



Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council

MEETING MINUTES

**Monday 13th April 2026, at 7.15pm in The Parish Room, Golden Lion
Community Hub, Kelsall Road, Chester CH3 8BH.**

Present: Cllr R Arnold
Cllr B Craven
Cllr I Dossett
Cllr S Eadie
Cllr R Kinsey
Cllr I Ridgley
Cllr P Mitchell - Chairperson

Clerk: Mrs T Ryall-Harvey
Members of the Public: 0

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Varey due to a previous engagement and Cllr H Deynem (Ward Councillor).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Ridgley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items relating to Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association and undertook not to participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and agreed to leave the room unless the Chairman granted him a dispensation when this item was discussed.

Cllr Kinsey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 26/00339/FUL (Peel Hall) and undertook not to participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and agreed to leave the room unless the Chairman granted him a dispensation when this item was discussed.

Cllr I Dossett declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 26/00815/FUL - Peel Hall and undertook not to vote on the matter.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Cllr Mitchell proposed that item 13.3 – Staffing Committee should be discussed with the exclusion of the press, public, and clerk. Seconded by Cllr Dossett and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/081.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Cllr Eadie confirmed that the speed vans have been seen a number of times on Church Road. He has received feedback that residents are parking in front of the van and people are flashing drivers to warn them. It was confirmed that warning drivers is an offence of interfering with police work.
ACTION: Cllr Eadie undertook to speak to Cllr Varey about contacting the school to ask that parents park considerately and not in front of the van.
- Cllr Arnold sought clarification as to whose responsibility it is to keep hedges trimmed back along public footpaths. Cllr Dossett confirmed that it was the landowner's responsibility.
- Cllr Craven reported that a road closure notice was up by Delamere Forest due to the road being closed at Norley/Hatchmere. The wording of the sign is unclear.
ACTION: It was agreed that a letter to UU should be sent to ask for the sign to be clear as to where the actual road closure is.

- Cllr Dossett reported that all batteries had been replaced on the millennium footpath and thanked Mr Wolveridge for his assistance with this.

EXTERNAL MATTERS

- PSCO update and meeting with Neil Fagan – it was reported that correspondence had been received confirming the new PCSO for the area as James Hannath. It was also reported that correspondence had been received from Chief Inspector Paul Fagan (Chester LPU Commander), outlining the new structure. A virtual meeting had been organised and was attended by the clerk.
- CWaC have some money allocated for the Ashton Hayes Cricket Club – located off Church Road –CWAC have been in touch seeking clarification as to whether there is a cricket governing body and field in the area, as they had money allocated for Ashton Hayes Cricket Club.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to CWaC suggesting that the monies should be allocated to AHSRA as they have some cricket facilities.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES.

It was proposed by Cllr Dossett and seconded by Cllr Craven and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/082** that Cllr P Mitchell, as Chairperson, sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th March 2026 as a true and correct record.

ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

The Action List dated 9th March 2026 was circulated with the agenda for the attention of Parish Councillors.

- Hedges in Ashton Hayes – it was reported that CWaC had been in contact with the residents of the two hedges that remained overgrown and one of the hedges had now been resolved. CWaC were starting section 154 (Highway Act) proceedings against the owner of the remaining hedge.
- Streetlights – Cllr Craven confirmed she had reported one streetlight in Dunns Lane, which has now been resolved. Cllr Dossett had previously reported in February, two streetlights in Peel Hall Lane, for which the action remains outstanding.
- Residents Survey Questions relating to the distribution of the Residents Survey were brought to the meeting and it was agreed:-
 - When should the survey be circulated? Suggested release date was 5th May (beginning of May)
 - How should the survey be circulated? it was agreed that it should be circulated along with 'News from the Pews' since every household in the village receives a copy. This normally goes out at the beginning of May.
 - How long should the survey be live? It was agreed that two weeks should be sufficient, with a reminder after one week and another reminder 48 hours before the closing date. Reminders to be via NextDoor and posters, where possible.

ACTION: Cllr Ridgley to speak to the village shop about the completed surveys being left at the shop.

 - When should the names be drawn for the prize? It was agreed that names to be drawn at the June Parish Council Meeting (suggested voucher to be for Community Owned shop/community hub)

- Clerk had contacted LLFA to gain a better understanding of the current resident's flood alleviation measures scheme that they are consulting residents about.
- Cllr Dossett reported on communications with David Brown of the Environment Agency regarding monitoring of the water level/flow when it exceeds the capacity of the culvert. The Environment Agency has received a quote for an early warning system, and they are now looking for funding.
- Cllr Varey provided a verbal update from the PROW officer in relation to the ongoing closure of footpath AHFP6 Ref: GS63217925 due to Badger holes. CWaC have instructed their contractor to make the dormant badger holes safe by laying trench boards on the holes in order to get the path reopened as soon as possible. They will then discuss with the Ecologist a recommendation to construct tunnels for the live sets as he has advised that relocation was not an option.
ACTION: Report to CWaC that the closed footpath signs are down and the footpath is in regular use by walkers.
ACTION: Clerk to ask for a meeting with the PROW officer and landowner.

The following items were reported and closed on the action list:

- Pay invoices
- Put minutes on website
- Submit response to Planning application 26/00339/FUL & 26/00373/OUT.
- Information about planning application 26/00373/OUT had been shared on NextDoor, Facebook and the PC website
- Grant Process for 2025-26 – paperwork received from Ashton and Mouldsworth Village Hall and the grant process for 2025-26 had now been completed

All other actions remain outstanding and will be brought to future meetings.

PLANNING

The council noted the Planning Register as circulated at the meeting dated 31/03/2026.

It was noted that the following planning application has been received since the last meeting:

- 26/00815/FUL - Peel Hall Gongar Lane Mouldsworth Chester CH3 8AY - Retrospective change of use of building from agriculture to commercial stud use.

It was noted that the following planning application has been received since the circulation of the agenda:-

- 26/00966/CAT – Ivydene, Kelsall Road, Ashton Hayes, Chester CH3 8BH – Holly Tree – Removal/felling due to concerns about contact with the neighbouring property garage roof and concerns about roots affecting the foundations of a small brick outbuilding on the owner's property over time. Intend to replace the Silver Birch but in a more suitable location. – the Parish Councillors wished to **support** this application.
- 26/00898/FUL - 4 Old Hall Court Ashton Hayes Chester CH3 8BS - Installation of two dormers both side elevations to first floor and application of render.

ACTION Cllrs Craven and Dossett to review

ACCOUNTS

Cashbook & Outturn

The year-to-date Cashbook and Outturn reports were provided to the meeting dated 31/03/2026. These were accepted subject to amending the Outturn Report (updating the total variances, updated cash in bank and update comments for the year).

Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED 25/083 that the end of year bank reconciliation and bank statements dated 31/03/2026 were provided to the meeting, reviewed, and accepted and were signed by Cllr Kinsey.

To note income received and expenditure paid out since the last meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Dossett and seconded by Cllr Craven and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/084** that the council note and accept the income and expenditure presented to the meeting for approval as set out below:

Income received since the last meeting for noting:				Gross Amount	Comment
14/03/2026	Skipton			£48.36	Compound Interest
13/03/2026	HMRC VTR			£2,127.86	VAT Rebate for 2025-26
09/04/2026	CWaC			£19,760.00	Annual Precept Payment
Payments made between meetings for noting:					
17/03/2026	CHALC			£35.00	Training - Procurement
17/03/2026	The Golden Lion			£199.00	Refreshments for Parish Meetings
17/03/2026	The Golden Lion			£42.45	Chairman's Allowance
Payments not yet made for approval:-					
Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment	
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£83.85	£11.00	£94.85	Clerk's Expenses	
HMRC	£215.13	£0.00	£215.13	PAYE	
CHALC	£323.60	£0.00	£323.60	Affiliation Fees for 2026-27	
Mrs K Lloyd	£60.00	£0.00	£60.00	Annual Internal Audit	
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£635.24	£0.00	£635.24	Salary Tax Point 1	

GOLDEN LION COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY – Cllr Mitchell reported that the Parish Council had received a draft of a three-party agreement between AHSRA, AHPC and AHCHL for the storage of the Parish Council's property in the Plant Room of AHSRA's Pavillion at Queen Elizabeth II Recreation Field. Cllr Ridgley suggested that the space be viewed by the Parish Council.

ACTION: Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Dossett to discuss directly with John Hurst any amendments that the Parish Council require to the agreement.

