

SOUND & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the above Council, Tuesday 9th August 2022

at Broomhall Chapel at 7.00 p.m.

Councillors: L. Wright (Chairman), I. Blakeman, (Vice Chairman), A.G. Lawrence (Clerk), M. Hartland, D. Tomlinson, F. Wright, Ms N. Watson, Ms H. Paterson, P. Griffiths, Mrs E. Hollinshead, R. Blackburn, Mrs R. Ruscoe, Clr R. Bailey and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies:** M. Wright, PCSO N. Jarvis
2. **Declaration of Interest** – if a member is present at a meeting of the authority, and they have a disclosable pecuniary in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting, they cannot take part in any discussion of the matter at the meeting or vote on it. They should disclose the interest to the meeting and follow the Council's Code of Conduct.
3. **Minutes** of last Parish Council Meeting held on 14th June 2022 were unanimously confirmed as a true and correct record on the prop., R. Blackburn, sec., Ms N. Watson
4. **Matters arising:-**
5. **Highway matters:-**
 - a. Angela and Christopher Twigger reported to Clerk:- There are no issues currently regarding Baddiley Hall Lane and the blocked drain has finally been resolved.
 - b. **Winter Gritting routes: letter from Tom Shuttleworth** | Interim Head of Highways to Clr R. Bailey:

Many thanks for attending the recent calls with my colleagues Matt and Simon which was held as part of the annual winter review.

You raised a number of points during the calls, most of which you had recorded in an email dated 9th March 2022 following a site meeting with Andrea Bickerton and Simon. I will try to answer each of these points in turn and apologise in advance for what is a lengthy email:

1. The demographic of Coole Lane has changed, with the redevelopment of farm buildings to residential accommodation. You provided details of the properties converted and an estimate of the increase in residents on Coole Lane.
- a. It is accepted that this is the case but such redevelopment has occurred widely. The extent of the redevelopment is probably greater on Coole Lane than in other locations but this is not considered to be a risk factor when assessing the need for inclusion on gritting routes. This is the case for any residential properties, whether in rural locations such as this or on urban residential estates. Consequently this doesn't attract a score.
2. You referred to residents feeling isolated and frightened due to the number of accidents on the lane. There was a discussion about where the risks of driving on Coole Lane might be and the need to drive to the conditions
3. Diversification of business and increase in leisure facilities
 - a. You provided a list of locations including Overwater Marina, which includes a café and caravan park, Willows Caravan Park and Stables, Sunnyside Caravan Park and Coole Acres Fishery. Again the diversification of rural businesses has occurred widely across the area but it is the case that there is a concentration on and adjacent to Coole Lane. None of these facilities are identified individually as risk factors and don't attract a score. We will review the risk assessment methodology, risk factors and scores as part of the next annual review and changes may be made in the future to reflect some of the facilities you describe, or more likely the concentration of such facilities.
4. Access to the Secret Bunker
 - a. The Secret Bunker is a signed tourist attraction . Such attractions are not separately identified as a risk factor. Again, it would be appropriate to include this in the next review, with the number of visitors determining a risk score.
5. Church House Farmhouse is a care home for the vulnerable and elderly.

- a. Care homes are a risk factor included in the assessment. This care home was identified and scored as part of the assessment
6. Coole Lane is CE Home to School Transport Route
- a. Only service bus routes where the passenger numbers exceed a defined threshold (60,000 pa) are included on gritting routes. School bus services are not included as routes change with demand. Recent and forthcoming changes to bus routes will require a reassessment as part of the annual review following the 2022/23 winter season.
7. High volumes of standing water, road degradation and potholes
- a. There are many locations along the lane where water flows onto the road. This is due to a number of factors including poor maintenance of land drainage and roadside ditches, limited resource for routine maintenance and the legacy from recent flood events. This has resulted in the accelerated deterioration of the surface and structure of the road, creating a poor road surface and potholes. These defects are repaired as appropriate but the effectiveness of repair is impacted by the presence of water. We discussed the work being carried out through a partnership of parish councils and the highways team in the area which is a positive approach to addressing these issues
8. You raised the question of why the risk assessment for Coole Lane was split into sections and why the risk scores were not aggregated
- a. As you pointed out, Coole Lane runs through a number of parishes. The risk assessment process for the whole was carried out using the defined road sections contained in the adopted road gazetteer. This splits the road network into identifiable sections with similar characteristics. This was determined to be the most effective way of managing this process.
9. There was a general discussion on road classification, de-priming and whether we could influence information provided by sat navs. These issues are not relevant to this process as all roads are assessed against the defined criteria. The higher road categories are included by default but Coole Lane is correctly classified as a secondary distributor road.
10. Finally, there was a general discussion about the use of the road as a through route or 'rat run'. It was stated that motorists should be encouraged to use the treated network for such journeys and not to expect all such routes to be treated. This has been the accepted advice for many years and should continue to be so

I can however now also bring you up to speed on the annual operational review undertaken in parallel with the Member engagement. Part of this review looks at accident statistics and identification of any trends across the highway network.

