

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: Four members of the public attended and Ward Councillor Gina Lewis and Ward Councillor Stuart Bingham (arrived 19.43).

Members of the Council present: Cllr Rayner (Chair), Cllr Cronin, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Baldini, Cllr Campbell.

Residents of Grange Lane attended. Representatives had attended a meeting with the Headteacher and Parish Council, on agenda. The school has reissued a parking charter, which has been problematic as not all parents have engaged / agreed to sign it with many crossing off sections. The current charter has no mention about driving on pavement, which K Garvey will raise directly with the school, may be difficult to revise the document now so may have to be included in the newsletter, not to drive on the pavement at speed over a distance. The meeting was positive with a good discussion with Headteacher, residents made their case and recognise the school being proactive but was not having impact on all parents. Discussed replacing / repairing cobles on the green and noted it is a conservation area. Police surgery date in November is incorrect, Clerk to check correct date with PCSO. Residents thanked Gina Lewis for the cones.

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllr Cotterill & Cllr Leech – holiday
Cllr Heath - working

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council 8th September 2025. 1539/25 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025.

3.1 Matters arising from the minutes of the Ordinary meeting on Monday 8th September 2025.

3.2 Action Log:

- Litter pick – Whitegate lane – the parish council volunteered for the pilot of rolling road closure of road several months ago but we have not heard anything back, to check with Stuart Bingham. When Stuart arrived he confirmed that we should have received an email. He will follow that up. *Resident expressed objection that volunteers were being asked to do this as we pay council tax for services. Cllr Rayner confirmed if we want it done we need to volunteer as the council is struggling financially.*
- Cinder Hill – Wig wag signs reported wrong times by Road Safety Officer, Cllr Lewis continues to email every other day for update on actions.
- Had meeting with Headteacher 8th October, on the agenda below.
- Gina Lewis was asked for an update on road resurfacing on Cinder Hill, no update she has asked for clarification.
- Cllr Haigh / Cllr Campbell have not investigated listed monument/plaque any further, Cllr Baldini to speak to the farmer.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda. Cllr Rayner and Cllr Leech to attend the connections meeting on 29th October,

5. Planning

5.1 1540/25 resolved the following planning application responses:

25/02818/TPO	Vale Royal Golf Course Vale Royal Drive	Mature Beech tree opposite Green Ridges property at the end of Vale Royal Drive. It is recommended that the tree is reduced to a height of 6m by means of pollarding within 6 months to retain the remaining stem and small sections of the main leaders utilising coronet cuts, in order to alleviate the risk to site users and adjacent properties whilst retaining a feature of biodiversity value for nature conservation purposes.	We defer to the CWAC Tree Officer as the Parish Council does not have the capability to comment
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5.2 Appeals:

Appeal – Hunters Retreat – no update yet.

Appeal - Vale Farm – converting outbuilding to domestic property, no update yet.

Appeal - Old Oak Stables – recent appeal for retrospective extension, no update yet.

5.3 Planning enforcements:

- The mosses – awaiting outcome of planning application; chased enforcement.
- Static Caravan, land on Clay Lane – awaiting pictures/activity log to share with planning enforcement, not received from residents, clerk followed up with planning enforcement who confirm an officer has not yet been allocated.
- Folley Cottage – this has been reported, no update
- Rushmere Lodge fencing due to be replaced in September. An enforcement notice was issued with 3 months to comply. They have until 10th November to appeal. Parish Council also concerned about the fence being outside of the property curtilage, this was reported to the council so nothing further we can do.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements remain unchanged. Barclays account showed a balance remaining of £102,563.59. The total account balances is £103,920.01 (including savings accounts).

6.2 Community donations were discussed, clerk posted details on social media/website and emailed local community groups to remind them in August, some did not send in applications by the deadline so the clerk sent a follow-up reminders. This will not be done next year; community groups must take responsibility for applying by the deadline.

Cllr Baldini and Cllr Campbell declared an interest as members of community groups making applications. **1540/25 agreed** awards as follows:

Request for donations 2025/26	Request for	Awarded £
Whitegate WI	Annual village show	450.00
Recreation Room	Contribution towards general upkeep	250.00
Church Wood	Insurance	300.00
Whitegate PCC - general request	Contribution towards emergency repair of cobles on Church Green (hold funds at present)	1000.00
WSCG	To replace A frames	250.00
Whitegate Scout Group	Contribution towards airwave/walkie talkie equipment and sports equipment	300.00
Friends of Whitegate School / school	Sports equipment for playtime	100.00

Scott Campbell - resident on behalf of a group of residents (PC to purchase as they do not have a community bank account)	Daffodil bulbs	100.00
	Total	2750.00

Resident commented about the work of the volunteer community group using their own tools, keeping the village tidy. Parish Council commented if they constitute the group, ensure that they have insurance coverage in place we may be able to offer support. Churchwood is a group of volunteers who have insurance and specific training for machinery such as chain saws. Other volunteers are undertaking work in the church yard, this falls within the remit of the church fabric committee and that working party would be covered under the church insurance. The group were thanked for their efforts.

