

# CLOTTON HOOFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024

**Contact details** .....C/O Clerk to the Parish Council ... Trudy Ryall-Harvey

### **Parish Councillors as at March 2024**

Charles Kinsey (Chair)  
Jane Nicholas (Vice-Chair)  
Richard Roberts  
David Roberts  
Geoffrey Bibby

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

As per Parish Council (PC) Standing Orders

### **Governance**

1. The Parish Council employs a Clerk who is also the Responsible Finance Officer.
2. All Parish Councillors identify in advance any pecuniary interests, outside body's involvement and family or personal interests they or their partners might have and sign a declaration of interest form when elected to the Council. In addition, each parish councillor is expected to abide by the Cheshire West and Chester's Code of conduct and declare any other potential conflicts of interest with their PC duties at the start of each PC meeting.

### **Objectives**

As per Standing Orders but in summary to represent and act to address the interests of the community and its local residents

### **Main Points of Note in 2023/24**

1. The Parish Council has eight Parish Councillor seats, and currently five Parish Councillors with three vacancies at the end of the year.
2. The parish of Clotton Hoofield has approximately 135 households and 358 elector's.
3. Seven Planning applications were considered and commented on by the council. The PC responses were heavily influenced by the Neighbourhood Plan policies and principles. Of the applications received:
  - Three were Supported (i.e. positively contributed to the parish as per the Neighbourhood Plan),
  - Three were given a Neutral response (i.e. no material impact as per the NP or general planning considerations)
  - One application was not supported due to the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan,
  - No planning breaches were referred to CWaC Planning Enforcement for their investigation.

4. The PC continues to utilise its website and Facebook groups to provide access to PC papers, distribute information of potential public interest. These digital communication services have allowed us to reach a wider audience more quickly, whilst allowing residents to communicate more easily.
5. Highways issues have been a constant challenge throughout the year. The key actions have been /are
  - Reporting potholes where they are more than 4cms deep. This is the minimum size at which CWaC will repair them. The public are also encouraged to report problems they see, via the CWaC online reporting tool.
  - Reporting missing signs when speed limit signs or road nameplate signs have come into disrepair.
  - Working with Cheshire West and Chester Council to clean the footpath along the A51 from Duddon Primary School to the Bulls Head, following Neighbourhood Pride grant monies received in 2023.
  - The general poor road conditions of several country roads within the Parish.
  - Working with the local police officer PCSO to have more speed monitoring take place in the parish.
  - Traffic Monitoring Surveys of A51 and Corkscrew Lane to review the amount and type of vehicles passing along these roads.

### **Financial Performance**

The Precept for the year 2023-24 was set at £6,735 which was an increase of 2%, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

The Parish Council aims to match annual revenue with annual committed expenditure in each financial year. This was achieved in the 2023/24 financial year. The cash balance decreased as the PC paid out of earmarked reserves for the speed reduction measures on the A51 that took place in 2020.

The Precept for 2024-25 has been set at £7.006 which is a 4% increase on the previous year.

### **Council Attendance 2023-24**

Clotton Hoofield Parish Council held 4 Parish Council meetings between May 2023 and April 2024.

All councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Edward Lush attended 1 of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the May, July meetings.

CW&C Councillor Tom Cooper sent his apologies for all meetings.

Over the year 1 member of the public attended council meetings.

This report is signed and dated following a meeting of the Parish Council where the report was approved by all present.

**Signed on behalf of the Parish Council**

Charles Kinsey (Chair)