Based on the data we have available and having taken professional advice both from the Road Safety and Legal teams around our duties as the Highway Authority it has been identified that there is a small but noticeable trend within the data for Coole Lane.

Summary: therefore having given due consideration to the above it is proposed to re-introduce the full length of Coole Lane back in to the gritting network for the 2022/23 winter season, based on the accident trends observed. This will be included as part of the recommendations in the related report scheduled for the 21st July Highways and Transport Committee.

I trust that the above comes as good news and demonstrates that the evidence based annual review process that we have put in place as part of the Winter Policy works effectively.

Meeting were pleased with this outcome and it was also suggested that the grit bins may possibly now be moved to another location in the area.

c. Letter from - Tom Shuttleworth | Interim Head of Highways - Cheshire East Council:-

Further to my email below you will be aware that a theme from the feedback received from the recent Highways Satisfaction Survey is that the processes for making reports or contacting the service can be inconsistent and there is a need to reconnect and strengthen our relationships at a local level.

The purpose of this communication is to commence the process of "relaunching the Local Highways Service" and to ensure that you have the most up to date information available on how best to get in touch with Cheshire East Council's Highways Service.

Local Highways - Relaunch

Enclosed below are various pieces of useful reference information, but firstly we invite you to complete a short survey which is attached and is intended to capture key highway maintenance priorities from each Town or Parish Council. Guidance notes are included. Formal written feedback will be offered on the priorities raised, including how and when these could be addressed and where appropriate feeding these prioritised lists in to future Highways work programme development,

I would ask that you return the completed responses to iandh@cheshireeast.gov.uk **by no later than 5pm on Friday 2nd September 2022.**

Reporting of Issues

If your council would like to bring any highway matters to the attention of Cheshire East Highways, in the first instance it is politely requested that these are channelled via yourself as Clerk. This will help the teams to understand and target the most important priorities for your parish or town and avoid any potential mixed messages. To ensure all issues are managed and allocated appropriately, we also ask that initial contact is made by one of the following methods:

- For all routine service requests such as to report a pothole or a street light that is out of service, online is the most efficient method of reporting and easily allows for supporting photographs to be attached to help demonstrate the issue: [Report a pothole or other road issue](#)
- To report any issues that present an immediate danger, call us on 0300 123 5020 during working hours or out of working hours on 0300 123 5025. You can also call 0300 123 5020 to report other highway matters

Once you have logged a service request or issue through any of the above methods, it will be directed to the most appropriate officer within the highways team who will look to provide a response as soon as possible within the given timeframes of 20 working days for all routine service requests. For service requests logged on line or via telephone as above, the response may take the form of an automated response, or email/telephone if necessary, depending on each situation.

With continuing pressures on resources and the many competing priorities throughout Cheshire East, it will not always be possible to carry out each and every element of maintenance or improvement works identified by your council. However, the team will always fully evaluate requests for service, do their utmost to consider for inclusion within future work programmes and at the same time provide you with a timely response to the matters you raise.

Sources of Information

Information on the services provided by Cheshire East Highways, including programmes of work, grass cutting, winter service, gully emptying, details of road closures, etc. is available on the Cheshire East Council [website](#). Social-networking site, Twitter, is also used to provide daily updates and general highways information. Please follow the team on Twitter @CEHighways.

Key Contacts

Finally, if you find that after following the above processes and looking at the available information, you need further assistance or help with any highway matters whatsoever, then please contact the SHO Officer working in your area, who will be happy to assist.

Local Highway Officer – Roy Cook

Contact telephone number – 07912 072487. If the officer is unavailable please leave a message and they will return your call at the earliest opportunity.

Email – roy.cook@cheshireeasthighways.org

As a further commitment and in direct response to the survey feedback we are now in process of recruiting a further Local Highways Officer for the southern region. An update will be issued in due course on this subject.

