Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting at 7:30pm
Monday 21st September 2026.

Councillors in attendance: Victoria Coward (VC), Rachel Blood (RB), Alex Baker (AB), Derek Heiron (DH), Amy Shadbolt (AS), Nigel Reeves (NR), Jos Saunders (JS-CEC).

Parish Clerk: Michelle Harris (MH)

1. **Noted**	**Apologies for Absence.** Ian Pulley (IP), Hayley Whitaker (HW-CEC).
2.	**Declarations of Interest.** None.
3.	**Public Forum.** No residents in attendance.
4. **Noted** **Action** **Noted** **Noted** **Noted**	**Feedback and information sharing from Cheshire East Councillors.** **a. School Speed Mitigation.** Clerk received feedback from the speed survey outside St. James' Primary School which took place between 30th June and 16th July. The equipment recorded speed over a 24-hour period for each day, and the average speed recorded was 26mph. Councillors concluded that taking an average speed across the whole period would not be very accurate due to school drop off and pick up times significantly lowering the figure due to the high volume of vehicles and the number of parked cars along the road. Clerk will ask for further figures which excludes these times. JS-CEC has also asked Highways for an update on the traffic calming measures to be implemented outside the school. **b. Highways – Side End Lane.** The speed monitor had already been removed from the village prior to Clerks request to move this to Side End Lane, so this was not possible. Highways informed clerk that a highways officer would return to reassess the manhole issue. **c. Reed Bridge damage.** An RTC on Wednesday 9th September caused damage to the bridge parapet which now requires repair. Traffic lights have been placed on the bridge in the meantime, and the current works permit runs until the end of March 2027. There was an accident involving a cyclist and a vehicle resulting in the air ambulance attending the scene and Councillors believe this was partly due to the location of the traffic lights on a tight bend. JS-CEC will request whether the lights can be moved further up the road away from the bridge. Councillors also suggested placing permanent lights on the bridge making it a single track could help with preventing further accidents. JS-CEC will also mention this idea to Highways.

Noted	**d. Any other matters.** JS-CEC shared that there will likely be some changes coming into effect regarding provided transport for both primary and secondary schools which may cause issues, but RB did not think these would affect children in the village.
5. **Noted**	**Reports from Grants Projects.** **a. Enabling Prosperity & Wellbeing Fund – playground project.** The swing set is expected to be delivered to CE w/c 28/09/26. The CE parks and projects team are hopeful that the fitting can take place soon after that. Councillors have also requested that the existing baby swing, see-saw and pink bug be removed so that some benches and planters can be placed on the area until further funding can be secured to develop this section of the park.
6.	**To agree as a true record, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th July 2026.** Defer to next meeting as IP was not present.
7. **Approved**	**Finance.** **a. Payments to be authorised by the Council.** **BACS** Clerk Salary August 2026 – PAID 25/08/26 £ 233.32 HMRC PAYE M5 August 2026 – PAID 25/08/26 £ 58.40 PKF Littlejohn – Ext Audit – PAID 14/08/26 (FR 6.9.iii) £ 252.00 Autela Payroll – PAID 27/07/26 (FR6.9.iii) £ 72.00 L Smallwood – Cleaning £ 120.00 G Preston – Gardener £ 100.00 Hall Hire Deposit Refund # 513 £ 100.00 St James' School PTFA Donation £ 100.00 Clerk Salary September 2026 £ 233.32 HMRC PAYE M6 September £ 58.40 **TOTAL** **£ 1,327.44** **6 FOR** **b. Bank statement reconciliation.** Bank accounts at the end of **July 2026** Current Acc - £ 6,252.40 Reserve Acc - £ 42,802.49 **TOTAL = £ 49,054.89**
Noted	Bank accounts at the end of **August 2026** Current Acc - £ 6,090.89 Reserve Acc - £ 42,830.40 **TOTAL = £ 48,921.29**

