

Minutes of Partington Parish Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 9th April 2025

Time: 6pm

Location: The Rainbow Café, Healthy Living Centre

Chairperson: Cllr Wayne Edwards

Clerk: S Booth

Cllrs in attendance: Cllrs A Rudden (AR), K Stewart (KS), K Kanés (KK), T Baistow (TB), I Platt (IP), I Edwards (IE), L Jones (LJ), B Williams (BW), J Robe-Fogarty (JRF), G Jones (GJ).

- **1. Welcome & Housekeeping**

1.1 The Chair welcomed all Councillors and two Members of the Public (MOP).

1.2 Housekeeping rules were read out before the commencement of the meeting.

- **2. Apologies**

2.1 Apologies received and were noted.

2.1.1 Cllr S Morton – Holiday leave.

- **Resolved** that the apologies were accepted.

2.2 Actions update:

2.2.1 **Resolved:** A letter of intention had been sent to Cllr IP. Cllr IP provided an update, explaining that the Council's delay is due to work commitments.

- **3. Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items**

3.1 Councillors who declared an interests in the items listed on the agenda.

3.1.1 **Resolved** BW, IE & JRF declared an interest in item 7.2

3.1.2 **Resolved** GJ declared an interest in item 9.

3.1.3 **Resolved** JRF declared an interest in items 10.1.1 & 10.1.2

3.1.4 **Resolved** BW & IE declared an interest in item 15.1.1

- **4. Invited Guests**

4.1 **Resolved:** That it was noted that there were no guests present at the meeting.

Action: A letter of concern was sent to MP AW regarding the lack of attendance by the Ward Councillor. Clerk to send details of the invitations to MP AW.

- **5. Public Participation Session**

Prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, a public participation session was held. During this session, members of the public were invited to speak on matters relevant to the current agenda. Each speaker was allocated 2-3 minutes to address the Council. Please note, political discussions were not permitted.

Post-Participation: Following the closure of the forum by the Chair, members of the public were reminded that no further interjections or comments would be allowed during the formal transaction of Council business.

- **6. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

6.1 Motion to approve the accuracy of the below minutes:

6.1.1 Monthly Parish Council meeting held on 12/03/25 [P1228 to P1230].

6.1.2 Moved **TB** , Seconded **KK**.

6.2 Matters arising from the above minutes.

6.2.1 It was unanimously agreed that there were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

- **7. Chair/Councillor & Committee Reports**

7.1 Chair's Report/Update

7.1.1 The Chair provided a brief overview of the successful initiative with Broadoak Construction Students and Parish CIWs to clear the access road at the side of St. Mary's Church on the 7th April 2025. to meet during the school holidays to remove and re-sit the mini-Taffy memorial.

7.1.2 The installation of black and gold wrought iron fencing surrounding the memorial was discussed. The design aims to complement the historical and aesthetic value of the memorial while providing a durable and secure enclosure. The creation of a new rockery area adjacent to the main memorial was also proposed. The aim of the rockery is to add to the landscaping, improving the overall environment and providing a more visually appealing setting for visitors.

7.1.3 Councillors were updated on the progress regarding the purchase of a new Parish vehicle.

Question: Cllr. IE inquired whether the purchase would be funded from the precept element of the budget.

Resolved that the purchase will be funded from the precept. This was moved and agreed.

7.2 Community Centre & Local Asset Updates

It was noted that this topic will be a recurring agenda item for proposals and resolutions.

7.2.1 Cllrs IE, JRF, and BW declared an interest in this item, as they are active members of the Community Centre Action Group.

POR: It was noted that the Community Centre Action Group has no formal affiliation with the Parish Council.

7.2.2 Cllr J.R.F. requested that a vote be taken on resuming the use of the Community Centre as the venue for parish meetings.

- A vote was held on the proposal to remain at the Rainbow Café:

In favour (Yes): 4

Against (No): 5

Resolved: It was agreed that the next parish meeting will take place at the Community Centre.

7.3 Updates were provided on actions raised during the previous meeting.

Resolved: There were no further actions raised from the last meeting

7.4 Logged online reports were noted, and a spreadsheet was attached for reference.

Resolved: The Council had no further issues to report.

