

**MINUTES OF MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY 2026
IN VICTORIA JUBILEE HALL, MALPAS AT 7.00PM**

	<p>PRESENT Cllrs Oliver Adam, Tina Barnett, Tony Dickenson, Charles Higgle, Julie James Collins, Dave Parry, Kirsty Parry, Susie Powell, Martin Shackleton. The Clerk. Ward Cllr Rachel Williams. Four members of the public attended part of the meeting. Two members of the public attended all of the meeting.</p>															
214.	<p>APOLOGIES Cllrs Alan Moore (holiday), Oryan Lightning (personal reason), Karen Meredith (personal reason), Michael Williams (personal reason). Resolved:- In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman the Council agreed to appoint Cllr Dave Parry to Chair the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Higgle and seconded by Cllr Adam.</p>															
215.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were no interests declared.</p>															
216.	<p>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES <u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th November 2025:-</u> Resolved:- The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting held on 27th November 2025 as a true and proper record. Proposed by Cllr Higgle and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.</p>															
217.	<p>OPEN FORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speed Limit in Oldcastle:- Andrew Alderson made a presentation to the Council, further to the response received from CWaC, regarding support for a reduction in the speed limit and / or traffic calming measures in Oldcastle. - War Memorial:- An appeal was received for the Council's support to add names to the war memorial. - Speed Limit on B5395:- Helen Craddock, Agden Parish Meeting, spoke to the meeting about a financial contribution towards a reduction in the speed limit on the B5395. CWaC is yet to confirm the cost; the Ward Cllr has offered to contribute towards the scheme from the members budget. - Zebra Crossing:- Chris Whitehurst stated that the lines need to be repainted. - Precept:- Adrian Waddelove requested that the Council does not raise the precept. 															
218.	<p>CASUAL VACANCY CWaC is due to send a new Notice of Election for the one vacancy.</p>															
219.	<p>POLICE REPORT The police report was circulated previously. The next police cluster meeting is on Tuesday 24th February 2026. Councillors are to submit any requests for any issues to be raised at the meeting. <i>Residents are urged to call 101 to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour.</i></p>															
220.	<p>ACCOUNTS 220.1 <u>To approve the following payments:-</u> The Council agreed to make the following online payments:-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Payee</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Stat Power</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">Parish Council Bank Account – Payments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Running Costs /</td> <td>s.111</td> <td>£ 113.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - PAYE mth 10</td> <td>lga 112-119</td> <td>£ 180.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Then Media</td> <td>s.111</td> <td>£ 48.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Stat Power	Amount	Parish Council Bank Account – Payments			Running Costs /	s.111	£ 113.16	HMRC - PAYE mth 10	lga 112-119	£ 180.53	Then Media	s.111	£ 48.00
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Running Costs /	s.111	£ 113.16														
HMRC - PAYE mth 10	lga 112-119	£ 180.53														
Then Media	s.111	£ 48.00														

The Accounts Centre – payroll services	s.111	£ 12.00
Jubilee Hall	s.111	£ 24.00
Core Highways - road closure Remembrance Sunday		£ 900.00
Core Highways - road closure Christmas Event		£1,908.00
Sheds Now (Balance for shed - paid from s106 monies)		£1,122.50
Christmas Trees		£1,008.00
Cadstones (Allotments costs - paid from s106 monies)		£ 313.44
HMRC - PAYE mth 9		£ 172.13
Events Committee Bank Account – Payments		
Christmas Event:- North West Medical Solutions		£ 336.00
Christmas Event:- Reimburse R Williams Grotto Costs		£ 741.06
Christmas Event:- Reimburse R Williams Grotto Costs		£ 67.50

The Clerk's salary was paid by standing order.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments.

Proposed by Cllr K Parry and seconded by Cllr Barnett.

220.2 Receipts Received as at 1st January 2026:-

Christmas Trees - £286.00

220.3 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:-

The Mossland Bank Account:- £4,719.43

Events Committee Bank Account:- £10,394.71

Parish Council Bank Account:- The summary of Receipts and Payments was previously circulated.

