

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at Whitegate Primary School Hall on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: None

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

1.1 Apologise for absence.

Cllr Heath - work

Declarations of interest.

None

2.1 To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council 10th November 2025. 1543/25 resolved that the Council approved the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th November 2025.

3.1 Matters arising from the minutes of the Ordinary meeting on Monday 10th November 2025.

3.2 Action Log:

- Clerk to follow up on Jayne Black's email.
- Cllr Baldini to follow up on the scheduled monument.
- Cllr Baldini/Cllr Rayner to meet and agree locations of tree planting / hedges. Agreed to buy approx. half-dozen mature trees, locations to be agreed. Cllr Leech offered to order them.
- Cinder Hill wig wag signs still not working, Cllr Cotterill to check with Headteacher.

4. Clerk's report and correspondence

4.1 Discussed and agreed action to Clerk's report and correspondence: actions complete or on the agenda.

It was noted that the Police Crime Commissioner role is being abolished in 2028.

5. Planning

5.1 1544/25 resolved the following planning application responses:

25/03553/PIP	Llawen Sandy Lane Whitegate Northwich CW8 2BX	Erection of one detached bungalow	The Parish Council objects to this application as it does not comply with STRAT 9 of the Local Plan or the adopted W&M Neighbourhood Plan (Policy 1 and para 4.1.2).
25/03692/FUL	Hedgerow 3 Chester Lane Farm Chester Lane Marton	Single-storey rear extension and replacement of the existing rear boundary fence with brick wall.	No objection

5.2 Appeals:

Appeal – Hunters Retreat – no update yet – clerk to check planning appeals for update.

Appeal - Vale Farm – appeal dismissed

Appeal - Old Oak Stables – appeal allowed. Noted we submitted a case study to planning regarding the various applications on this site.

5.3 Planning enforcements:

- The mosses – awaiting outcome of planning application; request update on application.
- Static Caravan, land on Clay Lane – clerk followed up with planning enforcement who confirm an officer had not yet been allocated.

- Folley Cottage – this has been reported, no update, Clerk to chase up as no officer had been allocated.
- Rushmere Lodge fencing due to be replaced in September. An enforcement notice was issued with 3 months to comply, they had until 10th November to appeal. Clerk advised not to chase this with planning, they have their due process to follow.

6. Finances

6.1 The bank statements remain unchanged. Barclays account showed a balance remaining of £102,663.06. The total account balances is £105,967.48 (including savings accounts) after payments and CIL contribution detailed below:

6.2 Annual budget preparation 2026/27 – 1544/25 agreed budget proposal, and precept of £19,500. Clerk to submit precept. Action: Clerk

6.3 Pay Narkedesign £225

6.4 Pay Clerk Wages 1181.60

6.5 Pay Clerk reimbursements £4.92

6.6 Pay HMRC PAYE £295.40

6.7 Pay Quay Payroll – invoice £15

6.8 Pay C Leech reimbursement for tree £100

6.9 Pay V Cotterill reimbursement for refreshments £65

7. Road Safety update

7.1 Cllr Lewis further chased CWAC Highways for an update which we received from Jayne Black, who apologised for the delay which was due to delays with the quote process this has been resolved and the 20mph limit implementation scheme should be progressing, as discussed above since it is now over a month ago and no further progress, Clerk to chase again for an update. Action: Clerk

8. Parish Issues

8.1 The Beeches - raised concern regarding potholes again, they are not visible in the darkness. Whilst tarmac is a better option we cannot do it, previously agreed with Jamie Barron (CWAC Highways) due to adopted highway status that the parish council can cut the grass, infill with gravel to fill potholes and cut trees. Discussed possibility of some lighting on carpark, concerns regarding dazzling motorists.

Planting – we are awaiting prices from Cllr Heath for blue bells; there are already blue bells/daffodils on Cinder Hill. We would need to ensure that the area is tidy after they have finished flowering, bluebells can be quite untidy.

8.2 United Utilities – despite having nearly finished, they are carrying out further works at the Grange Lane site, worker confirmed that they are doubling the size of the site.

8.3 General parish issues – good turnout for the light switch on, estimated 70 people attended and raised £100 (£125 with match funding) for the Joshua Tree. Agreed 8/3/26 at 9.30am for our annual litter pick.

8.4 Footpath action log –good progress. Footpath officer asked if we knew the landowner at a specific location, it's outside our parish, Cllr Haigh to send details to Cllr Baldini. Action: SH/PB

8.5 Climate action plan –Solar panels at Recreation room, Cllr Heath has provided a quote. It has not yet been discussed with the Recreation Room trustees. It is noted the Recreation Room does not use much electricity, concern by trustees about where equipment would be stored and ascetics of the building. They will also explore a heat pump option, currently have a gas boiler. It was confirmed that solar panels have a battery the size of a 'bedside cabinet'; electricity can be sold back to the national grid, if not using much electricity it would be net positive. Recreation Room would like to explore a porch area at the front with disabled ramps for access. The parish council confirmed they want to support a sustainability project as part of our climate action plan. Cllr Rayner offered to attend the meeting to outline the benefits of solar panels. The committee are meeting in January and will feedback after their meeting.

Infra-red camera – Clerk to enquire with K Garvey who was going to make enquiries. Action: Clerk
8.6 Whitegate Conservation Group – Cllr Rayner has not yet met with K Garvey. J Creed has
agreed to repair the sign on the green. K Garvey is dealing with James Dixon at CWAC regarding
the conservation area and replacement posts.

9. Items for information and discussion only.

9.1 PC annual get together 2nd February 2026.

There being no further business meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.50pm.

Signed by the Chairman **Dated**

Page 876/25

Date of next meeting 12th January 2026. Cllr Campbell sends her apologies

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/Nov/Dec 25	Ask GL to arrange meeting with Jayne Black re 20 mph; Cinder Hill surface, wig wag signs. Email received November, to further chase progress.	GL / clerk
8.3	Sept 25/Oct/Nov/Dec 25	Listed monument sign, investigate where it has gone. PB chat with farmer	PB
8.1/8.3	Oct/Nov/Dec 25	Review overgrown hedges and tree planting	PB / KR
8.5	Sept / Nov 25	Continue climate actions – wild flower planting locations / solar panel quotes at RR	CH
7.1	Nov/Dec 25	Check times of wig wag signs	VC
8.4	Nov 25	Ward councillor to thank Liz Holmes for her efforts. Find out what is happening with Enforcement plan in draft; and CWAC improvement plan	GL

Agenda Call forward

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

Notes: