

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 16TH
MARCH AT THE CIVIC HALL POYNTON

PRESENT

Deputy Mayor Hayley Whitaker

Cllrs: K Booth, M Blackie, P Bailey, L A Clarke, D Belcher, S Lees, L Podmore, T Swatridge, M Sewart and J Waterhouse

Officers in attendance: Haf Barlow (Clerk) Kate McDowell (Dep Clerk) S Shaw (Admin)

116. 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 Deputy 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.

117. Questions from members of the public

There were no members of the public present.

118. Apologies for absence

Cllrs J Saunders, Mayor P Oakes, M Beanland.

119. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

120. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26th January 2026

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26^h Jan 2026 are approved as an accurate record. (NC)

121. To note the action list for 2025 – 2026

Town Clerk drew attention to two ongoing issues, the renaming of Civic Way and the ICO review of the Break Free from Cheshire East campaign.

RESOLVED: That the action list is received. (NC)

122. Received and noted Mayor's announcements/engagements.

RESOLVED: That the Mayors' announcements /engagements are received (NC)

123. To agree the changes to the committee remits as recommended by the M&E Committee.

The Clerk shared the proposed amendments to Planning and Environment (P&E) and to Community Order and Public Safety Committee (COPS) committees with the Town Council.

Members discussed the proposed changes.

RESOLVED: The following change to the committee remits as recommended by the M&E Committee are agreed.

P&E changes are a change of wording "To respond to and take appropriate action on air quality monitoring, bin collections and Household Waste and Recycling Centre" and an inclusion of "To review and monitor the Town Councils Biodiversity Policy" COPS amendments are "To monitor and review the work of the Council Community Support Team including enforcement and reporting of parking and environmental issues affecting Poynton including fly tipping and graffiti"

"To be responsible for the Town Council's communications and communications strategy including overseeing events and communications relating to biodiversity." (NC)

124. To receive and consider the outturn report and to approve the recommendations from the F&GP Committee regarding virements and the use of any surpluses.

The Clerk presented the report. The outturn forecast for the year end was approx. £60,000. and put forward recommendations that were.

- That the outturn and reserves forecast are noted.
- That the virements are approved.
- That the movements to and from reserves subject to final year end position are approved.

Members noted the outturn and returns forecast and approved the virements. The movements to and from reserves were approved. The Clerk requested additional funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to purchase dog fouling signs at approx. cost of £320 and these were approved.

RESOLVED:

- **That the outturn and reserves forecast are noted.**
- **That the virements are approved.**
- **That the movements to and from reserves already agreed by committee are noted.**

That suggested movements to reserves of £20,000 to Neighborhood Plan, £20,000 to planning appeals £5,000 to Elections and remainder of the donation from the litter pick to Operations Manager earmarked reserves. Any remaining money will be transferred to general reserves. The additional funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to purchase dog-fouling signs at approx. cost of £320 are approved.

125. To receive and consider the report on Assertion 10 and to approve the recommendations from the F&GP Committee Internal Audit Report and the Clerks action plan.

The Clerk gave an overview of the review taken on Assertion 10 and the regulations around the Transparency code.

RESOLVED: That the report from the Clerk is received. That the Clerk amends the Accessibility Statement for the website and arranges for website MOT at a cost of £145.

That the information in Appendix A, subject to the inclusion of contracts, is published on the website. (NC)

126. To consider the responses to Cheshire East Council in relation to the Shared Space planned works.

Councillors discussed the response received from Cheshire East Council and noted their disappointment that a consultation was not held in advance of the work and the short notice the Town has been given before work starts. Comments about reusing any replaced block paving and storing it appropriately so it could be reused in the Town Centre in the future were made.

RESOLVED: The response from Cheshire East Council in relation to the Shared Space planned works is received. That the Town Clerk will respond to Cheshire East Council noting the concerns around the project not being put to Consultation, the lack of sufficient time in advance of the works starting and the importance of storing spare blocks safely for future remedial works in Poynton. Disappointment was expressed at the negative responses received from Cheshire East Council, including the materials used in the project and disappointment at the refusal to install street furniture to prevent anti-social parking. (NC)

127. To review progress on the Strategic Plan and agree with any actions

RESOLVED: That progress on the Strategic Plan was noted. (NC)

128. To approve the reserves policy

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the reserves policy that she had prepared and circulated. A minor typographical error was noted.

RESOLVED: That the reserves policy is approved, subject to the amendment of a minor typographical. (NC)

129.To approve the layout of the draft Annual Report for 2025/2026.

The new style of the Annual Report was praised for its clearer messaging and format. The upcoming deadline for outstanding reports were discussed.

RESOLVED: The new style layout of the Annual Report was agreed. (NC)

Cllr L.A Clarke left the meeting.

130.To note the precept media release as agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The Precept media release as agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee was noted . (10 for, 1 abstention)

Cllr L.A Clarke returned to the meeting.

131.To receive and consider the correspondence from Nantwich Town Council in relation to the sale and use of fireworks.