Current bank account reconciled balance as at 1st January 2026 - £290,990.75

The funds are allocated as follows:-

Parish Council - £30,202.90

New Homes Bonus - £23,265.78

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):- £235,699.01

Allotment Maintenance funds (ring fenced in accounts):- £87.83

Neighbourhood Plan:- (£284.28)

Christmas Tree (to be reimbursed) – (£721.28)

CCTV donations (to be reimbursed) – (£200.05)

S106 allocated to allotments - £2,940.84

220.4 Bank Account:-

The Council is to set up a deposit account with Lloyds.

220.5 Internal Audit:-

Resolved:- The Council agreed to appoint Morren Accountancy to carry out the internal audit for the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Adam and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.

220.6 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date figures as at 31st December 2025.

221. BUDGET SETTING FOR 2026 – 2027

The Council considered and set the budget for the 2026 – 2027 financial year (see attached).

222. PRECEPT

The Council considered setting the precept for the 2026 - 2027 financial year.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept for 2026 – 2027 financial year at £60,000.00. This represents an increase of £28,994.00 (93.5%) on the 2025 – 2026 precept amount. The Local Council Tax Charge for a Council Tax Band D property for 2026 – 2027 will increase by £26.16 to £53.86 per annum.

	Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr Powell.
223.	BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS - WORK PLAN 2026 / 2027 The top priorities remain the car parking project, village appearance, updating the Neighbourhood Plan and the blue plaques.
224.	PLANNING 224.1 <u>Planning Applications:-</u> 25/03699/FUL - Conversion from two C3 flats into a single C3 dwelling house at 2 Church View Church Street Malpas Observations:- The Council agreed to support the application. 25/03823/CAT - Oak (T1) - Crown reduction by up to 1.5-2m over roadside to allow for a more uniform canopy and to help reduce debris over road at Malpas Recreation Ground Oak Tree Rise Malpas Observations:- The Council agreed to support the application. Resolved:- The Council agreed to accept the above observations. Proposed by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr Shackleton. 224.2 <u>To consider any applications received after the agenda has been distributed:-</u> No new applications have been received. 224.3 <u>Recent decisions by CW&C:-</u> Approved:- 25/02391/TPO - Woodside 7 Love Lane Overton Malpas Decided:- 25/03197/CAT - Hillcrest Chester Road Malpas 224.4 <u>Rural Alliance meeting:-</u> A meeting was held on Tuesday 16 th December; attended by representatives from the following parish councils:- Tattenhall; Tarporley; Farndon. The objectives of the group were established as follows:- - To protect our Green Open Space; - To challenge the local plan; - To share Neighbourhood plans and recommendations; - To have some communicate with the planning working group; - To make sure that communications are happening with residents about the group's actions. The next step is to arrange a meeting with the CWAC Head of Planning, Rob Charnley. There is to be a pre and a post meeting of the group to agree the next steps and alliance. Rob Charnley is yet to confirm a date for the meeting. 224.5 <u>Planning Session with CWaC:-</u> There was a session with Rob Charnley, Head of Planning CWaC, on Thursday 22 nd January 2026, to discuss the revised local plan and the current planning process. Notes from the session are to be circulated.
225.	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (NPSG) Cllrs Meredith and Shackleton have a meeting with the consultants, Urban Village Enterprise, to progress the updates to the Neighbourhood Plan.
226.	MONTHLY SURGERY Ward Cllr Williams and Cllr Meredith attended the January surgery; no issues were raised.
227.	THE MOSSLAND Updates:- - The shed has been ordered and installed for the Allotments Association using the s106 funds. - The Clerk has a meeting with the Chairman of the Allotments Association in to discuss the next purchases.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The invoices for the annual rent for the allotments have all been paid. - The tenant who rents part of The Mossland, has contacted the Council to request that the pond that was installed in 2025 at the site by CWaC as part of a biodiversity programme be drained, filled in and re-seeded. The Clerk is making enquiries regarding the request and is to look to arrange a site meeting to discuss the request with Mr Reeves.
<p>228.</p> <p>228.1</p> <p>228.2</p> <p>228.3</p> <p>228.4</p>	<p>HIGHWAYS (INCL SLOW DOWN FOR MALPAS / SPEEDWATCH)</p> <p><u>Speedwatch:-</u> Cllr D Parry advised that no Speedwatch exercises have taken place recently.</p> <p><u>B5395 Speed Limit:-</u> The Council is due to consider the request received from Agden Parish Meeting for a contribution towards proposed reduction in speed limit once CWaC has provided costings.</p> <p><u>Speed Restrictions in Oldcastle:-</u> The Clerk has contacted CWaC with regards to the request for a survey to support a reduction in the speed limit in Oldcastle. CWA C has replied to advise that at first glance, the area is unlikely to meet assessment criteria for a reduction to 20 mph or 30mph. A 40mph or 50mph speed limit may be recommended. The cost to carry out the assessment would be between £1,500.00 - £2,500.00 (depending on how many roads are to be assessed). To implement any recommended change to the speed limit there would be a further cost of at least £2,000.00. The Parish Council would be expected to pay all the above. This information has been shared with the resident. The Council agreed to write to CWaC to request what they suggest can be done to help reduce the speed in Oldcastle (e.g. could a sign for an advisory speed limit be installed) and also to request that temporary speed restrictions are introduced when diversions are in place). It was noted that Oldcastle residents may be prepared to contribute towards any initiatives.</p> <p><u>Speed Limit on Chester Road:-</u> CWA C has written to request the Council's support of the proposed extension to the existing 30 mph speed limit for 75 metres into the existing 40 mph speed limit (an advisory 20 mph signs is to be introduced at Bishop Heber High School). A reply has been sent to CWaC to advise Council are supportive of the proposed extension.</p>
<p>229.</p>	<p>MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC)</p> <p>Cllr D Parry advised that the balance of the loan has reduced by £4,500.00. The Clerk to MJBC has advised that CWaC may withdraw their annual grant towards maintenance costs of the cemetery. This means that Councils who are members of MJBC will have to look to precept an additional amount to cover maintenance costs. It is unlikely that the parish meetings will be in a position to contribute as they do not raise a precept, therefore both Malpas Parish Council and No Mans Heath and District Parish Council will have to share the cost on a pro rata basis.</p>
<p>230.</p>	<p>MALPAS COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>The Council has received a request from Malpas United Reformed Church, which is in the process of being sold, regarding the burial ground which is part of the church site. As part of the sale process, the Church is seeking to ensure that the burial ground is preserved and maintained appropriately in the future, in recognition of its historical and</p>

