



CLOTTON HOOFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

Contact detailsC/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 2024/25

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. Ten 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),
 - Two were given a Neutral response (i.e. no material impact as per the NP or general planning considerations)
 - Two application was not supported due to the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan,
 - Three applications the Parish Council had not comments to make on due to the nature of that application.
 - 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. The PC has organised and attended several meetings with LLFA and Highways on flooding concerns in the area, the Parish Council is waiting on Cheshire West and Chester Council to undertake the agreed actions to see if this has a positive outcome.
6. The PC has undertaken two site visits within 2024 to the Solar Farm at Iddenshall Grange to meet the company who is installing the solar panels and understand the process they are undertaking and review its progress.
7. Highways issues have been a constant challenge throughout the year. The key actions have been /are
 - Working with CWaC and reported to them on flooding of roads within the Parish, to include Corkscrew Lane and A51 where a number of houses were also affected by flooded due to the weather conditions.
 - 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.
 - The general poor road conditions of several country roads within the Parish and in particular Corkscrew Lane.
8. The PC applied for match-funding and was successful in receiving funding towards the purchase of the Defibrillator which has been installed at the 50p Shop in Hoofield, the Parish Council are looking for suitable locations in Clotton to have a similar Defibrillator installed.

9. The Parish Council applied for and was awarded its bronze award from the National Association of Local Councils, achieving this award necessitates the council demonstrating that it possesses the necessary documentation and information to operate lawfully and in accordance with established practices. Furthermore, the council has policies in place for training its councillors and officers, laying the groundwork for future improvement and development initiatives.

Financial Performance

The Precept for the year 2024-25 was set at £7,006 this was an increase of 4%, which represented an increase of £1.68 per Band D household, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

The Precept for 2025-26 has been set at £7,142 which is a 0% increase.

Council Attendance 2024-25

Clotton Hoofield Parish Council held 4 parish council meetings between May 2024 and April 2025.

Each Parish Council meeting was quorate with one Parish Council meeting when all five Parish Councillors attended and three meetings when four Parish Councillors attended.

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

CW&C Councillor Tom Cooper attended 3 of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the October meeting.

Over the year 5 member of the public attended council meetings and the PCSO attended one meeting.

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)