

MOTTRAM ST. ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING HELD 16th MARCH 2026

Present Cllr Levis (Chairman), Cllr Lane, Cllr Martin, R. Taylor (Clerk) P Mott (Assistant Clerk), Mike Battersby and 1 member of the public.

1. Co-option of New Councillor: **Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane that Mike Battersby be co-opted as a Councillor. Resolved unanimously.** Councillor Battersby signed the declaration of office. Chairman welcomed the new councillor to the Parish Council.
2. Apologies for absence: Cllr Sidebottom (farm commitments-lambing)
3. Declaration of interests from Councillors: Chairman, Cllr Martin and Cllr Battersby interest in item 13 Peak Custer.
4. Requests for dispensations: Chairman, Cllr Martin and Cllr Battersby requested a dispensation in writing. Proposed Cllr Lane and Seconded Chairman, that a dispensation be granted for item 13. **Resolved unanimously.**
5. Minutes of meeting held on 17th November 2025: Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane, that the minutes are a true and correct record. Signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
6. Matters Arising: No matters arising.
7. Public Participation: Public attendance for Peak Cluster
8. Finance: Clerk reported Bank balance at 5th March as £29,642.92, less £14,225.47 C.I.L, leaving £15,417.47. Payments made have been as follows: £85 ChALC for 3 training courses, Assistant Clerk wages of £212.45+ £53.00 tax and £236.27 + £59.00 tax, £555 Wizard gardening services, £30.93 stationary and the defibrillator hire £131.40. Cllr Martin and P Mott are in the process of being set up as signatories for the bank account. Clerk reported handover of finance is currently underway. Clerk's final pay will be at the end of March and P Mott will be responsible for audit. SLCC membership will end in May. **Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane that membership of SLCC will be paid by the Council. Resolved Unanimously.** New Accountants Lennards, are working well. Azets, old accountants, failed to declare a zero balance on months in between Clerk's payment so HMRC chasing payment, including 7p day fine for non-payment of tax. Lennards are currently resolving this. Assistant Clerk reported that ChALC training sessions had been useful, and that she greatly appreciated the time the Clerk had spent training her in council procedures over last few months.
9. Highways: Clerk reported entry to sign to Newton had been knocked down, and since been stolen. Resident asking for a replacement. Cost of replacement £198.68 less then Insurance excess £250. Proposed Cllr Lane, Seconded Cllr Martin to purchase new sign. Tree stump removal: Highways had left remainder but it had potential to roll. Clerk had contacted Highways but they consider it is the landowner's responsibility so no resolve. Chairman offered to act as Councillor responsible for Highways following resignation of Cllr Pilkington and will follow this up.
10. Footpaths: Fallen tree across footpath off Priest Lane Cllr Martin reported that this had been cut so that the path was clear. Clerk had thanked Richard Sidebottom for his assistance. The barbed wire indicates that the tree is on our land. This fence is down but

currently no stock. It was agreed to leave the matter for now; the farmer will make more room if required or if a complaint is received. Assistant Clerk reported Cheshire East are running a public consultation on their draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan and asked if Council wished to respond. Issues raised include lack of dog waste bins, damage to fences and stiles that were unrepaired, no signage to warn of cattle on footpaths and lack of signage across a farm route. Assistant Clerk instructed to draft response and circulate to councils for approval at the next meeting.

11. Community Infrastructure Levy: Clerk reported Cheshire Fencing had arrived and will be installed after lambing. Old hedging will be removed. Cost still expected at £7500. Cllr Martin reported speed sign could be £2,500 but not moving forward on matter. One empty post already in situ could be utilised. Chair and Cllr Martin to discuss.
12. Adlington New Town Proposal: Chairman reported attendance at joint Town and Parish Council meetings. SEA report was due end of February, and next meeting will occur once received: if Adlington still on the list prompt action will be required. It was agreed last meeting Parish Council would contribute £1500 (£5 per household) to pay for reports and legal costs involved. Clerk reported our tax base is £421.38 so this would be a £2106.90 cost. **Approval of £5 contribution per household based on tax base of 421.38. Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane. Resolved unanimously. Authority for Clerk to pay invoice of £648.79 for reports and professional fees. Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane. Resolved unanimously Authority for Clerk to pay £1041.26 for reports and legal fees once invoice is received. Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane. Resolved unanimously.** Clerk advised if Adlington was left on the list the Task & Finish group may wish to proceed to judicial review and there are concerns over this course of action for the Parish Council.
13. Peak Cluster Consultation: Chairman reported he had raised Peak Cluster with the councils in the Task & Finish group; potentially they will come together on this matter in the future. Very little public knowledge about Peak Cluster, even from Cheshire East councillors. No response to letters written to them or to Tim Roca MP. Agreed no need for a public meeting at present, but a response to an article will be sent to Macclesfield Express. **Council resolution to oppose Peak Cluster Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane. Resolved unanimously.**
14. Nantwich Firework Campaign: Clerk reported on an email received from Nantwich Matter was debated and voted 3: 1 in favour to support the proposal. **Clerk to send letter to MP stating our support and to highlight the distress fireworks cause to elderly, those with medical conditions, as well as animals.**
15. Planning: Extensions of time granted on 26/0309/ FUL and 26/0103/FUL applications.
25/4791/PIP Land Priest Lane, request for extension denied but application was refused.
26/0309/ FUL Land off Wilmslow Road Debated, no observations.
26/0103/FUL Southfields, Retrospective planning permission. Chairman summarised history of site and matter debated. **Clerk to respond that council object to this application on grounds that it is inappropriate development within the greenbelt, it significantly deviates from the original application. Council has concerns over land contamination and requests that tests need to be done. Proposed Chairman, Seconded Cllr Lane.**

26/00122/ VOC Land North of Alderley Road No observations.

26/0477/ DSC The Coppice, Smithy Lane No observations.

Debated whether a separate committee to look at planning applications should be formed, but agreed to decide at AGM and carry on as present for now.

1. War Memorial: Matter to be carried forward.
2. Allotments: Assistant Clerk reported rents are currently being collected by Ann Readman. There are 4 empty plots, one potential enquiry, though more may well come. Plan to visit site in April to ensure smooth handover to control to the Clerk.
3. Village Maintenance: Fallen tree dealt with in item 10.
4. Police Report: Previously circulated and read by all. Police have backtracked on original number of redundancies, but not known if our PSCO is still affected.
5. United Charities: Matter to be carried forward.
6. Village Hall: Cllr Martin reported Village Hall was still solvent.
7. Community Pride Award: Assistant Clerk reported that everyone had been informed but only three nominations received to date. Chairman will do a push notification
8. Other Business: Cllr Lane reported quarterly defib check had been done and their website updated. Cllr Battersby asked if Sewage treatment plant, maintenance and correct septic tanks could be placed on the agenda.

Finally, the Chairman gave his thanks to Clerk Ron Taylor on behalf of the Parish Council and residents for his 17 years of dedicated service. It had been very much appreciated.