- d. CHESHIRE EAST BOROUGH COUNCIL - NOTICE OF TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
S14 (2) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Cheshire East Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers issues this notice temporarily to prohibit traffic in the following length of road:-
Sound Lane, Audlem Ward, Nantwich, CW5 8 from the junction of Wrenbury Heath Road to the junction of Rosemonte.
The alternative route will be via the following streets: - Sound Lane, Baddiley Lane, Nantwich Road, Station Road, Wrenbury Road, Sandy Lane, Whitchurch Road, Wrenbury Heath Road
Location Map - <https://one.network/?tm=129312778>
Pedestrian access to any premises situated within the temporary closure will be maintained at all times. Cyclists will be required to dismount in order for access to be maintained. Vehicular access will be maintained for emergency vehicles and residents where possible.
The closure is necessary for Cheshire East Highways to carry out dig up investigation.
It is anticipated that the works will take place on the following date(s): Monday 29th August 2022 to Friday 2nd September 2022.
This notice will become operative on Monday 29th August 2022 for a period of 5 days or for such less time as is necessary to enable the works to be completed.

6. **Correspondence:** Noted to members for their inspection and interest as follows:-

- a. **Cheshire East:** none
- b. **Councillors:** none
- c. **Parishioners:-** none
- d. **Other**
 - i. Clerks and Councils Direct
 - ii. ChALC's e-bulletin

7. **Accounts**

I. Income since last meeting:-

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy | £150.31 |
| 2. Neighbourhood Plan Grant | £2743.00 |

II. Accounts paid since last meeting – none

**III. Accounts to pay at this meeting
Parish Council**

1.	Chq No 500289 Broomhall & Sound Methodist Church – Room Hire	Purchase Order 75	£15.00
2.	Chq No 500290 Cheshire Assoc of Local Councils	Purchase Order 76	£304.20
Neighbourhood Plan			
3.	Chq No 500291 Cheshire Community Action	Purchase Order 77	£1368.00

The above account(s) were unanimously approved for payment on the prop., R. Blackburn, sec., D. Tominson

IV. Annual Audit – Clerk reported
CH0183: Receipt of documents – notification of exempt status, 2022

This is an automated message to notify you that we have received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2022 submitted to us for Sound & District Parish Council. By notifying us that Sound & District Parish Council has claimed exemption there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation, will be issued by us for this reporting year.

If you did not submit your notification of exemption by the specified submission deadline and were sent chasing letter(s), you will receive an invoice for those chaser charges calculated in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited which are available to view [here](#).

Unless we receive any correspondence from local electors during the period for the exercise for public rights that requires us to contact you, you will not hear from us again this year, except to chase any outstanding fees.

The 2021/22 reporting year is the last year of our current five-year contract with SAAA. If we are appointed as your external auditor for the subsequent five-year contract for years 2022/23 to 2026/27, the timetable will be broadly similar to that for 2021/22. If we are not appointed as your external auditor, the successor auditor will contact you directly to notify you of their timetable

SBA Team - For and on behalf of PKF Littlejohn LLP

8. Planning Applications:

- I. **Applications received since last meeting:-** As 8/III below
- II. **Results of previous applications:**

a.
20/1932N
Holly Bank, HEATLEY LANE, BROOMHALL, CW5 8BA
Extension and subdivision of dwelling.
approved with conditions
b.
22/0134N
Land Off, NEWTOWN ROAD, SOUND
Certificate of existing lawful use for Residential garden
negative certificate
c.
22/0407N
FIR TREES, WRENBURY HEATH ROAD, SOUND, CHESHIRE, CW5 8BB

Proposed first floor rear extension, two storey side extension, internal alterations and external alterations to the bungalow.

approved with conditions

III. Applications/Planning Matters before this meeting:

a.

Application No: **22/2403N**

Proposal: **Remodelling of hatchery ponds to create a new lake, use of land for the siting of 19 no. holiday lodges, 2 no. mobile camping pods, warden's lodge, accessways, parking & ancillary works**

Location: **Coole Acres Fishery And Leisure Park, COOLE LANE, NEWHALL, CW5 8AY**

National Grid Ref: **364714.7072 345551.6396**

On the prop., M. Hartland, Sec., D. Tomlinson it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should submit the following comments in relation to the application:-

Investment should be made in a substantial and varied landscaping plan

Lodges should be in a sympathetic colour to the surrounding area

Safe walking routes linking to existing footpaths should be established

Highway safety and visibility for both motorists and pedestrians needs to be considered, with repair to adjoining bridge on Coole Lane completed as a necessity

I Blakeman declared and interest in this item of the agenda

b.

Application No: **22/3124N**

Proposal: **Variation of condition 2 - plans on approval 19/2541N.**

Location: **Dairy House Farm, WRENBURY HEATH ROAD, SOUND, CW5 8BB**

National Grid Ref: **362484.3968 348356.2396**

c.

DMMO Applications – Annual Review

Addition of a footpath – Newtown Road to Sound Lane via Sound Common – CN/7/32 is now number 23 on the waiting list

IV. Neighbourhood Plan: reported submission version has now been completed and is available for inspection and as advised by Cheshire East as below:-

Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Development Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

Sound and District Parish Council have formally submitted the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Development Plan to Cheshire East Council.

Further details are enclosed within the proposed plan notice attached to this email

The publicity period for the neighbourhood development plan will be for six weeks between: 6th July 2022 until 17th August 2022

The submitted plan and associated documents can be found on the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Development Plan webpage:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plans/neighbourhood-plans-n-z/sound-and-broomhall-neighbourhood-plan.aspx>

You can make representations to the consultation as follows:

- Consultation portal: <https://cheshireeast-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/np>

- Our email: neighbourhoods@cheshireeast.gov.uk
- Or by post: Neighbourhood Planning team, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ.

Submit your representations on the neighbourhood plan by 7PM on the 17th August 2022.

When submitting representations please ensure:

- You have viewed our privacy notice, which explains how we process and store personal data.
- Representations do not contain any sensitive information
- Scanned documents can be easily detected by text recognition software
- If representations are submitted through the post:
 - We are made aware via the email listed above
 - An electronic version of the representation is provided, if possible, via the email listed above

To be notified of further progression by the Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Development Plan and be added to our distribution list then please let us know when submitting your representations, or separately via the email listed above.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Neighbourhood Planning | Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

Further

Sound and Broomhall Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan for the Sound and Broomhall area is nearing completion. The plan has been produced by locals after consultation with all of the residents within the two parishes. It has been submitted to Cheshire East Council who now publicise it for consultation. Hard copies are available to be viewed at CEC offices at Westfields, Sandbach. At Nantwich Library and at Broomhall Chapel.

All associated documents may be accessed, downloaded and viewed via the Neighbourhood Planning pages of Cheshire East Council's website: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plans/neighbourhood-plans-n-z/sound-and-broomhall-neighbourhood-plan.aspx>

Representation on the plan may be made online via the Neighbourhood Planning pages of Cheshire East Council's website and in writing to: Neighbourhood Planning Team, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ. Representations must be received no later than 7pm on 17/08/22.

The plan then goes to an external examiner who will test whether the proposals meet the Basic Conditions, other planning regulations and legislation.

Then there will be a poll of the residents who will be asked the question 'Do you want Cheshire East Council to use the neighbourhood plan to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

For further information please contact the Neighbourhood Planning Team on 01270 685893 or via email at neighbourhoods@cheshireeast.gov.uk

- 9. Sound Common:** Clerk advised following from Mark Arnold, Countryside Ranger, Cheshire East Council we intend to carry out a programme of roadside tree works along both Sound Lane and Wrenbury Heath Road during the coming autumn and winter. The plan is to remove some dead and poor condition trees, to ensure a 5.5 metre clear height above the carriageway, and cut back verge scrub to 2 metres from the carriageway. The work will be carried out by a local tree surgeon after the nesting season has ended. A bat survey will be carried out prior to any works being carried out.

Ms N. Watson further reported that she has cleared and overgrown gully on the crossroads at this location.

- 10. Police Report:** from PCSO N. Jervis:- incidents in parish and surrounding area

1/7/22. VIOLENCE: Sound Heath, argument between horse rider and car driver.

16/7/22. HIGHWAY DISRUPTION: Sound Lane, cows in the road.

30/7/22. WILDLIFE: Report of two peacocks in a garden on Wrenbury Heath Road

9/7/22. SUSPICIOUS PERSON: Delivery of two mobile phones to a property on Wrenbury Road Aston. Phones not ordered.

11/7/22. SUSPICIOUS PERSON: Report of identity fraud Wrenbury Road Aston.

26/7/22. CRIMINAL DAMAGE: Whitchurch Road Aston.

29/7/22. DOMESTIC INCIDENT: Aston.

9/7/22. CONCERN FOR SAFETY: Distressed female found in a field off Coole Lane.

10/7/22. DRINK DRIVER: Whitchurch Road Newhall.

11. Next Meeting: - proposed date of next Parish Council Meetings – 10th October; 5th December 2022

Meeting closed.