MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 8.00 PM ON MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026 AT THE CIVIC HALL POYNTON

PRESENT

Mayor: Cllr H Whitaker

Cllrs: P Bailey, D Belcher, K Booth, L Clarke, S Lees, P Oakes, J Saunders, M Sewart, T Swatridge and J Waterhouse.

Officers in attendance Haf Barlow (Clerk) Kate McDowell (Deputy Clerk)

34. 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.

35. Questions from members of the public

A resident informed the committee that parked cars and vans on Towers Road was problematic and she requested that yellow lines are extended further on to Towers Road. A Councillor also noted that the previous parking spaces in the area had been fenced off some years ago when Woburn Court was built.

RESOLVED: That the request to extend the yellow lines is added to the next Community Order and Public Safety (COPS) agenda and that the missing parking spaces is added to the next Facilities, Infrastructure and Economic Development (FIED) agenda. (NC)

Members from the Crown Green Bowling Lawn Restoration Group gave an overview of their application for a community grant which will be considered by COPS next week. The group are applying for funding to restore the bowling green at a cost of approximately £3,000. They have already secured some funding from Poynton Round Table. The bowling club will offer social bowling rather than league bowling and will be available to all. The costs were outlined by the group. The group wanted to stress that their application met the Council's strategic aims around health and wellbeing and also improving the Town's infrastructure. Members thanked the group for their efforts and they will be informed of the decision from COPS following the meeting on the 15th June.

36. Apologies for absence

There were apologies from Cllr M Beanland and Cllr Podmore.

37. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

38. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th May 2026

Councillor Clarke suggested an amendment to clarify that the sale of land for development was at the former Vernon Infant's School and not the Vernon Infant School.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th May 2026 are approved as an accurate record (10 for,1 abstention)

39. To receive and consider the email from a resident regarding the poor quality of the reinstatement of the Shared Space as a result of the ongoing maintenance works.

The resident's email echoed many of Town Council's concerns regarding the reinstatement of the shared space. The Mayor gave a summary of the recent correspondence between Cheshire East Ward Councillors, the Town Clerk and the Project Team. In the publicity material originally published by Cheshire East Council, it was stated that the works would take 12 weeks from mid March. In recent correspondence, it has been confirmed that the schedule will not be kept. At present the information is restricted so cannot be shared with the Town Council. The Cheshire East ward councillors has requested permission to share the information publicly.

Concerns were also raised regarding the removal of the blocks, how this has been done and how many of the blocks have been retained.

Cllr Saunders has requested a meeting with the Head of Cheshire East Highways to discuss this and other highways issues in the Town.

RESOLVED: That the email from the resident regarding the shared space reinstatement is received and the Clerk will provide an update to the resident. Cllr Saunders will provide an update on her meeting with the Head of Highways for the next FIED meeting. (NC)

40. To receive an email from a member of the public requesting support regarding the Green Waste Charge and substandard repair of roads.

The member of the public attended the meeting and spoke on the introduction of green waste charges and substandard road repairs. He requested that the Town Council:

a. Write to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities at Cheshire East to ask if a proper cost-benefit analysis was carried out at it's inception and whether the contained food and garden waste model permitted under the 2025 regulations has been properly considered.
b. Write formally to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, raising the contradiction between the council's formal complaints responses and the written statements of an elected ward councillor regarding repair standards.

The member of public confirmed that he was also awaiting the outcome of a stage 2 complaint which he should receive by Friday 12th June 2026

RESOLVED: That the correspondence from the resident regarding green waste charges and substandard repairs of roads is received. That the Clerk writes to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Communities and the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, regarding the introduction of green waste charges and the contradictory statements form the Council's complaints team and the written statements of an elected ward councillor regarding repair standards for pot holes. (NC)

Cllr Sewart left the meeting

41. To receive and consider the draft asset transfer form for a section of Deva Park and to agree whether the Town Council should apply for the asset transfer and submit the draft asset transfer form.

As the representatives from the Baptist Church were unable to make the meeting, the Clerk requested that the agenda item is deferred to the next Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the agenda item regarding the draft asset transfer at Deval Park is deferred to the next Town Council meeting (10 for, 1 abstention)

42.To review the action log for 2026-2027.

RESOLVED: That the action log is received (10 for, 1 abstention)

Cllr Sewart returned to the meeting

43. To consider and approve the amended Town Council calendar of meetings for 2026-2027

RESOLVED: That the Town Council calendar of meetings for 2026-2027 is approved (NC)

44. To receive and consider the internal audit report for 2025/2026 by JDH Business Services Ltd and to note that there were no actions arising from the end of year audit for 2025/2026

Members noted the clear audit and thanked the staff for their efforts.