	<p>community significance. The Church has therefore enquired as to whether the Council would be willing to consider taking ownership of, or responsibility for, the burial ground.</p> <p>Resolved:- The Council agreed to decline the request to take on either the ownership or responsibility for the burial ground on the basis that it is likely to incur works in the future which would fall on the Council to pay for. The Clerk is to advise Malpas United Reformed Church of the decision.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr James Collins and seconded by Cllr K Parry.</p>
231.	<p>WAR MEMORIAL</p> <p>18.1 <u>War Memorial Group:-</u> Resolved:- The Council agreed to nominate Cllr D Parry as the Council's representative on the War Memorial Group. Proposed by Cllr Higgle and seconded by Cllr James Collins.</p> <p>18.2 <u>Update to the War Memorial:-</u> The Council considered the request to formally resolve to ask the War Memorial Group to update the War Memorial on behalf of the Council and agreed to wait to receive the costs for the proposed work.</p>
232.	<p>APPEARANCE OF MALPAS</p> <p>232.1 <u>Floral Displays:-</u> Cllr Powell has a meeting with Walkers regarding floral displays for the lamppost.</p> <p>232.2 <u>Street Orderly:-</u> The Council considered contractual information in Part 2.</p>
233.	<p>BT RED PHONE BOX, CHURCH STREET</p> <p>Update:- Insurance:- The phone box is covered under the Council's public liability. The Council agreed not to take out cover for Material Damage. Lock:- The Council is waiting to receive the quote for a lock.</p>
234.	<p>CCTV EXTENSION</p> <p>Update:- A letter was sent to request permission from the property owner to install the CCTV. No reply received to date. Cllr Shackleton is to follow this up. Once permission has been obtained the PC is to instruct Barlows to extend the CCTV in the village as per the quote of £3,532.60 plus VAT (the CCTV would be extending to the High Street, Chester Road and Church Street).</p>
235.	<p>CLAYHOLE CROFT</p> <p>No update.</p>
236.	<p>EVENTS COMMITTEE</p> <p>Ward Cllr Williams informed the meeting that the Christmas Event was a success in the village and thanked all the volunteers for their help with the event. There are plans to hold an event in the summer.</p>
237.	<p>MALPAS QR HISTORY TOUR</p> <p>Ward Cllr Williams is to contact You Media regarding the delivery of the project.</p>
238.	<p>RECYCLING BLISTER PACKS</p> <p>The recycling blister box is full; arrangements are being made for it to be collected and to order another box.</p>
239.	<p>ST OSWALDS CHURCH</p> <p>The Council discussed whether to put in a submission in the Independent Review of the United Benefice Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton. The Diocese has already interviewed the Chairman of the Council who has stated the Council's views. The Council decided there was no need to submit a written statement.</p>
240.	<p>UK TOWN OF CULTURE</p> <p>The Council considered whether to submit an application for Malpas to be considered as the UK Town of Culture. It was agreed not to pursue it at this time.</p>

