

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHOLMONDELEY & CHORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON :18 March 2025

IN CHOLMONDELEY THE BOWLING GREEN, CHOLMONDELEY

PRESENT:	Councillor S Aspinall	
	Councillor I Cundy	Vice Chair
	Councillor C Hopley	
	Councillor P Probin	
APOLOGIES:	Councillor C Crossley	Chairman
	Councillor A D Fennell	
	Councillor James Pearson	Ward Councillor

46. Chair's Announcements/Matters Arising

The Council formally noted and approved Councillor Crossley's absences in May and November 2024 due to illness and in March 2025 due to work commitments, in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council confirmed that Councillor Crossley remains qualified to hold office.

47. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests related to items on the agenda.

Outcome: No declarations were made.

48. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 November 2024 were reviewed and approved as a correct record.

49. Borough Councillor's Report

There was no update.

50. Public Participation - The Estate Dairy – Planning Discussion

Representatives from The Estate Dairy, in collaboration with Cadnant Planning, attended to discuss plans to regularise existing developments and propose new structures on the Cholmondeley Estate.

Background:

The Estate Dairy, founded in 2016 by Shaun and Rebecca Young, was a family-run business producing award-winning cultured butter and Greek yogurt at its facility on the Cholmondeley Estate. They sourced milk and cream from Somerset to ensure premium quality.

Meeting Discussion & Key Points:

- Shaun Young explained the need for planning permission to regularise existing structures and support potential expansion. He confirmed that attending the Parish Council meeting was voluntary and that they were working with North West Design on surveys and plans.

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- Councillor Phil Probin inquired about the impact on local employment. Shaun confirmed the creation of 20 local jobs.
- Councillor Sarah Aspinal asked about the need for a rural location, with Ray Davies (Planning Consultant) clarifying that the business complied with policy PG6, which supported rural enterprises.
- Councillor C. Hopley raised concerns regarding visibility and infrastructure. Shaun assured that the buildings will be discreetly positioned and designed to blend into the landscape.
- Ray Davies confirmed the site was not in a green belt area, supporting the application under relevant policies.
- Shaun also discussed plans for a cold store to support production, noting the substantial investment made by the business.
- Councillors acknowledged the business's positive contribution to the local economy. For planning updates, visit Cheshire East Council's planning portal: cheshireeast.gov.uk.

51. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

51.1 Highway Concerns

Discussions with the Ward Councillor are planned for the next meeting.

The Clerk has written to Cheshire East regarding the signage on Nantwich Road, and the response confirmed that these signs will be included in future maintenance work, though no timeline was currently available.

Fix My Street Updates:

- Chorley Green Lane potholes have been filled.
- Road markings at the A49/Bickerton Road junction have been clarified.

51.2 Governance - Internal Control Objective

The Clerk will follow up on the finalisation of the Internal Audit Report.

51.3 Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk has updated Cheshire East regarding the Cholmondeley and Chorley Ward Councillor vacancies. Cheshire East confirmed that the vacancies can now be filled by co-option following the 14-day deadline. The Clerk will continue advertising the vacancies.

52. Regular Reports and Updates

Police Update:

- Recent incidents include a couple of car accidents and some domestic issues.
- Councillor Chris Hopley will attend the Community Cohesion Group meeting on 27 March from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Highways and Roads:

- Ongoing discussions on issues reported via Fix My Street was discussed.

Road Safety:

- Discussion on improving safety measures for the area was discussed.

Litter Issues:

- Councillor I Cundy provided an update on a recent community litter-picking exercise.
- Cheshire East will be contacted regarding signage for litter awareness and suggest the formation of a community litter-picking group.

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53. Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: Payments from 1 November 2024 to 10 March 2025 were reviewed and approved:

Invoice Date	Account Name	Reason for Payment	Amount (£)
05/07/2024	Christopher Hopley	Memorial Wreath	60.00
08/12/2024	D. Foulkes	Payroll (Oct/Nov/Dec)	572.66
08/12/2024	HMRC	Tax Payment	139.60
03/12/2024	AVOW	Payroll Charges	12.58
01/01/2025	Coderra Ltd	Domain Renewal	15.00
06/01/2025	Seal Calibration Ltd	Defibrillator Maintenance	166.80
20/02/2025	Coderra Ltd	Website Plugin Update	25.00
10/03/2025	D. Foulkes	Payroll (Jan/Feb/March)	359.70
10/03/2025	HMRC	Tax Payment	86.60
10/03/2025	AVOW	Payroll Charges	27.58
Total			1,465.52

Note: Bank statements are regularly provided to Councillors.

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54. Income Update

Income from 1 November 2024 to 10 March 2025:

Date	Payment Type	Details	Paid In (£)
29/11/2024	Interest		13.93
31/12/2024	Interest		15.02
31/01/2025	Interest		13.65
28/02/2025	Interest		11.58
24/02/2025	Automated Credit	Coderra Ltd (website)	25.00
Total			79.18

55. Budget Approval/Income

- **RESOLVED: The financial report from the RFO/Clerk was approved.**
- The VAT reclaim for 2024/2025 will be submitted before 31 March.

56. Governance

- **RESOLVED: Councillors approved Adam Keppel-Green FSLCC as the internal auditor for 2024/2025 at a fixed cost of £175.**
- **The Internal Auditor is a qualified CiLCA and PIALC auditor with 13 years of experience.**

57. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Councillor I. Cundy reported that more work was required to ensure compliance with Regulation 14 and to meet community needs. Further work will continue in the new year.

58. Planning Applications

No planning applications were received.

59. Parish Council Newsletter

Councillors discussed creating an online newsletter with the option for hard copies upon request.

60. Shared Items

RESOLVED: A plaque will be purchased from Amazon to recognise the Parish Council's contribution to the defibrillator at the Cholmondeley Arms pub.

Councillor Hopley informed Parish Councillors that the defibrillator was recently used by the Cholmondeley Estate, and the pads were replaced by them.

61. Notice Board Project

Councillor Hopley has been in discussions with the Cholmondeley Estate regarding a new notice board, with the Estate agreeing to share the costs. The Clerk has written to both the Post Office and Cholmondeley Estate to support this initiative.

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62. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6 May 2025 (AGM).

RESOLVED: The above meeting date was confirmed.

.....Chairman