

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 6th OCTOBER 2025 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Mayor. Cllr P Oakes

Cllrs: P Bailey, M Beanland, D Belcher, M Blackie, K Booth, L Clarke, S Lees, L Podmore, M Sewart, T Swatridge, Hayley Whitaker

Officers in attendance Haf Barlow (Clerk). K McDowell (Deputy Clerk)

37. To note, if anyone attending or present at the committee meeting is making, or intends to make, an audio recording or film of the meeting.

The Mayor confirmed that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of minute taking and the recording is deleted when the draft minutes are agreed. There were no other declarations of a recording of the meeting.

38. Questions from members of the public

There were members of the public present for items 6 and 8. It was agreed that questions would be taken before the agenda items.

39. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Mrs J Saunders, J Waterhouse.

40. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

Cllrs M Sewart, M Beanland and P Bailey declared that they were ordinary members of the Twinning Association, but they did not have a disclosable pecuniary or other interest in item 8. There were no other disclosable interests.

41. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th May 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th May 2025 are approved as an accurate record. (NC)

42. To receive and consider a report from the Chair of planning on the New Towns Task Force Report to Government and to consider what action should be taken.

A resident addressed the meeting on the New Towns Task Force Report naming Adlington as a proposed new Town and made the following points

- Adlington New Town appears to have been promoted without the knowledge of Cheshire East Council or Tim Roca MP.
- The Adlington Estate has been bought by Belport Limited. Other parcels of land must have also been bought as the proposed area for the new town is larger than the land sold as part of the Adlington Estate
- The proposals if for up to 20,000 new homes
- The proposal would effectively close up the gap between Poynton and Macclesfield and together with outer proposed developments in Woodford it would in effect extend the Greater Manchester conurbation.
- Although Adlington has not been shortlisted as part of the fast track, it is of concern that the government has indicated that it will make further announcements in the new year and may even add to the list of fast-tracked towns
- The resident urged neighbouring towns and parishes to work together and to appeal for people with the right professional skills to come forward to help.
- The resident suggested that the arguments against the development included
 - Everyone should have easy access to the countryside
 - The land is Green Belt not Grey Belt
 - Brownfield land should be prioritised
 - The Adlington new town is not standalone but an example of urban sprawl
 - The development would see the loss of productive agricultural land
 - Impacts on the infrastructure

The Clerk confirmed that Bollington Town Council had invited representatives from neighbouring towns and parishes as well as ward councillors and Tim Roca MP to a meeting to discuss the proposed development. The meeting is due to take place on the 5th December 2025. The Clerk has received an email from a resident asking the Town Council to arrange a public meeting so that the MP could speak to residents and listen to their concerns.

Cllr Clarke had drafted a report on the development which had been shared with councillors before the meeting. The report recommended that the Town Council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government opposing the development as it was wholly inappropriate and totally unsuitable. Members discussed whether the Town Council should send the letter immediately or wait to see if the other council's would support the letter. It was noted that Pott Shrigley Parish Council were meeting tonight and Bollington Town Council are meeting tomorrow night. Adlington Parish Council are not meeting for another week and Prestbury Parish Council are not due to meet until November.

Whilst councillors were happy for the Town Council to accept the invitation to attend a meeting of neighbouring councils, the meeting should, if at all possible be held before the 5th of December

Cllrs Beanland and Sewart who are the Cheshire East ward members representing Adlington were not informed of the announcement beforehand and this was being investigated.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to Mr Reed, copying in Mr Tim Roca MP and Rob Polkinghorne, Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council in the terms set out in the report.

That the Clerk asks other towns and parishes if they can support the letter but the letter should be sent out urgently rather than delayed to wait for other Towns and Parishes to meeting.

The letter is published on the Town Council's website.

The Clerk contacts Bollington Town Council and neighbouring towns and parishes to request an earlier meeting

The Clerk invites Tim Roca, MP to a public meeting at the Civic Hall. (11 for 1 abstention)

43. To consider whether Councillors wish to be involved with the "Adopt Poynton Station" project.

Cllrs M Sewart and T Swatridge expressed interest in the "Adopt Poynton Station" project

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mike Sewart and Cllr Tim Swatridge wish to be involved with the Adopt Poynton Station project (NC)

44. To receive and consider the request for funding from the Twinning Association to mark the 10th anniversary of the twinning with Haybes

A member of the Twinning Association spoke of the 10th anniversary of the twinning and how the Association would like to mark the occasion. The request for funding submitted to the Council was discussed

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the request for funding from the Twinning Association of Poynton of £1157.28 (NC)

45. To receive and consider the information regarding the proposed development at Upper Swinensey Farm Woodford and agree a response

Cllr Clarke advised he attended a consultation meeting organised by the developer. This is a large development in the Green Belt. A report was circulated to the committee.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council sends the draft submission to the David Wilson Homes (NC)

46. To note the action list for the Town Council for 2025–2026

The Clerk gave an update regarding the naming of the road. The Clerk advised members she has contacted properties who share the postcode to ask if they are happy with the change.

RESOLVED: That the action log is received and the update from the Clerk regarding the naming of the road is noted. (NC)

47. To receive and note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements/ announcements
The Mayor gave members a summary of the events he recently attended. The Deputy Mayor advised members she has been busy with social media.

