

Capenhurst and Ledsham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council

Date	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Time	7pm
Attended	Councillors: Ann Clowes, Tania Foster, Joyce Tomlinson, Colette Francis, Tracey Royle, Jamie Davies, Mark Brassington, Gareth Baker. Members of the public: Peter Cawley, Amy Taylor, Carol Ann Davies, Robert James Davies, Julia Hanlon, Kirsti Ali, Hassan Ali, Jo Farwell, Mike Farwell, Neil Fagan and Julia Hanlon (Urenco)
Location & Details	Capenhurst Court, Urenco.

1	<p>Procedural Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies – Cllr. Christine Pemberton, Wendy Leason (PCSO), Simon Eardley (Ward Councillor) - Communication – all relevant communications sent onto councillors. Report from PCSO and Ward Councillor received. SE had sent a report and GB would deal with it in his section. - Declaration of Interest – None received or declared - Adoption of the Minutes from the previous meetings – 7th November 2023 Minutes, in the section regarding the Bunting made for the Council by the WI the approval for payment had been excluded. Proposed by TR and seconded by MB with all present approving the payment. The minutes to be changed to reflect this. The next Village Surgery to take place on Saturday 3rd February at 11am in the Capenhurst Village Hall, Harry Whinett (Police) and the MP to be invited to attend. - Resignations & vacancies – none received - Dates of Future Meetings & Locations - Tuesday 5th March 2024, 7pm, Capenhurst Village Hall Tuesday 7th May 2024, 7pm – Council AGM and meeting, Village Hall. - Notice of any urgent AOB – none 	CB
2	<p>Simon Eardley – see attached report. GB explained what the Council had been doing regarding the flooding being experienced by residents. CWAC are responsible for clearing gullies every year, this has been sub-contracted to outside companies. The Council are preparing a letter to all landowners regarding clearing of gullies and culverts on their land as CWAC could not go onto private land. The letter had been written but not sent due to Christmas. There are a lot of areas where a ditch could be seen but allowed to be filled in. Meaning the flooding was getting worse in the area. The Council will write to CWAC regarding the regular clearing of ditches, gullies and culverts. SE has already written to Highways England regarding their ditches and culverts.</p>	SE

	<p>The Council Clerk would also write to them. JT pointed out that Chapel Lane has not been mentioned in SE's report. Pipes silted up and blocked which could be responsible for the flooding, also the manhole in the middle of the road hasn't been cleared for years. It was suggested that a list of contacts be put together to assist with letter writing which could be passed to residents. It was also suggested that a crew from CWAC with a camera be requested to check the ditches and culverts for blockages. It was also suggested that the original maps could help identify the ditches and culverts – possibly from the Maritime Trust – Mike Farwell to investigate. It was stated that several ditches were still blocked – New Hey and others, it was stated that land taken into New Hey by the then owner with a fence belonged to CWAC. As it was only 4-5 years ago it still belonged to CWAC so they could clear the ditch. School House Farm has ditches filled in – they need to be reinstated as it floods badly there. The Planning Committee has been around all the Village to check ditches and culverts. Letters to go out as a priority, councillors asked to help with delivery.</p>	
3	<p>Update from Urenco A quiet time over Christmas and New Year. The Government announced that it would be building a new plant in the North. It would use a different type of fuel, the Government have jumped the gun somewhat as Urenco have not yet agreed to produce this fuel although they have promised funding to do it. It will be a small plant and would not expect it to be in service till 2035. It would require policing which would help the village, there is no increased risk to the area. RR are producing small modular reactors to help the UK be self sufficient. Urenco has matched with SE and Cllr Hogg to pay for Speed Limit signs. Urenco are happy to work with the council to support the villages. NF to liaise with CP to organise litter picks with Urenco volunteers. NF went onto say that 50% of the buildings on site would be replaced as now old but were having problems with CWAC Planning Department.</p>	
4	<p>Britain in Bloom CF explained that she cannot do anything yet until the Notice Board is in place. She intends entering the Small Village Category this year and intends doing more in Ledsham, including wild flowers and Herbaceous Perennials.</p>	CF
5	<p>Emergency Plan The Plan is nearly there, just needs some help from Ledsham residents, hoping to have it completed by the next meeting.</p>	
6	<p>Notice Board Update Still awaiting a response from CWAC, still awaiting one quote, it will be at the North of Ledsham with wheelchair access.</p>	
7	<p>Members of the Public Speaking time Contact from Residents, 1) Complaints regarding rats, can the council do anything? Unfortunately its not something the council can do anything about. Individual residents need to contact Environmental Health at CWAC. 2) Complaints about the lorries from the Battery Storage coming through the village. The council has previously contacted them and will do so</p>	