Councillors discussed the increasing problems associated with fireworks and their misuse, which is of concern to many residents, particularly pet owners. Nantwich Town Council are proposing legislative change on the sale and use of fireworks to prevent the private sale of fireworks. Whilst Councillors are concerned about the misuse, they did not feel a total ban is workable or something they can support.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence from Nantwich Town Council in relation to the sale and use of fireworks is received but not supported by Poynton Town Council. (NC)

132.To note the correspondence from the Cheshire Constabulary regarding PCSOs.

Councillors expressed their disappointment in the reduction of the PCSOs roles across Cheshire East and particularly the loss of the dedicated PCSO for Poynton and anticipate this will increase the workload for Council Community Support Team funded by Poynton Town Council.

RESOLVED: The correspondence regarding the reduction of PCSO's roles across Cheshire East from Cheshire East Constabulary is noted.(NC)

133.To consider ChALC membership for 2026-2027.

The Clerk highlighted the value of the membership and its help in several instances. The professional advice is useful and recommends continuation of membership at a cost of £1,631.80

RESOLVED: Continuation of membership of ChALC for 2026-2027 at a cost of £1,631.80 is agreed. (NC)

134.To receive a verbal report from the Clerk on Poynton Pool.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the meeting that was recently held with Cheshire East Council, Engineers, Friends of Poynton Pool and other professionals involved with the project. There will need to be some intermediate safety repair works as insisted on by the Environment Agency. The long-term plans are undecided at this stage.

RESOLVED: That the Clerks report on Poynton Pool and the recent multi agency meeting where short- term and long-term options for the pool were discussed is received. (NC)

135.To note the action taken under SO51 to agree the Adlington New Town Coalition Principles.

RESOLVED: That the action taken under S051 to agree the Adlington New Town Coalition Principles is agreed. (NC)

136.To note the uplift in Cheshire East Council car parking charges.

Councillors are at a loss to understand the 19% average increase in car parking charges which CEC have set from April 2026. There was confusion over which column was the new price, as the headings read “New Price” and “Proposed Price” which mean the same thing.

RESOLVED: The uplift in Cheshire East car parking charges is noted. The Town Clerk to write and ask for an explanation of how the percentage increase of 19% on average is justified and to clarify that the column titles of “New Price” and “Proposed Price” are explained. (NC)

137.To consider the request from the BBC to do a broadcast piece on Town Council's focussing on Poynton Town Council.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Whitaker, gave a verbal report regarding an opportunity for BBC Northwest to do a piece focusing on the work of Town Councils and the differences and challenges compared to a County Councils. This would involve shadowing members of staff within the Poynton Town Council team and interviews with Ward Councillors. It was felt that further information was needed to understand the scope of the proposed segment

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk and Cllr Whitaker to liaise with the BBC regarding their proposal on a town Council focus piece and explore the expectations of the BBC regarding scope.(NC)

138.To receive and consider the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan and agree any actions.

RESOLVED: That the draft Rights of Way improvement plan is noted and is assigned to the Village Accessibility Working Group to consider and respond with comments. (NC)

139.To receive and adopt the Minutes of Committees:

Community, Order and Public Safety 27th October 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community, Order and Public Safety meeting held on 27th October 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by full Council (NC)

Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee 17th November 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development meeting held on 17th November 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by full Council (NC)

Finance and General Purposes 1st December 2025

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 1st December 2025 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by full Council (NC)

Planning & Environment Committee 5th January 2026

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment meeting held on 5th January 2026 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by full Council (NC)

Planning & Environment Committee 2nd February 2026

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment meeting held on 2nd Feb 2026 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by full Council (NC)

140.To consider and agree quotations for the provision of the Town Council's insurance.

RESOLVED: That the insurance quote provided was an increase from approx. £5,000.00 to £8,000.00 and would be dealt with by S051.(NC)

141.To receive and consider a report from the Civic Awards, Annual Report and Annual Meeting Working Group and agree any recommendations.

Cllr Whitaker gave an update from the Civic Awards, Annual Report and Annual Meeting Working Group and shared its recommendations.

RESOLVED: The update from the Civic Awards, Annual Report and Annual Meeting Working Group were received and agreed. This included that Civic Sunday, and the Civic awards will be held at two different times, 28TH June 2026 for Civic Sunday and October 2026 for the Civic awards evening event. The Civic Awards will be held on a Thursday evening (1st October) this year. (NC)

142.To consider any communication messages from this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following communication messages are agreed

- Civic Awards update nearer the time
- Response to Cheshire East Council about the uplift in parking charges
- Shared space work and lack of consultation with the Town Council. (NC)

143.To resolve to exclude the press and public on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: That the press and public are excluded on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.(NC)

144.To receive reports on Adlington New Town.

RESOLVED: That the reports from Cllr Clarke and the Clerk are received and the SANT report is noted. That the Town Council agrees to the phase 2 legal costs up to a maximum total cost for all councils of £32,500 (Town Council contribution £15,777 is agreed). That in consultation with Cllr Clarke and the Mayor, the Clerk is given discretion to approve further reports that may be required upto a total Town Council spend of £31,950.(NC)

Meeting end time: 21:30

Chair

Dated.....