- **8. Cllr I Edwards**

8.1 Wildlife Planting Proposal

8.1.1 Cllr I.E presented a proposal for wildlife planting near the Healthy Living Centre, with funding to be sourced from the Community Infrastructure Levy (C.I.L) fund or donated funds. Approval was sought for the associated expenditure.

Cllrs raised questions regarding the nature of the proposed costs.

In response, Cllr I.E. clarified that the expenditure would cover weed spraying, a component of the ongoing maintenance work that would be carried out by Paul Grainge Grounds Maintenance Ltd. Members of the Council queried the decision to contract out this work, given that the Council employs its own workforce. Following discussion, no vote was taken on the proposal.

Resolved that the Council would investigate training opportunities for its staff to enable them to undertake the weed killing training.

8.1.2 A proposal concerning the redesign and replanting of the Millennium Clock area was discussed. Two design options were presented, both submitted by Councillor Edwards. The proposals aim to enhance the visual appeal and functionality of the space.

Resolved that the Council was informed that the summer planting has been ordered, and options for winter planting are currently being explored.

- **9. Cllr K Stewart**

9.1 Cllr Stewart requested that the Council revisit a previous request for a donation to support the Brownies, whose members include children from Partington. The Council was informed that the donation does not necessarily have to be monetary; it could alternatively be made in the form of equipment or other non-financial support.

9.2 The Council revisited a previous discussion regarding the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. It was agreed that £2,500 per year will be ringfenced for a period of five years to support a new local grant scheme.

Under this scheme, up to five local groups per year may apply for a grant of up to £500 each. Once a group has received a grant, it will be ineligible to apply again for a period of five years.

It was agreed that the Brownies will be the first group to receive funding under this scheme.

Action: The Clerk will draft and implement a grant application form for use by prospective applicants which will be available via the website.

- **10. Planning Applications**

10.1 Applications from Trafford Borough Council were noted:

10.1.1 **115282/FUL/24 – 30-32 Wood Lane, Partington, M31 4ND**

Change of use from warehousing/storage (B8) to funeral directors (E), including elevation alterations.

Received: 24/03/25 | Circulated to Cllrs: 24/03/25

Resolved: Clerk to submit the Parish Councils objection.

10.2 Applications in Warburton area bordering Partington:

10.2.1 115154/FUL/24 – Land west of Warburton Lane

Residential development (155 units), access, open space, landscaping, and infrastructure.

10.2.2 115155/HYB/24 – Land east of Warburton Lane

Hybrid application for part full/part outline residential development.

Received: 24/03/25 | Circulated to Cllrs: 24/03/25

Resolved: Clerk to submit the Parish Councils concerns.

10.3 Application in Carrington:

10.3.1 115160/FUL/24 – Land North of Ashton Road, Carrington

Proposed development of containerised Battery Energy Storage system comprising battery units with transformer units and inverter cabinets, switchgear buildings, internal access tracks, electrical substation compound including transformers, switchgear and associated equipment, CCTV and emergency/security lighting, perimeter fencing, underground surface water drainage infrastructure, vehicular parking area, site welfare facilities, underground cable connection, widening of Ashton Rd and other associated infrastructure.

Received via JRF: 31/03/25 | Circulated to Cllrs: 31/03/25

Resolved: Clerk to submit the Parish Councils concerns.

- **11. Monthly Finance**

11.1 The income and expenditure records for the period were reviewed and agreed upon.

11.1.1 It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be approved as an accurate record of the meeting, specifically regarding the CIL funds received for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Motion Carried: The motion was carried unanimously to accept the accuracy of the CIL funds received for the fiscal year 2024-25.

- **12. Exclusion Resolution**

12.1 The Chair initiated that members of the public must now withdraw as the public section of the meeting had concluded.

- **13. Events Committee Updates**

13.1 The Events Committee spreadsheet for the 2024–25 period was presented.

13.2 The Committee provided an update to the Council regarding the Easter Event scheduled for **Saturday, 12th April** at the **Community Centre**.

40 children are expected to attend the Easter Disco and enjoy the appearance of a life-size Easter Bunny with lots of sweet treats for attendees

The Committee emphasized that all necessary arrangements are in place, and the event is expected to be a fun and engaging experience for the children.

- **14. Cllr T Baistow**

14.1 TB provided the Council with an update on the attendance at the monthly surgeries. Additionally, ongoing issues, including anti-social behaviour (ASB), were discussed as well as a letter from Andrew Western MP regarding the 'off road bikes.

It was noted that these issues are due to be addressed within the community. Further information was given regarding upcoming local surgery sessions aimed at resolving these matters.

POR: Cllrs discussed the possibility of engaging with Wain homes to propose a dedicated off-road bike area.

- **15. Any Other Business and 2025-05 Agenda items**

15.1 Councillors and the Parish Clerk were invited to raise any additional minor matters or future agenda items.

15.1.1 Clerk's Position – Revisited at the Request of Cllr BW

Discussion Summary:

- **IE's Interest in Clerk Role:**

Cllr I. Edwards has expressed an interest in being considered for the Parish Clerk vacancy.

Cllr B Williams informed the Council that Cllr I Edwards has already undertaken a significant portion of the Clerk's duties to date.

- The Clerk requested clarification regarding the specific duties referenced by Cllr BW, stating that there was no evidence to suggest that IE had undertaken any official responsibilities assigned to the Clerk.

Resolved: No information was provided to substantiate BW claim.

- **Alleged Comments Regarding Clerk's Replacement:**

The Clerk raised a concern about comments allegedly made by Cllr Williams on Election Day in May 2023 whilst sat outside the polling station Our Lady of Lourdes School, Partington. The Clerk reported that Cllr Williams stated a need to remove her from post and recruit a new Clerk.

Resolved: Cllr AR confirmed the Clerk's account was accurate.

- **Professional Conduct:**

The Clerk reported that correspondence and communication from Cllr BW has been unprofessional and at times bordering on rudeness.

- **Job Performance and Pay Concerns:**

The Clerk emphasized that there was no outstanding work and queried whether the Council had any formal issues with her performance. She further noted that the current salary is not reflective of the role's responsibilities and suggested that should any new Clerk be taken on the Council would require a significantly higher remuneration.

- **Allegation of Personal Vendetta:**

The Clerk expressed a view that Cllr BW has held a personal vendetta against her since 2023. She requested that neither Cllr BW nor IE participate in any vote concerning her employment status, which has been deferred to the next Council meeting.

15.1.1.1 **JRF** expressed the desire for the office to be manned consistently.

AR countered, stating that the office is currently functioning well as it is.

15.1.2 **GJ** provided an update to the council regarding the maintenance work. The bushes have been successfully cut back as planned. However, GJ noted that there is a sunken grid located next to the Zebra Crossing that requires attention and repair.

15.1.3 **JRF** updated that the free Family fun Day on Cross Lane East park will take place on the 14th June.

15.1.4 **LJ** updated the Council on where new yellow lines should be located.

15.1.5 **AR** updated that the refuse collection cannot access Verbena Close because of the parked cars and in addition Camomile Walk is not being serviced.

Action: Photos will be sent to the Clerk to report to GMP.

15.1.6 **KS** enquired if **KK** had sourced 6 people for the recent hotpot lunch?

KK updated that she had achieved this.

15.1.7 **IP** reiterated his non-attendance to the meetings which is strictly due to work commitments.

15.1.8 **JRF** updated on the most recent M31 Project meeting and requested that he two dog bins located at the Pavilion be re-located by the CIWS to another location off the field.

15.2 Agenda items for the next meeting.

15.2.1 IE requested that the role of the CIWS be discussed.

15.2.2 IE requested that finance pages be discussed.

- **16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the **Annual Meeting** scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday 14th May 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: The Community Centre, Central Road.

Professional Minutes – Points of Reference (POR):

- Minutes are recorded as a summary and are not verbatim transcripts of the discussion.
- New agenda items for upcoming meetings must be submitted to the Clerk no later than 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting date for inclusion in the agenda.

Minutes prepared by:

S Booth, Parish Clerk

Date: 9th April 202