	<p>again.</p> <p>3) Clair Green – TR visited the school and was given a guided tour, she was very impressed. She explained that the PC letter was supporting the school and in favour of the Head and school. A positive Visit.</p> <p>Website – Need to ensure that Ashley puts things on the website promptly. TF to explore a more user friendly site.</p> <p>Events – Cosmic Cape – 20th July, the group are looking at how the resident ticket sales are handled this year as 50% of the applications were fraudulent and a lot of residents abused the system. This means a loss of funds for the charities it is meant to benefit.</p> <p>Village Surgery – Saturday 3rd February, 11 pm. Capenhurst Village Hall, All welcome.</p> <p>£1,400 was raised at the Christmas Carols, new baubles would be needed at this years Carols as they suffered due to wind and rain.</p> <p>Plans to run the Pumpkin Trail would be put in place in plenty of time this year.</p>	
8	<p>PCC Meeting – The majority of queries were regarding traffic, speeding and Fly tipping. Suggestion that wild life cameras could be used to identify culprits and then reported to Council/Police. TF raised the attitude of PC to councillors, she would be invited to the Community cohesion meetings. The QR code would be put on the Website for residents to raise issues and concerns which will then feed into the Police priorities</p>	
9	<p>Planning – JT attended an online meeting regarding Planning Rules. CWAC has 30 Planning Officers, most working from home and part time. They are trying to speed up the enforcement but things are backing up, job is not being done properly.</p>	
10	<p>Finance – See attached sheet including budget</p> <p>£7,717.59 in bank</p> <p>£1,148.92 Ring fenced</p> <p>£2,276.05 Ring Fenced</p> <p>0 Income</p> <p>Regarding the Budget for 24/25</p> <p>The councillors voted on whether to put the precept up to 5k or 5.5k, TF explained what the difference would mean to the budget.</p> <p>Vote for 5k CF, GB, JD, JT</p> <p>Vote for 5.5k MB, TR, TF, AC x2</p> <p>Agreed that it would be 5.5k precept for 24/25</p> <p>New budget proposed by TF and seconded by AC, all agreed to the budget and signing the Precept form.</p>	
11	<p>Village Quiz – JT proposed that a village quiz be held, seconded by TR, all agreed, to be handed out at the AGM and back in at the June Surgery.</p>	
12	<p>Penfold Close Play Area – No further forward with this, CWAC not supportive of using the area to reinstate a play area although they agreed that a play area was needed.</p>	
13	<p>D Day Celebrations - At the Care Home, there would be Flag making, Paper Chains and hats with some of the children from the school attending. Scones have been offered for the event and gratefully accepted. A Plaque would be made with village names on. The school</p>	

	would be doing a competition which Urenco were sponsoring. There would be a Fish and Chip Van on the Village Green on the Saturday and Sunday, Cost would be £800. Urenco offered to cover this cost as long as free to residents. Bell ringing from the churches, Suggested purchase of a Lantern at a cost of £55, but could be used at other events and a possible exhibition in the Village Hall on the 8/6 but would need to pay for the rent of the hall.	
14	Members info - None	
	Meeting closed at 21.02 pm	

Minutes Approved

Date of Meeting



Chester Local Policing Unit Parish Council Update

Local Officers -

Sergeant – Gemma Ashton
Beat Manager – Harry Whinnett
Police Community Support Officer – Wendy Leason

Crime Update –
CAPENHURST
LEDHAM
2024

AND
JANUARY

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

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 18th January 11-12

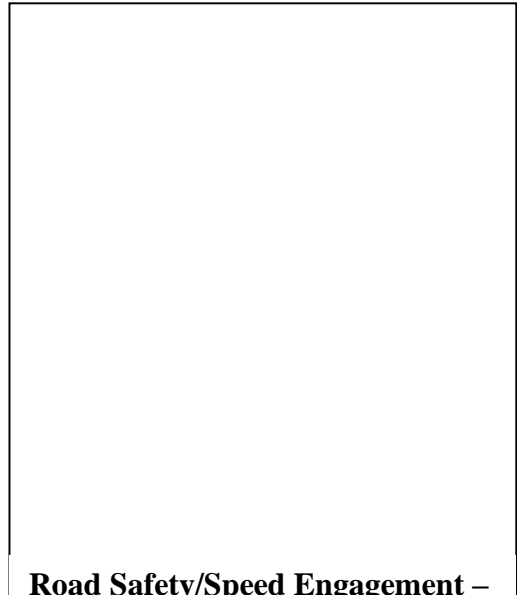
Thursday 8th February 11-12

Linda's Tea Rooms Saughall

Wednesday 17th January 11-12

Joint Police Councillors Surgery outside Co-op in Saughall Saturday 27th Jan 10-11

Please refer to the Cheshire Police website for full breakdown of crime statistics for you are



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](https://www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoicecheshire)



As part of our ongoing work to deter people from committing crime in

Cheshire, we have invested in forensic property marking kits to identify those responsible for theft. The work we are doing in this area of prevention is branded Operation Shield. Neighbourhood Policing Teams are visiting households and businesses to introduce forensic property marking. They are offering householders and business owners free kits which are made by a UK company called Selectamark Security Systems plc. Their product is called SelectaDNA.

What is SelectaDNA? It is a cutting-edge way of protecting your property from theft. Each bottle within the kit contains a unique DNA code and thousands of tiny microdots that, once applied, identify it as yours.

**Please
remain
vigilant**

and report any crime/suspicious activity via 101 or via Cheshire Police website - 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?