7. Road Safety update

7.1 Meeting Residents, Parish Council, School – constructive meeting. Twelve points of action and to arrange another meeting in 6 months' time:

1. Wig-wag signs not functioning correctly. Operation seems to be random and not timed for school drop-off and pick up.
2. School Safer Parking Charter will be reissued.
3. School capacity PAN has been revised downward. Currently 168 max, 149 actual with new max set at 140.
4. PCSO has not been visible this school year. Noted PCSO has been unwell and the area has been covered by another PCSO.
5. Introduction of 20mph zone has been approved and completed all stages of consultation by CWAC Highways. Implementation is expected during October.
6. Interactive speed monitoring on Whitegate Lane and Cinder Hill to follow after 6 month period to gauge impact of new speed limit. Will be fully funded by Parish Council.
7. Request for 20mph on Grange Lane now included in Parish Council road safety objectives. Strategy is to first await implementation of 20mph outside school. Andrew Cooper MP has expressed support for this strategy.
8. H bar road markings being considered by Grange Lane residents. Individual cost is approx £250.
9. Grange Lane residents have been provided with bin stickers and figure board by Parish Council. Not all residents have displayed bin stickers yet.
10. Regular newsletter communication to parents continuing. Copies requested to Kevin Garvey (for Grange Lane residents) and Val Cotterill (for Parish Council).
11. Vicarage Green drop off zone currently mothballed pending access.
12. Staff car parking on Church Green has relieved congestion on Grange Lane. Continue to explore possibility of access to school playing field for staff car parking.

7.2 Ian Rutherford confirms that the consultation is complete and the scheme is awaiting implementation with the contractor, no date confirmed. Once the signs are installed, Ward Councillor Gina Lewis confirmed that the PCSO will be present for a short space of time. The second phase is the installation of the interactive signs, third phase is to extend the 20mph speed limit along Grange Lane.

Cllr Lewis informed the meeting that there is a new inspector, Inspector Heatley. The sergeant has left and been replaced but we don't have a name yet. Noted above PCSO has been off ill.

Resident of Chester Lane Brook has asked about traffic enforcement, following previous request about monitoring. Historically the speed limit was 60mph, this was revised down to 50mph then 40mph outside the houses, resident believes drivers do not observe the speed limit. It has taken many years by residents, Parish Council and Ward councillors to achieve this speed limit. Wheelie bin stickers have been provided which advise drivers once per week of the speed limit, the 40mph signage may need to realign the position, as much as we can do at the moment. We are not in a position to consider interactive signs at this location (circa £12k). Parish Council has observed a speed van in the layby. Action: Clerk

Parish Clerk advised that the grit bin at Whitegate Station has not been refilled and has emailed highways. To forward Gina Lewis the email trail, who will also follow this up. Action: Clerk

8. Parish Issues

8.1 The Beeches - hedge overhanging footpath reported by R Jackson, agreed for Cllr Rayner and Cllr Baldini to meet and review overhanging footpath, signs and review tree planting locations, they will make a list of things the parish council can do and those which need reporting to CWAC. Action: PB / KR

8.2 United Utilities – no further update. They are should be finished on site in October, but returning once work in Winsford is complete to commission the site.

8.3 General parish issues – none

8.4 Footpath action log –next meeting expected in November. Cllr Haigh has updated the log, to share with Clerk. Clerk informed of style unable to use completely overgrown exiting field onto A54, had to climb locked gate. Confirmed that styles were being replaced by kissing gates. Discussed footpaths over farmers land, not leaving footpath access through when planting crops.

8.5 Climate Action – CWAC officer not available for meeting.

Cllr Baldini / Cllr Rayner to look at locations and type of trees for annual tree planting. Action PB/KR

Wildflower/bulbs at the Beeches – we need help on what will grow there.

Infra-red camera, we were offered support from resident, we have emailed but not had a reply. Asked resident of Grange Lane to speak with resident on behalf of PC.

Resident has been leaving white bags along Mill Lane for Streetscene to collect, advised the correct procedure is to leave litter by Street bins for collection only.

8.6 Christmas lights switch-on – arrangements in hand. To confirm date for tree erection, once Cllr Leech has sourced a tree. To ask school to decorate the star, WI will do it 2026.

Churchwood will be hosting their fundraising the following week, 13th December at 5pm, all welcome to attend.

9. Items for information and discussion only.

9.1 Local Plan draft identified high level issues, Cllr Lewis suggested that we may want to speak with the planning manager about local plan implications, she will contact him for his availability. As the government have reset parameters we may need revisiting again our neighbourhood plan (we reviewed our plan in 2023). There is now a firm idea of what the national planning policy framework will be and so the Neighbourhood plan will need to ensure it is aligned. Action:GL

Cllr Baldini informed the meeting that £3k has been raised with half going to Alder Hey and the other half to the Air Ambulance Service.

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 9pm.

Signed by the Chairman Dated

Outstanding actions (if removed they are complete)

Ref	Date	Action Log	Responsible
	Aug 25 reminders. SB chase up	Actions for Stuart Bingham / Gina Lewis: Put WMPC forward as volunteers to trial road closures for litter picking	SB
7.1	Sept 25	Ask GL to chase resurfacing on Cinder Hill	Clerk
8.3	Sept 25/Oct 25	Listed monument sign, investigate where it has gone. PB chat with farmer	PB
8.1/8.3	Oct 25	Review overgrown hedges and tree planting	PB / KR
6.2	Oct 25	Pay community donations (except PCC) and purchase daff bulbs	Clerk
8.5	Sept 25	Continue climate actions – wild flower planting locations / solar panels / infra red camera	CH / Clerk
9.1	Oct 25	Request officer attend PC to update on LP implications for parish and impact on NP	GL / Clerk provide dates

Agenda Call forward

Ref	Call forward date	Description
	Tbc	VRA re gritting, nuns grave
	Feb 26	Littler pick date

Notes: