



Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council

MEETING MINUTES

Monday 9th March 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 R Kinsey
Clerk: Mrs T Ryall-Harvey

Cllr S Eadie
Cllr P Mitchell - Chairperson
Cllr P Varey
Cllr H Deynem (Ward Councillor)
Members of the Public: 1

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr I Ridgley due to ill health.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Kinsey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 26/00339/FUL 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.

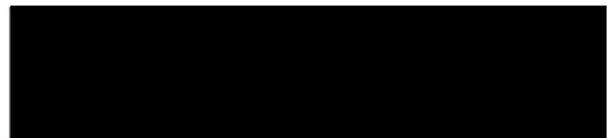
EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – no items on the agenda were excluded from the press and public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The member of public raised concerns regarding the condition of the footpaths in and around the village, he reported that they were muddy and dirty and he was concerned about the potential slip hazard they may cause.
ACTION: Resident undertook to report it.
- The resident raised concerns about the traffic congestion outside the nursery, they reported that they considered it to be getting worse, in particular during morning or evening drop off. The resident reported that sometimes the back-up of traffic stretches to the village hall and also towards Farrells.
ACTION: Write to Nursery and ask them for a copy of their traffic management plan due to traffic obstruction during morning and evening collection.

Cllr Deynem reported that Ashton House Day Nursery were in the process of applying for planning permission for change of use of a building outside of Ashton Hayes to convert to another nursery – this may resolve some of the traffic issues.

- The resident raised concerns he had received from a neighbour in relation to the disruption of electricity during recent surges.



13/04/26



Cllr Dossett reported that he had received communication from Scottish Power following a complaint he had submitted with regards to the power outage. He reported that the recent big outage was planned due to maintenance work being required and if residents were signed up for alerts they should have received notification of this.

Cllr Dossett also reported that Scottish Power have done a review of the area and they have reported back that the equipment is dated. They have recently undertaken maintenance work including the cutting back of trees and have identified some areas having problems with birds. He also reported that the substation in Tarvin that splits to provide electricity to Ashton Hayes requires work being carried out and they have confirmed that this work to improve the electricity supply is being planned for April and July.

ACTION: Cllr Dossett to try to obtain advance notice of dates of works being undertaken.

- Cllr Mitchell had received information from a resident about a scheme run by the Lions for the Green Cross – Message in a Bottle.

ACTION: Add information to Around Ashton.

ACTION: Asked if the Parish Council would fund any further bottles required after the first 50 bottles which are free.

EXTERNAL MATTERS

Gowry Beat Area Parish Councils meeting – Cllr Varey reported on the meeting between the Gowry Parish Councils and the Area Beat Police Officer on 25th February.

He also confirmed the next meeting would take place on:

27th May 1800 – 1900, 19th Aug 1900 – 2000 and 11th Nov 1900 – 2000

ACTION: Check with Parish Councillors who can attend the next Police Meeting at the next PC meeting.

ACTION: Chase Area Beat Police Officer to see if he has sought any answers to the questions.

Ashton Hayes Parish Rooms – it was reported that the Charity Commission had confirmed that the Charity registered in the name ASHTON PARISH ROOMS had now been closed and as a result, it has been removed from the Charity Commissions register.

CHALC – Thinking Ahead Survey – results had been received and circulated around the Parish Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES.

It was proposed by Cllr Dossett and seconded by Cllr Craven and unanimously **RESOLVED**

25/067 that Cllr P Mitchell, as Chairperson, sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th February 2026 as a true and correct record.

ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

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

- Dog Fouling – Pink Poo Campaign – Cllr Varey confirmed that the group had agreed to carry out the campaign this year in April. He had requested 3 cans of pink chalk spray at a cost of £8.99 per can plus delivery.

- Gully cleaning due to be done in December – part of flooding problem – still not being done – raise with Stuart Bateman.
- Cllr Dossett to look at the planning approval for the Barn at Knightswood due to lights that have since appeared and if this is in contravention to the planning conditions then it should be reported to Planning Enforcement.
- LLFA have confirmed that they have put forward a bid to the Quick Win Funding stream at the Environment Agency for a temporary pump for Ashton Hayes. They are still awaiting confirmation of funds, but in the meantime, they are working to secure quotes and options that may be suitable.

