	Ratio of Electors per Councillor (2025)
Cholmondeley	4	140	35
Chorley	3	89	29.7
Cholmondeley & Chorley (combined)	7	229	32.7

It is noted in the document that no representations were received during the pre-consultation survey carried out for the parish. This was considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 26 November 2019 (Minute No. 53.2 refers) at which time the Council resolved to make no observations on the proposals.

The legal minimum number of parish councillors for each council is five (Section 16, Local Government Act 1972). The National Association of Local Councils considers that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers that a practical working minimum should be seven (NALC Circular 1126/1988). The Government's Guidance makes the point that 'the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors (Guidance, paragraph 157). It is therefore Cheshire East Council's view that, where possible, the minimum number of parish councillors for any parish council should be set at a working minimum of seven. It is worthy of note that this figure is also consistent with the current (2018) average council size for the smallest parishes of 300 or fewer electors.

There is no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size. The view given in the Guidance is 'In considering the issue of council size, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government.' (Guidance, paragraph 156).

It is expected that the new arrangements will be in place for the elections in 2023.

GUIDE TIME – 8.40 PM

9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

9.1 Minutes of Steering Group meeting held on 31 August 2021

To receive the Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 31 August 2021. ☒

9.2 Formal approval of quotations submitted to Groundwork UK

Although quotations from Cheshire Community Action, and Cheshire Wildlife Trust, were submitted to Groundwork UK, the Parish Council is asked to formally approve the enclosed quotations. ☒

Cheshire Community Action	£3,420.00
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	£1,170.00 plus VAT

9.3 Neighbourhood Plan Grant Spend

The Parish Council is asked to delegate to the Clerk authorisation to spend in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Grant. This will avoid delays between meetings.

At present, there has been no request from the Steering Group, for any spend.

10 PLANNING

There are no planning applications for consultation.

11 NEWSLETTER

The Clerk is awaiting some information for the newsletter, which is due to be printed, ready for delivery early December 2021.

Members are asked to consider how the newsletter is to be delivered, and to confirm the number required.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council is asked to bring forward the January 2022 meeting to 18 January to enable the precept request to be submitted to Cheshire East Council.