RESOLVED: That the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements are noted (NC)

48. To receive and note the Town Council's completed annual governance and accountability return for 2024/2025 and the completion letter, external auditor report and certificate 2024/2025 from PFK Littlejohn LLP, the Town Council's external auditor.

The Clerk advised members that an 'Except for Matter' had been raised on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return as last year's AGAR figure for Box 10 had contained a typographical error. In coming years, the Clerk will ensure that the figures are checked against the previous AGAR rather than using the accountant's' figures.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council's completed annual governance and accountability return for 2024/2025 and the completion letter, external auditor report and certificate 2024/2025 from PFK Littlejohn LLP, the Town Council's external auditor is noted. That the action to check all of the previous year's figures against the AGAR is approved. (NC)

49. To adopt the strategic priorities for the Town Council and the draft strategic plan
Cllr Whitaker asked if members had any individual projects that need to be included and if so, can they send her an email.

RESOLVED: That the strategic priorities for the Town Council and the draft strategic plan are adopted. (NC)

50. To receive and adopt the draft risk assessment

The Clerk gave an update advising members there were minor changes.

RESOLVED: That the draft risk assessment is adopted with those changes. (NC)

51. To note the final conclusion of the Cheshire East Council boundary review process

RESOLVED: That the final conclusion of the Cheshire East Boundary review process is noted. (NC)

52. To agree to appoint Mike Sewart as a council representative to Christmas Fest

RESOLVED: That Mike Sewart is appointed as a council representative to Christmas Fest. (NC)

53. To agree who should carry the Town Council standard at Remembrance Sunday

RESOLVED: That Mike Beanland will carry the Town Council standard at Remembrance Sunday. (NC)

54. To consider and approve the request from the Round Table to ease the bye laws for the bonfire

RESOLVED: That the request from the round table to ease the bye laws for the bonfire is approved. (NC)

55. To receive and consider the notice outcome from Link regarding Access to Cash

The Town Council was disappointed to note the outcome (refusal) of the Link Access to Cash appeal

RESOLVED: That the notice outcome from Link regarding Access to Cash is received. (NC)

56. To consider the request to fund the ongoing maintenance of new yellow lines at Willow Close at a cost of approximately £2000 every ten years

Cllr Whitaker gave members an update regarding the residents of Willow Close, who are elderly or have mobility issues and have been having problems with frequently missed bin collections due to parking issues.

Cllr Whitaker confirmed that Cheshire East would put in the yellow lines, the Town Council would maintain them. The Clerk confirmed the CCSO Team can ticket on yellow lines.

RESOLVED: That the request to fund the ongoing maintenance of new yellow lines at Willow Close at a cost of approximately £2,000 every ten years is approved. (NC)

57. To receive a report from the Arts Festival 2025

The report on the Arts Festival was discussed. It was noted that the request for funding will be added to the budget for discussion through the budgeting process.

Cllr John Waterhouse was thanked for his efforts in organising the Art Festival

RESOLVED: That the report from the Arts Festival 2025 is received. (NC)

58. To receive a briefing from Martin Smith. Lead Break Free From Cheshire East Campaign and agree any actions

Cllr Podmore gave members an update on the campaign and the report from Martin Smith regarding the request that he has made under the Freedom of Information Request.

Members discussed the briefing.

RESOLVED: That the briefing from Martin Smith. Lead Break Free From Cheshire East Campaign is received

RESOLVED: That the Town Council support Martin Smith's request for the provision of the actual Council Tax and Business Rates revenue figures for the area formerly serviced by Macclesfield Borough Council

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to the leader and Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council confirming our support for the figures to be provided to the Break Free From Cheshire East Council Campaign (11 for, 1 against)

59. To receive and consider the response provided by Cheshire East Council to a resident following an internal review of a Freedom of Information Act request.

Members considered the response.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council suggests the resident appeals the decision not to provide the information requested on the basis there is no commercial interest as there are no privately owned car parks in the area (NC)

60. To consider a report from the Clerk on the contents of the safe and to agree the recommendations

The Clerk advised members she had audited the contents of the two safes and made a list of articles to retain, archive or dispose of. Members considered the list but agreed that the list should be considered by the M&E Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report is included on the next Management & Establishment Committee for consideration. (NC)

61. To note the changes to the Trustees of the Alms Houses Charitable Trust

RESOLVED: That the changes to the Trustees of the Alms Houses Charitable Trust are noted. (NC)

62. To receive and consider the information regarding the Treacle Market bus service and agree any actions

The new bus service was discussed.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk requests further information from the service organiser.
(NC)**

63. To receive and adopt the minutes of Committees

a) Community Order and Public Safety 24th March 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Order and Public Safety Committee held on the 24th March 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

b) Finance & General Purposes 12th May 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on the 12th May 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

c) Management & Establishment Committee 12th May 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Management and Establishment Committee held on the 12th May 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

d) Planning & Environment Committee 28th April 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 28th April 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

e) Planning & Environment Committee 19th May 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 19th May 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

f) Planning & Environment Committee 9th June 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 9th June 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

g) Planning & Environment Committee 30th June 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 30th June 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

h) Planning & Environment Committee 28th July 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 28th July 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

i) Planning & Environment Committee 1st September 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 1st September 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

64.To consider any Communication Messages from this meeting

Response to the Adlington New Town
Adopt a station
Bonfire

Meeting end time: 9.50pm

Chair

Dated.....