HIGHWAYS

Speeding Update – Cllr Eadie reported that he had received three quotes for a replacement SID machine. Cllr Eadie sought confirmation that SID on a pole would be acceptable and if it would be possible for Parish Councillors to move them between locations.

Cllr Eadie recommended that a Modula SID be purchased and two locations be prioritized, on Church Road and outside AHSRA.

ACTION: get quote for two pole mounted solar SID machines.

ACTION: seek confirmation from Police Traffic Officer if pole mounted SID machines would be acceptable.

CLlr Eadie Proposed that if the project comes back costing £10,000 or less, excluding VAT (or less for two pole mounted SID's) then, subject to approval of pole locations and the cost of installing the poles being included within this figure, this project should move ahead. This was seconded by CLlr Dossett and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/085**.

It was also agreed that the PC would also try to borrow a SID machine, for specific times throughout the year, to cover the smaller roads in the village.

ENVIRONMENT

Flooding – no update.

Hedging Survey – covered earlier in the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Policies - the list of policies were reviewed, and volunteers sought to review and bring back to the next meeting any recommendations for amendment.

Anti-Harassment & Bullying Policy	No-changes
Communications Protocol Policy	No-changes
Community Engagement Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Complaints Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Grant Award Policy	No-changes
Health & Safety Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Information and Data Protection Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Information Retention and Archiving Policy	Amended policy circulated around the Parish Council for agreement
Investment Policy	No-changes
Privacy Policy	No-changes
Reserves Policy	No-changes
Scheme of Delegation Policy	No-changes
Staff Absence Policy	No-changes
Training and Development Policy	No-changes
Volunteer Policy & Procedures	Changes proposed and circulated around the Parish Council for agreement prior to the meeting
Zero Tolerance Policy	No-changes
Website Accessibility Statement	No-changes

Disciplinary Procedures	No-changes
Financial Regulations	No-changes
Planning Committee	No-changes
Publication Scheme	Changes proposed and circulated around the Parish Council for agreement prior to the meeting
Staff Grievance Policy & Procedures	Links updated otherwise no changes
Standing orders	Changes proposed and circulated around the Parish Council for agreement prior to the meeting
Staffing Committee	No-changes

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Dossett, seconded by Cllr Craven, and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/086** that the policies with the amendments that had been circulated be adopted. They would be reviewed again in 2027.

Scarecrow Trail – It was confirmed that the Golden Lion was going to run the Scarecrow Trail this year. The theme will be a choice between the World Cup football or World cup countries. That way people can either do a football themed one or a geographically/culturally themed one. It was confirmed that Cllr Kinsey would supply straw again for anyone that would like it.

AROUND ASHTON

Items for inclusion in the next Around Ashton were:-

- Lions – Message in a bottle - PM
- Speeding Update - SE
- Electricity – Scottish Power - ID
- Pink Poo – update PV
- Openreach – update PV
- Giant Hogweed – make residents aware RA
- Flood Update – ID – depending on if there is anything positive to update.
- Footpath closure – remind people if it is still closed - PV

It was noted that all articles needed to be returned to Cllr Varey by 4th May 2026 for any PC written articles and 8th May 2026 for all other articles.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.15pm in the Parish Room, Golden Lion Community Hub, Kelsall Road, Ashton Hayes CH3 8BH.

Meeting closed to Press, Public and Clerk.

Staffing Committee The Chair explained that the staffing committee had discussed the idea of offering a contributory Pension Scheme to the Clerk. It was explained that if an employee earns more than £10,000 per annum, the employer is obliged to offer 'auto enrolment' into a pension scheme. Although the pay received from the Clerk's role as the Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel clerk does not yet exceed this figure, the Staffing Committee had agreed that, subject to the agreement of the full Council, the Parish Council as a good employer, should offer such a scheme. The recommendation was for a 5% contribution from the Clerk, matched by the same from the

Council. NEST pensions would offer such a scheme which would not be expected to cost the PC more than an additional £500 per annum. The Parish Council unanimously **RESOLVED 25/087** agreed to the recommendation.

ACTION: Chair to advise the Clerk of the agreement of the recommendation and to liaise on the setting up of the scheme

The meeting closed at 21.48

Signe

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Chair.

Dated:

14th May 2016