RESOLVED: That the internal audit report for 2025/2026 by JDH Business Services Ltd is received (NC)

45. To receive and consider the Town Council's Financial Statements and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26 and the report from the Clerk

To receive, approve and sign Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026

Section 1 is the annual governance statement. There are ten assertions which the Town Council should consider, and if in agreement, approve. The governance statement has to be completed first, before the approval of the accounts. It needs to be approved by the full Council and signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk. The Clerk advised the Town Council that the assertions were reviewed by the F&GP Committee on the 11th May 2026 who agreed to recommend to Town Council that it could respond "yes" to every assertion apart from 9 which is not applicable. A copy of the Clerk's report on the Annual Governance Statement was also shared with councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return for 2025/2026 is approved and signed by the Mayor and Clerk (NC)

46. To receive, approve and sign the Financial Statements (unaudited) for 2025/2026

RESOLVED: That the Financial Statements for 2025/2026 are approved and signed by the Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) (NC)

47. To receive, approve and sign Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/2026

Section 2 of the AGAR is the accounting statements for 2025/26. The statements are produced by our Accountant, DCK Beavers from the financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2026. They need to be approved by the full Council and have been signed by the Town Clerk in her role as RFO. That the accounting statements represent fairly the financial position of the Town Council and its income and expenditure is certified by the Clerk. Once these accounts are accepted, the Town Mayor will sign this section of the annual return.

RESOLVED: That Accounting Statement in the Annual Return for 2025/2026 is approved and signed by the Mayor (NC)

48. Receive, approve and sign the Asset Register

RESOLVED: That the Asset Register is approved and signed by the Mayor (NC)

49. To note that the Exercise of Public Rights for the unaudited annual governance return will be from Wednesday 10th June 2026 to Tuesday 21st July 2026

RESOLVED: That the Exercise of Public Rights for the unaudited annual governance return will be from Wednesday 10th June 2026 to Tuesday 21st July 2026 is noted (NC)

50. To approve the bank mandate for Unity Trust and Nationwide and to note that the bank mandate for the Cambridge Building Society is currently being varied to remove former Cllr Jo Sewart from the mandate.

RESOLVED: That the bank mandate for Unity Trust and Nationwide is approved. That the bank mandate for the Cambridge Building Society is currently being varied to remove former Cllr Jo Sewart from the mandate is noted. (NC)

51.To receive an email from Redwood Bank about opening a new account and to agree the authorised users on the account.

It was noted that unlike with the Unity Trust Account there were no separate administrators/signatories. There were only authorised users. Funds can only be transferred to the Town Council's nominated account. All transfers require 2 signatures.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Simon Lees, Peter Oakes, Tim Swatridge and the Deputy Clerk are approved as the nominated authorised users for Redwood Bank. (NC)

52. To receive and consider the Free Bus Days Travel Offer from Cheshire East Council and agree a response.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council writes to the Cheshire East Bus Partnership to ask if it can nominate Poynton Show as the event for free bus travel. (NC)

53. To agree which councillor should attend a meeting with Lord Deban, members of the Adlington Task and Finish Group and a representative from Belport on the 19th June 2026.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and Councillor Clarke will attend the meeting at Adlington Village Hall with Lord Deban and Belport. (NC)

54. To receive an invitation from CVS Cheshire East to the AGM and VCFSE Alliance Networking meeting on the 10th of June and agree if a councillor should represent the Town Council.

RESOLVED: Cllr Waterhouse will attend the CVS Cheshire East AGM and VCFSE Alliance Networking meeting on behalf of the Town Council. (NC)

55. To receive a verbal update from the Clerk/Cllr Mrs Jos Saunders of their recent meeting with a representative of Richmond Rovers.

The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jos Saunders attending the meeting with Richmond Rovers. The Club would like to build two astro pitches for their use. They are currently investigating a site off Woodford Road. As well as the pitches, they would require parking for 112 cars, floodlights and changing facilities. The project is in an early stage of development.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update from the Clerk and Mrs Jos Saunders regarding the potential pitch development by Richmond Rovers is received. (NC)

56. To receive the NALC questionnaire on the state of the sector and consider and agree a response.

Members discussed possible responses to the questionnaire and agreed the Clerk should respond.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk drafts a response to the NALC questionnaire for the Mayor's approval. (NC)

57. To receive the Cheshire East Council Notice of Delegated decision explaining the uplift in car parking charges.

Councillors reviewed the notice of delegated decision and were concerned that it lacked full details regarding why the uplift was so much higher the CPI. There appeared to be a lack of control and an attempt to keep costs down for the public.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to Cheshire East to express the Town Council's concerns that the delegated decision regarding the uplift in parking lacks detail and there appears to be no controls to ensure that price increases are kept to a reasonable level for residents (NC).

58. To receive and adopt the Minutes of Committees

Planning & Environment Committee 18th May 2026

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee held on the 18th May 2026 and the resolutions contained therein be adopted by the Full Council (NC)

59. To consider any communication messages from this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the public right to inspect the accounts is the communication message from this meeting (NC)

Meeting end time:

Chair …….....

Dated…….....