

**Capenhurst and Ledsham Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Parish Council**

Date	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Time	7pm
Attended	Councillors: Ann Clowes, Tania Foster, Joyce Tomlinson, Colette Francis, Tracey Royle, Jamie Davies, Christine Pemberton, Mark Brassington, Gareth Baker. Members of the public: Peter Cawley, Amy Taylor, Carol Ann Davies, Robert James Davies, Jo Farwell, Mike Farwell,
Location & Details	Capenhurst Village Hall

1	<b>Procedural Matters</b> - <b>Apologies</b> – Neil Fagan (Urenco) - <b>Communication</b> – all relevant communications sent onto councillors. - <b>Declaration of Interest</b> – None received or declared - <b>Adoption of the Minutes from the previous meetings</b> – No matters arising from the last minutes, Proposed by CF and seconded by GB, all present agreed and the Chair signed the minutes as a true record. - <b>Dates of Future Meetings &amp; Locations</b> - Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7pm – Council AGM and meeting, Village Hall. - <b>Notice of any urgent AOB</b> – none	CB
2	<b>Simon Eardley</b> Highways – 168 million has been allocated to CWAC of which some will be allocated to Highways next year, meaning an extra 24 million a year towards the Highways budget. Works are ongoing in Ledsham although there have been complaints about the short notice given. Pot Holes are also to be done but residents should continue to report them especially around Capenhurst Lane where water collects. The issue of the Play Area is still outstanding as the officer that was dealing has now left the council. The council tax will be increasing by 4.9% for 24/25 with the Green Waste bin charging increasing by 25%. It is hoped that there will be an increase in Gulley maintenance, hedge cutting and pavement maintenance.	SE
3	<b>Update from Urenco</b> No update this month.	
4	<b>Britain in Bloom</b> CF advised the Council that she had received the marking sheet from last years competition but had not previously received one. The fee for this years competition is £65 and needs to be paid by the end of March. Plans for this year include improving the layby on Ledsham Lane, CF said she	CF

	<p>had met with the Owner who had given her carte blanche to do what was wanted.</p> <p>Proposal put forward to pay the Entrance fee for BiB, Proposed by AC and seconded by TF, all present agreed.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Emergency Plan</b></p> <p>CP explained what the Emergency Plan was and why the Council needed one for the benefit of residents in attendance. Once completed it will be put on the Website.</p>	CP
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Notice Board Update</b></p> <p>SE agreed to assist and also clarify whether the permission/charge was necessary. It was agreed that the spend proposal should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.</p>	AC
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Members of the Public Speaking time</b></p> <p>Ditches and Gulleys – No response from CWAC since the last meeting, GB to contact the officer concerned, to be included on the Agenda for the next meeting. A letter to be sent to the Clerks at Shotwick, Willaston and Puddington regarding clearing their ditches and Gulleys. It is getting worse every year and is now affecting livelihoods. The whole system is badly maintained.</p> <p>Concerns that Hedge cutting was not being done which was making it difficult for pedestrians on the paths.</p> <p>A concern was also raised regarding effluent tractors going through the village, it was pointed out that there were no restrictions regarding these.</p> <p><b>Website</b> – Quotes for £600 have been received for a new website, JD has offered to assist, TR to arrange a meeting to take forward.</p> <p><b>Events</b> – Cosmic Cape – 20<sup>th</sup> July, TR is doing a Diary of Events, so any events or activities to her please for inclusion.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>TR</p> <p>TR</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Entrance to the Sports Ground</b> – There are concerns regarding the entrance to the ground with cars speeding in and out, straight onto the lane. Would like to progress with Urenco. To be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.</p>	. CP
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Planning</b> – The Sub group has met, a resident has approached the Council regarding the entrance to the Menage, Planning keep ‘throwing it back’ saying No. The Sub committee support his application, a letter has been written to planning. Trying to keep on top of Enforcement and writing to them every month but no further forward with the issues raised.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Finance</b> – See attached sheet including budget</p> <p>£7,267.69 in bank</p> <p>£1,148.92 Ring fenced</p> <p>£2,276.05 Ring Fenced</p> <p>0 Income</p> <p>£364.08 Spend</p> <p>The VAT claim will be submitted in April as the end of year is March.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>D Day Events.</b> - Urenco to donate £1,070 towards all activities, £800 for the meals with rest going towards the school and Home event and activities.</p> <p>It was proposed that a lantern be purchased for use at this event and</p>	

	future ones, it could also be used in the church. Proposed by TR and seconded by CP, all present in agreement. TF to talk to the Village Hall Committee about a no charge for the use of the Hall for a display on the Saturday.	
<b>12</b>	<b>The Pear Tree</b> – A discussion regarding the Pear Tree followed with a suggestion that a display board be purchased with its history. This was proposed by TR, seconded by CP and all agreed.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Footpath signage and Maps</b> – GB to forward the link.	
<b>14</b>	<b>Litter Picks</b> – Urenco are supporting the Village Litter Picks with volunteers from their workforce. Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April was agreed for the next one from 10 to 12, all to meet on the Village Green. Dog Bins, clerk to chase again with CWAC.	
<b>15</b>	<b>Penfold Close Update</b> – No further forward	
	Meeting closed at 20.35 pm	

Minutes Approved .....

Date of Meeting.....



**Chester Local  
Parish Council**

**Local Officers -**  
Sergeant – Gemma Ashton  
Beat Manager – Harry Whinnett  
Police Community Support Officer – Wendy Leason

**Crime Update –**  
CAPENHURST  
LEDSHAM JANUARY 2024

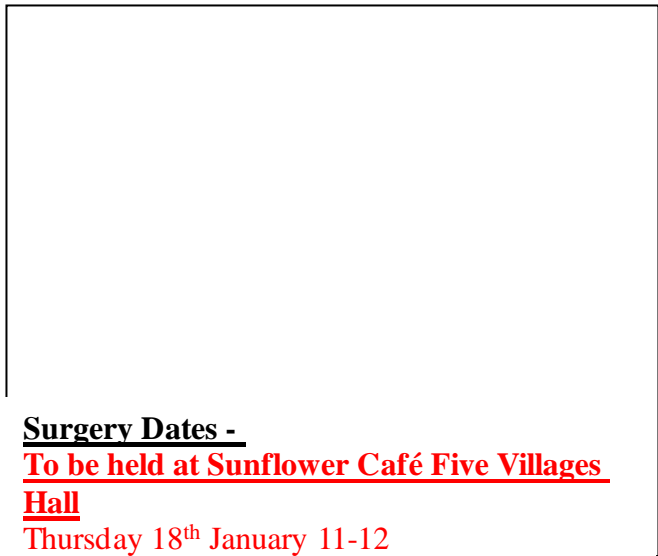
AND

(The monthly crime update will include information relevant to the local community)

**CRIME TYPE**

	DATE	LOCATION	RELEVANT INFORMATION
BURGLARY Other than a dwelling			
BURGLARY			
THEFT			
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	18/12	Ledsham Lane	Damage caused to door by known offender throwing a bottle at property
OTHER/SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY			
DRUGS	04/01/24	Urenco	As per Security procedures, vehicle check resulting in a small bag of cannabis being found in the vehicle and removed

Violence				
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**Surgery Dates -**

**To be held at Sunflower Café Five Villages Hall**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 11-12

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 11-12

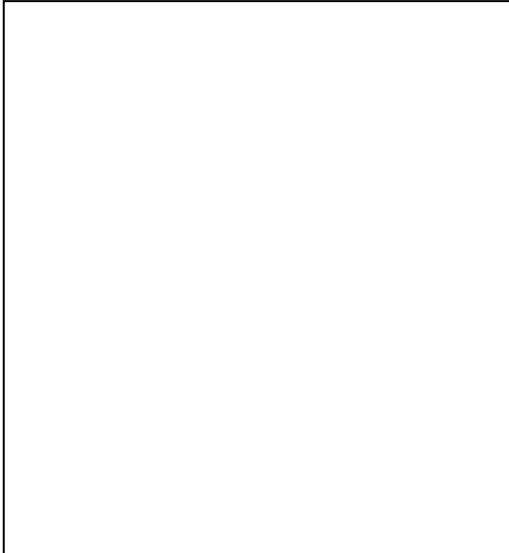
**Linda's Tea Rooms Saughall**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 11-12

Joint Police Councillors Surgery outside Co-op in Saughall Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 10-111

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**Please refer to the Cheshire Police website for**



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**Road Safety/Speed Engagement –**



**Other News -**

There have been Garden Maintenance Rogue Traders operating in the Saughall area.

Please do not accept work from any cold callers to protect yourselves.



**Residents Voice** – It is important to us that we know about the issues that cause you concern. We have set up a survey where you can tell us about the things you would like us to focus on in your area.

Please complete the survey by following this link – [Resident's voice | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

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fy it as

**Please  
remain  
vigilant**

**and report any crime/suspicious activity via 101 or via Cheshire Police website -  
[www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) **999** in an emergency.**

### **Storm Babet and subsequent weather events – report to CWaC etc**

As I advised parish councillors prior to Christmas, I submitted a comprehensive 25 page document to the CWaC flooding team around experiences across the Saughall and Mollington Ward in respect of Storm Babet and also subsequent poor weather impacts. I also advised that this document would form part of consideration by an external consultant to the borough council who will be undertaking what is termed a 'Section 19 investigation' owing to the severity of Storm Babet in particular. The main issue I specifically documented in respect of the Capenhurst & Ledsham parish related to concerns raised with me by the residents of Greenacres Farm. I have extracted the material I submitted here and attach it in a Word document format. If parish councillors have any insights around how this might ultimately be resolved, I would also appreciate your thoughts.

In terms of next steps, there are a number to continue to be pursued in the coming weeks / months:

- Resolution of areas where specific reports of issues have been logged for CWaC intervention.
- Consideration of this overall document in respect of the 'Section 19' investigation.
- CWaC action on general points, such as landowner maintenance of ditches etc, and pursuit of more complex issues other than reports like 'this gully requires maintenance.'

I also wonder whether it might be prudent for us to sit down and discuss these matters in a focused way, outside of a parish council meeting, to see if there are other insights and knowledge that can be usefully collated to help address challenges either in the parish now or in the future.

### **Proposed development - land north of Dunkirk Way (23/03825/FUL)**

This proposed development for a substantial number of homes doesn't fall within the Saughall and Mollington Ward (it is Ledsham and Manor Ward represented by Cllrs Peter Wheeler and Christine Warner) but it affects to varying degrees residents within it, specifically those in Backford, Capenhurst & Ledsham and Lea-By-Backford (the latter including most of 'Dunkirk' within its boundary. I am concerned about it on two grounds: the chronic traffic congestion in this vicinity already (Dunkirk Way is very challenging at almost all times of the day) and also the encroachment of development towards Capenhurst village and thereby the impact on the greenbelt within the parish. Assuming that you share similar concerns, it would be helpful if you could make them known via the planning portal. I am aware that Cllrs Warner and Wheeler intend to 'call-in' the application and are liaising with residents accordingly.

### **Badgers Rake Lane speed limit changes**



I have pressed officers around the timeframe for the implementation of the changes proposed here now that the funding position is confirmed. At the time of writing, I do not have an update but I have emphasised that my Member Budget contribution will need to come out of my 2023/24 allocation so all being well this will help to expedite matters.

### **Community litter pick**

I wonder whether it is time to undertake another community litter pick in the parish as litter is once again accumulating substantially. I'd be pleased to get involved in such a session if a date can be arranged.