With regards to the permanent scheme, it has already been communicated to the Parish Council that this is currently on hold due to the EA funding restrictions announced this year which have affected our ability to put forward a bid for funding. However, they are still working to build a business case for this scheme and they hope to reopen discussions with the EA next financial year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LLFA to find out about the scheme they are currently contacting residents about.

ACTION: Cllr Varey to check with the PROW officer regarding AHFP6 Ref: GS63217925 – Badger holes on Baker Way path.

- An update in relation to United Utilities was received from Cllr Dossett. Following a letter to the Chief Executive of United Utilities asking them to progress the matter, UU have confirmed that their land off Peel Hall Lane that is leased to Ashton Hayes Parish Council, can have the lease transferred to the Scouts Association. United Utilities are looking to progress the reassignment of the lease subject to the Scouts confirming the following information:
 - a) the full name and address of the Scout group
 - b) the name(s) and address(es) of the individual(s) within the Scout Group who will be a party to the assignment and responsible for the terms of the lease.
 - c) If appointed, the details of any legal representative who will act on your behalf.

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

- Pay invoices
- Put minutes on website
- Paid amended Oliver & Co invoice.
- Emailed owners of Parish Rooms and they had confirmed that they would like to explore the transfer of the title deed and would contact their solicitors.
- Submit response to Planning application 26/00135/FUL
- Report to Planning Enforcement proposed glamping site on Knightswood land.
- Create a Plastic Initiative Webpage on the PC website.
- Double check if gullies had been reported to CWaC have been actioned and if not escalate.
- Chased the LLFA for an update on obtaining funding for temporary pump and permanent scheme.
- Report the road markings on the A54 and Ashton Lane.
- Request community clean-up equipment for 11th April.

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

13/04/26

PLANNING

The council noted the Planning Register as circulated at the meeting dated 26/02/2026.

It was noted that the following planning application has been received, and a response had been agreed prior to the meeting and submitted to CWAC, as per the Parish Council's Planning Standing Orders:

- 26/00339/FUL – 41 Peel Hall Lane, Ashton Hayes, Chester CH3 8DE – Side Extension to existing bungalow and small change of use of land to residential curtilage. The Parish Council had submitted a **neutral** response to this application.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the Parish Council's response.

It was noted that the following outline planning application had been received since the agenda had been circulated:

- 26/00373/OUT- Land at Ashton Lane, Ashton Hayes, Chester- Erection of up to 16 dwellings (C3) and all associated infrastructure works.

Cllr Dossett provided a verbal report following the parish council's consideration of this planning application. It was noted that, following changes introduced by HMG to the number of new build homes required, CWaC was now considerably below its required new builds. This application, which isn't inconsistent with our Neighbourhood Plan, would most likely be approved. It was important that the CWaC planners were aware of conditions that the PC believed should be incorporated into any approval. The timescales for providing comments precluded any possibility of a public meeting. Cllr Deynem provided his comments and thoughts on this planning application.

ACTION: Clerk to submit the Parish Council's response to CWaC.

ACTION: Information to be shared with residents via NextDoor, Facebook and the PC Website with targeted leafleting of local residents in the area involved.

GOLDEN LION COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

Cllr Deynem reported on the installation of grasscrete outside the Golden Lion which would hopefully be concluded in the next few months to finish the bio-diversity element of the planning application.

Cllr Deynem left the meeting.

ACCOUNTS

Cashbook & Outturn

The year-to-date Cashbook and Outturn reports were provided to the meeting dated 26/02/2026. These were accepted.

Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED 25/068 that following the review of the bank reconciliation and bank statements were provided to the meeting dated 26-02-2026 and were signed by Cllr Craven and were accepted.

VAT Rebate

RESOLVED 25/069 that the Clerk submit the VAT rebate application form for the sum of £2,127.89 during March 2026 to allow the rebate to be received within this financial year.

Payroll Services

Proposed by Cllr Varey and seconded by Cllr Dossett and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/070** to move to "The Account Centre" to provide payroll services for 2026-27.

Direct Debits

Proposed by Cllr Craven and seconded by Cllr Dossett and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/071** to continue to make payments to the ICO by Direct Debit.

Churchyard Grant

Proposed by Cllr Dossett and seconded by Cllr Craven and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/072** to award St John the Evangelist's Church, Ashton Hayes £600 towards Ground Maintenance for 2025.

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

Proposed by Cllr Dossett and seconded by Cllr Varey and unanimously **RESOLVED 25/073** 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
15/02/2026	Skipton Building Society		£55.99	Compound Interest
23/02/2026	Cheshire West and Chester Council		£371.82	Contribution toward speed reduction
02/03/2026	Bank Interest		£20.52	Barclays Bank Interest
Payments not yet made for approval:				
Payable to	Net Amount	VAT	Gross Amount	Comment
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£27.60	£0.44	£28.04	Clerk's Expenses
Oliver and CO	£3,137.00	£603.40	£3,740.40	Legal Fees for title deed registration of land to rear of PR
CHALC	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	New Members Induction Training
CHALC	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00	Clerk Training
HMRC	£227.52	£0.00	£227.52	PAYE Q4
Mrs T Ryall-Harvey	£776.91	£0.00	£776.91	Salary Tax Point 12
Ashton Hayes PCC	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00	St John the Evangelist Church Grant
Ashton Hayes Primary School	£327.00	£0.00	£327.00	Printing of Around Ashton Newsletter

HIGHWAYS

Speeding Update – Cllr Eadie reported that he had received three quotes for a replacement SID machine. He was looking to have the SID on a pole rather than a tripod. The Clerk confirmed that this would not be feasible due to cost restraints. The Clerk reported that Tattenhall and Tarporley Parish Councils were also looking to purchase a Speed Indicator Device and therefore it may be possible for us to get a better price if we joined forces.

ENVIRONMENT

Flooding – covered earlier in the meeting.

Hedging Survey – covered earlier in the meeting.



13/04/26

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.

Asset Register - **RESOLVED 25/074** to adopt the Asset Register as presented to the meeting for 2026.

Remove the SID machine from the Asset Register due to it no-longer functioning.
Change noticeboard outside the shop to the updated renovated value.

Risk Assessment - Cllr Craven reported that the 'Risk Assessment Action Plan' for AHPC / Rooms Meeting will no-longer apply and therefore requested that it be cancelled.

RESOLVED 24/075 to cancel the 'Risk Assessment Action Plan' for AHPC / Rooms Meeting and to adopt the remaining Risk Assessments as circulated at the meeting for 2026.

Annual Report – the draft Annual Report was circulated around the Parish Council for review and approved for adoption subject to the changes.

Residents Survey Cllr Varey confirmed that he was working towards pulling together a draft survey, however questions had been raised as to which demographic data should be sought as part of the survey.

Following a discussion it was voted on and agreed:

- Not to include the postcode.
- To including the Age Range.
- Not to include Gender.

It was discussed whether we should encourage all adults (18 or older) to complete the survey or just ask for one copy per household. It was agreed that one survey would be delivered to each household, but a link be included so that additional adults within a household wishing to complete the survey, can do so either online or by downloading their own copy from the PC website.

Parish Meeting Arrangements It was confirmed that all groups had been invited to attend and a number had confirmed their attendance. The clerk was waiting on all of the reports to be submitted. The Golden Lion had been booked and numbers would be confirmed for catering purposes prior to the meeting.

Buffet to be served at 7.45pm.

AROUND ASHTON

Nothing raised – discuss at next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.15pm in the Parish Room, Golden Lion Community Hub, Kelsall Road, Ashton Hayes CH3 8BH.

Signed: 

Dated: 13 April 2026

The meeting closed at 22.03