	The Clerk is to contact Cheshire Community Action and enquire if they have any plans to reintroduce the Best Kept Village Competition.	
241.	CLERK'S REPORT	
	No.	Item
	241.1	The Mossland - Charity Commission Update from meeting with Highways, CWaC - 8/12/25:- Location confirmed with affected residents. CWaC is awaiting confirmation of supplier before raising works order.
	241.2	VAS Old Hall Street Update from meeting with Highways, CWaC - 8/12/25: CWaC confirmed that a works order has been raised to renew the road markings at the zebra crossing on Chester Road, Malpas. Officers are currently awaiting the return of quotation for the works from the Highways term maintenance contractor, Colas. They are sorry that they are unable to provide a date for the renewal of the road markings currently. However, officers are liaising with Colas to ensure the works are completed as soon as possible.
	241.3	Zebra Crossing on Chester Road Item has been purchased and delivered.
	241.4	Body Camera Arrangements made for session on Thursday 22 nd January.
	241.5	CWaC planning session Letter sent to CWaC regarding registering the church land as a village green and an Asset of Community Value.
	241.6	Church Land Placed order with Urban Village enterprise for work on Neighbourhood Plan.
	241.7	Neighbourhood Plan The Council has received an enquiry from a resident to ask as to why the Council not did not list the Community Church as an ACV. A reply was sent to advise that the item was discussed by the Council at the May meeting along with the knowledge that the building was about to be put up for sale on the open market and it was agreed not to pursue with the request.
	241.8	Query regarding Community Church Cllr Adam has offered to refill the dispensers in the village; the Clerk is to make arrangements to get more bags.
	241.9	Dog Bag Dispensers
242.	EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING SUGGESTION BOX List previously circulated to Cllrs.	
243	UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES There was no consideration of this item.	
	Part 2 - PRESS AND PUBLIC Resolved:- To resolve to exclude the press and members of the public as the items to be discussed relate to contractual matters which are of a sensitive nature. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr K Parry.	

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

NB copies of the attachments can be obtained from the Parish Clerk

Item 221 - BUDGET SETTING FOR 2026 – 2027

Precept Calculation for 2026 – 2027

ITEM	FIGURES USED TO SET PRECEPT 01/04/25 - 31/03/26	TOTAL OF Actual + Forecast to 31/03/2026	FORECASTED BUDGET 01/04/26 - 31/03/27
RECEIPTS	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Precept	£31,006.00	£31,006.00	£60,000.00
MJBC - FUNDS TO PAY PAYE	£ -	£ 566.40	£-
VAT Reimbursement	£ 2,435.08	£ 2,435.08	£ 2,741.83
Sub Total	£33,441.08	£34,007.48	£62,741.83
RECEIPTS PAID INTO THE RING FENCED FUNDS IN PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT			
<i>Events Committee (transfer funds)</i>	£ -	£ -	£ -
CIL	£ -	£ 4,519.53	£ -
<i>Christmas Trees</i>	£ -	£ 286.00	£ -
<i>s106 allocated to Allotments Assoc</i>	£ -	£ 4,645.00	£ -
<i>Members Budget (for road closure)</i>	£ -	£ 1,590.00	£ -
Sub Total	£ -	£11,040.53	£ -
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£33,441.08	£45,048.01	£62,741.83
PAYMENTS			
Clerks Salary	£12,238.74	£13,984.59	£ 14,543.97
Running Costs	£ 764.28	£ 764.28	£ 794.85
Payroll Services	£ -	£ 120.00	£ 124.80
Insurance	£ 847.92	£ 912.37	£ 948.86
Rent	£ 861.95	£ 861.95	£ 896.43
Annual Subs	£ 804.95	£ 800.75	£ 832.78
Audit Fees	£ 453.20	£ 545.00	£ 566.80
Clock Maintenance	£ 534.49	£ 534.49	£ 555.87
Website	£ 760.14	£ 760.14	£ 790.55
Training	£ 235.66	£ 235.66	£ 245.09
Election Contingency (note 1)	£ 1,701.77	£ -	£ 1,701.77
Information Commissioner Office	£ 43.31	£ 43.31	£ 45.04
Village Maintenance	£ 2,402.41	£ 2,402.41	£ 2,498.51
Road Closure for Remembrance Sunday	£ 648.90	£ 750.00	£ 780.00
Bank Charges	£ -	£ 51.00	£ 53.04
Sub - Total	£22,297.72	£22,765.95	£25,378.36