### **Ledsham Lane / Badgers Rake Lane**

I am advised that Ledsham Lane, Ledsham – between Ledsham Village and A550 Welsh Road – will receive 'surface treatment works' at some point from 29th January 2024 (when an order will come into effect that will temporarily prohibit traffic during the preparation works for). The order will have a life of 18 months but the expectation is that the works will be completed by October 2024. I do not know the specific timing for the Ledsham Lane works but hope whatever works they result in will be positive. It is to be hoped that these works will deal with the worst areas of road surface deterioration on this route but it is a pity that Rectory Lane isn't included too. We await the outcome!

I am also advised - on a much quicker timeframe than the above - that there will be a temporary road closure on Badgers Rake Lane, effective on 11th January 2024 to allow highways repair works to be undertaken. The order will be in force for five days but the works are expected to be completed within one day.

### **Garden waste collection charge**

The new subscription window for residents to sign up for 2024 in respect of the garden waste collection service opens on 08 January 2024. There is to be a 25% increase in the charge per bin – from £40 to £50. I will publish the website link for residents to register in due course. Residents who are in receipt of full council tax reduction at the point of applying are still entitled to a £10 discount for one bin only. They will be asked to provide details/evidence as part of the application process. The collection service will continue to be offered for over 40 weeks of the year, for 2024 collections will take place between 26 February 2024 and 29 November 2024. Subscribers will receive a 2024 permit to stick on their garden waste bin, alongside full instructions, and key information about the service.

To ensure awareness for all residents, reminder stickers will be placed on all domestic waste (black) bins over a five-week period between January and February 2024.

Parish councillors will be aware that I opposed the introduction of this charge – and led the campaign at CWaC against it. I am opposed to this substantial increase in the charge per bin.

### **Free School Presumption Consultation - Ledsham Road / Ledsham Garden Village, Ellesmere Port**

Following liaison with the headteacher at Capenhurst Church of England Primary School, I made a substantial submission to the above in mid-December, expressing concerns about the potential impact of building a new school within the Redrow development known as Ledsham Garden Village on the village school and others. We await further developments.

### **Miscellaneous reports**

- Culvert damaged / blocked - Capenhurst Lane (near the green house). Reported on 10/11/23 with ref. TR561173736. I understand a job has been raised to clear this.
- Capenhurst Lane (opposite 'Someday') - hanging tree branch. Reported on 21/12/23 with ref. TR571107799.

**Cllr Simon Eardley | Saughall and Mollington Ward**

Shadow Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways, Climate Emergency, Energy & Green Spaces

T: 07738 184101

Capenhurst & Ledsham Parish Council

9th January 2024

RFO report

Our present bank balance stands at £7,717.59. £1148.92 and £2,276.05 of that remains ring fenced for specified projects.

Income since our last meeting:

- None

Expenditure as agreed at our last meeting:

- £300.00 Britain in Bloom expenses
- I have not paid the £89.07 to the WI for the bunting because, whilst I believed it had been agreed at the last meeting I note that this is not minuted so I have held on to the payment until this meeting.

Regular Payments, as agreed at the AGM:

- £338 wages

Expenditure requiring agreement:

- None.

Expenditure not requiring agreement:

- £8.50 Britain in Bloom expense

Please request to see the full accounts should you need to at any time.

This is the month when we need to set the budget. I provided a suggested budget to help you at the last meeting and have had no further suggestions from the committee. I have finally received the tax base from CWAC to help set the precept. I would like to point out to the committee that our tax base has decreased quite a bit, thus increasing the Band D rate by £11.81 if we stick to the intention of raising the precept to £5,500 as opposed to the £9.11 increase I was hoping for. However, if we increase the precept to a figure of £5,000 this year from the £4,000 it is at present it would mean an increase of only £8.53; obviously this is the figure that is paid over the 10 month from April to January. As a council we would be able to budget on the lower figure but it will eat into our reserves more than we had anticipated. I therefore need guidance and agreement from council on the preferred figure to set. The forms need to be submitted by the end of this month at the latest.

There are therefore two proposals on the table:

- 1) set the precept for 24/25 to a value of £5,000
- 2) set the precept for 24/25 to a value of £5,500

Please can we vote on this?