Noted	**Direct debits paid in July 2026.** Water Plus £ 42.63 Sky Broadband £ 35.94 Pozitive Energy – Gas £ 21.80 Octopus Energy – Electricity £ 57.25 Water Plus £ 36.07
Noted	**Direct debits paid in August 2026.** Sky Broadband £ 35.94 Pozitive Energy – Gas £ 27.63 Octopus Energy – Electricity £ 68.22
Noted	**Debit card payments in July 2026.** Microsoft 365 £ 59.99 Amazon – Cleaning / Paper Towels £ 40.97 **Debit card payments in August 2026.** None.
8. **Noted**	**To update Council on the External Audit for 2025/26.** The external audit report has been received with no matters coming to their attention. The Certified AGAR and Conclusion of Audit have now been published online and attached to the noticeboard.
9. **Noted**	**To discuss options for the NCIL payment received from Cheshire East.** RB suggested that the funds could be used for benches and planters within the playpark area once the new swings have been fitted. Councillors also discussed using the funds for a new noticeboard on Paddock Lane.
10. **Noted**	**To note any correspondence received.** VC received a complaint that the dog poo bag dispenser bin near the pedestrian gate leading to the village field was being used to dispose of dog poo. The dispenser has now been removed.
11. **Noted**	**To consider planning applications / decisions received.** Rainow Parish Council forwarded the following planning application they received as it could affect traffic through the village… **NP/CEC/0726/0712 at Wimberry Moss Quarry, Smith Lane, Rainow** AB explained that the application appeared to involve the reopening of the quarry with an expected 10 lorries a day exiting the quarry.
12. **Noted**	**To discuss ideas for the donation received from Kettleshulme Rose Queen.** VC has yet to receive a final quote for the sign.

Action	Clerk will email Highways to discuss replacing the existing sign at the side of the road and whether they can use the existing posts.
13. **Noted** **Noted** **Action**	**Reports from Community Events working party.** **a. Over 70s Christmas Party.** This will take place on Saturday 5th December. The caterer from last year has agreed to cater again and the KETT100 will fund the event. **b. Other upcoming Events.** RB suggested for the Parish Council to host a Christmas Tree Festival instead of the usual pop-up café at the end of November. Local businesses would be invited to decorate a small 3ft artificial tree for a donation to the Parish Council. Then a tree switch on event held on Friday November 27th for residents and businesses to attend. RB provided information on a tree that could work for the event. Clerk will purchase one. **APPROVED 6 FOR.**
14. **Noted**	**Reports from Maintenance & Hall Renovations working party.** **a. Refurbishment of main hall space.** The refurbishment is still scheduled to begin beginning of January. AB has informed electrical contractor *Thomas Stevenson* of this and there is no issue. **b. Village Noticeboard** VC received a complaint that the noticeboard on Paddock Lane could not be opened. DH will look to repair. Some of the drains around the hall are blocked during heavy rain. AB suggested looking into getting the system flushed.
15. **Noted** **Approved**	**Hall lettings.** A weekly Yoga class is starting on Thursday 24th September. An enquiry has been made for an evening and overnight stay. Councillors discussed the prices of previous overnight bookings and decided on a charge of £250. **APPROVED 5 FOR.**
16. **Noted** **Approved** **Action** **Noted** **Noted** **Noted** **Action**	**Items for information.** **a. NALC pay scales 2026/27.** Clerk has received the NALC pay scales for the 2026/27 financial year. This includes an increase of 0.44p per hour. **APPROVED 6 FOR.** Clerk will email an Employee Terms Change Form to Autela for this. **b. Precept 2nd Installment.** This was received into the bank 03/09/26. **c. ICO Renewal.** The renewal for the ICO subscription is scheduled for direct debit payment on 01/10/26. **d. Village Payphone.** VC reported a fault with the payphone. This has reportedly now been fixed. VC will check.

	e. Other items for information. None.
17.	**Items for future meetings.** None.
18. **Noted**	**Date & Time of Next Meeting.** Monday 19th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.59 pm.