PARISH COUNCIL NON ESSENTIAL PAYMENTS			
Sundries / contingency / legal fees	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ -
New Christmas Lights and tree lights	£ 4,000.00	£ 2,895.00	£ 2,000.00
Christmas Lights - installation	£ 2,500.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00
Grants	£ 6,000.00	£10,201.65	£10,000.00
Community Resilience Plan	£ -	£ -	£ -
Laptop	£ -	£ 695.28	£ -
Highways (note 2)	£ 2,500.00	£ -	£ 4,000.00
Events Committee (note 3)	£ 2,500.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00
Biodiversity	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ -
Malpas History QR Code Project (note 4)	£ 2,000.00	£ -	£ 2,000.00
BT Box Project	£ -	£ 1.00	£ -
Neighbourhood Plan	£ 5,500.00	£ 5,500.00	£ 5,000.00
Christmas event	£ -	£ 21.00	£ -
MJBC - FUNDS TO PAY PAYE	£ -	£ 459.40	£ -
Recycling project	£ -	£ 65.45	£ -
Speedwatch project	£ -	£ 83.32	£ -
****NEW PROJECTS****			
<i>Hanging baskets</i>	£ -	£ -	£ 2,400.00
<i>STREET ORDERLEY</i>	£ -	£ -	£ 12,000.00
<i>MJBC CONTRIBUTION / REQUEST</i>	£ -	£ -	£ 5,000.00
VAT (this to be reclaimed)	£ -	£ 2,741.83	£ -
Sub - Total	£30,500.00	£30,163.93	£49,400.00
PAYMENTS FROM RING FENCED FUNDS IN PARISH COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT			
<i>BANK ACCOUNT TRANSFER - TRANSFER TO M/L A/C</i>		£ 300.00	£ -
<i>Christmas Trees</i>		£ 1,008.00	£ -
<i>s106 allocated to Allotments Assoc</i>		£ 1,704.16	£ -
<i>Members Budget (for Christmas event)</i>		£ 1,590.00	£ -
Sub - Total	£ -	£ 4,602.16	£ -
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£52,797.72	£57,532.04	£74,778.36
	OPENING BAL BANK BALANCE @ 1/04/2025	FORECAST BANK BALANCE @ 31/03/26	FORECAST OPENING BANK BALANCE @ 01/04/26
Opening Parish Council Funds Available	£34,936.80	£34,936.80	£16,014.40
ADD			
Receipts	£33,441.08	£34,007.48	£62,741.83
LESS			
Essential Payments	-£22,297.72	-£22,765.95	-£25,378.36
Non Essential Payments	-£30,500.00	-£30,163.93	-£49,400.00
Closing Parish Council Funds Available at Bank	£15,580.16	£16,014.40	£ 3,977.87

Notes *

Note 1 - Election Contingency - £0 allocated in 26/27 PLUS unspent funds of £1,701.77 rolled over from 25/26 = £1,701.77 available funds

Note 2 – Highways - £1,500 allocated in 26/27 PLUS unspent funds of £2,500 rolled over from 25/26 = £4,000 available funds

Note 3 – Events Committee - £2,500 allocated in 26/27 PLUS unspent funds of £2,500 rolled over from 25/26 = £5,000 available funds

Note 4 – Malpas QR Code project - £0 allocated in 26/27 PLUS unspent funds of £2,000 rolled over from 25/26 = £2,000 available funds

* The allotments income and key deposits have been transferred to The Mossland bank account

** VAT claim is submitted after the financial year end

Forecast payments are based on an approximate 4 % increase