

**MINUTES OF MALPAS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026
IN VICTORIA JUBILEE HALL, MALPAS AT 7.00PM**

	PRESENT Cllrs Oliver Adam, Suzanne Adam, Tina Barnett, Tony Dickenson, Charles Higgie, Julie James Collins, Alan Moore (Chairman), Dave Parry, Kirsty Parry, Susie Powell, The Clerk. Five members of the public attended part of the meeting. One member of the public attended all of the meeting.
1.	APOLOGIES Cllr Michael Williams. Ward Cllr Rachel Williams.
2.	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2026 – 2027 Resolved:- Cllr Moore was proposed for the position of Chairman by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr James Collins. Cllr Moore was duly elected as Chairman for 2026 – 2027 and signed the acceptance of office declaration.
3.	ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2026 – 2027 Resolved:- Cllr D Parry was proposed for the position of Vice Chairman by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr Dickinson. Cllr D Parry was duly elected as Vice Chairman for 2026 – 2027 and signed the acceptance of office declaration.
4.	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were none declared.
5.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES <u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 30th April 2026:-</u> Resolved:- The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council Business Meeting held on 30th April 2026 as a true and proper record. Proposed by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr O Adam.
6.	CASUAL VACANCY The Council noted that two vacancies have arisen following the resignations of Martin Shackleton and Karen Meredith. CWaC has been notified of one vacancy and the statutory notice has been published on the Council website, Facebook page and noticeboard. The Clerk is to notify CWaC of the second vacancy and post the relevant notice.
7.	OPEN FORUM The following matters were raised:- - A representative from Malpas Community Minibus apologised for the late submission of the grant application and explained the purpose of the grant request. - A representative from 617 (Heber) Squadron RAF Cadets apologised for the late submission of the grant application and outlined the purpose of the request. - A representative from Malpas Darts Group spoke in support of the recently submitted grant application.
8.	COUNCIL REGULATIONS 8.1 <u>To agree adoption of the Financial Regulations:-</u> Resolved: - The Council adopted the Financial Regulations Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam. 8.2 <u>To agree adoption of the Standing Orders:-</u> Resolved: - The Council adopted the Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam. 8.3 <u>To agree adoption of Code of Conduct:-</u> Resolved: - The Council adopted the Code of Conduct. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam.

8.4	<u>To confirm the appointment of the Responsible Financial Officer:-</u> Resolved: - The Council confirmed the appointment of Ruth Shackleton as the Responsible Financial Officer. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam.												
8.5	<u>To confirm the appointment of Bank Signatories:-</u> Resolved: - The Council confirmed the appointment of Cllrs Barnett, Higgle, Williams and the Clerk Ruth Shackleton as Bank Signatories. The Council agreed to add Cllr Moore as a new bank signatory and to remove Karen Meredith. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam.												
8.6	<u>To approve the Financial Risk Assessment:-</u> Resolved: - The Council adopted the Financial Risk Assessment. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam.												
8.7	<u>To approve the Complaints Procedure:-</u> Resolved: - The Council adopted the Complaints Procedure. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr S Adam.												
9.	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Council noted the joint Chairman and Vice Chairman's Report (see attached). The report is to be posted on the Council's website.												
10.	INTERNAL PROCEDURES 10.1 <u>Communications Register and Strategy:-</u> The Communications Register and Strategy will be considered at the June meeting. 10.2 <u>Social Media:-</u> The Council discussed the principle of a "single source of truth" in relation to Councillors' interaction with social media. Resolved: - The Council agreed that any reports of Council meetings circulated to the public by Councillors, other than through the Communications Working Group, must accurately reflect the approved minutes of the meeting at which the matter was discussed. Any issues that a Councillor wishes to place in the public domain, which have not yet been confirmed through the approval of the minutes by Council, must first be cleared with either the Clerk or the Councillor chairing the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr O Adam. 10.3 <u>Cllr Statement:-</u> Cllr Higgle read out a statement to the Council, which was noted by the Council. Resolved: - The Council agreed not to include Cllr Higgle's request to include the statement in the minutes Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr James Collins.												
11.	POLICE REPORT The Clerk is in the process of making arrangements for the next Cluster meeting. <i>Residents are urged to call 101 to report all incidents of anti-social or criminal behaviour.</i>												
12.	ACCOUNTS 12.1 <u>CHALC:-</u> Resolved:- The Council agreed to renew the membership with CHALC. Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Powell. 12.2 <u>To approve the following payments:-</u> The Council agreed to make the following online payments:- <table><tr><td>Payee</td><td>Stat Power</td><td>Amount</td></tr><tr><td>Parish Council payments</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Running Costs</td><td>s.111</td><td>£ 112.06</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC - PAYE mth 2</td><td>lga 112-119</td><td>£ 186.30</td></tr></table>	Payee	Stat Power	Amount	Parish Council payments			Running Costs	s.111	£ 112.06	HMRC - PAYE mth 2	lga 112-119	£ 186.30
Payee	Stat Power	Amount											
Parish Council payments													
Running Costs	s.111	£ 112.06											
HMRC - PAYE mth 2	lga 112-119	£ 186.30											

	Then Media	s.111	£ 28.80
	Then Media (Community website)	s.111	£ 619.20
	The Accounts Centre – payroll services	s.111	£ 12.00
	Victoria Jubilee Hall - room hire	s.111	
	UVE Planning - NP Professional Fees		£1,401.60
	Morren Accountancy Ltd (Internal audit)	s.111	£ 150.00
	Zurich Municipal insurance	s.111	£ 912.37
	The Mossland payments		
	Morren Accountancy Ltd (Independent Examiners Report)	s.111	£ 150.00
	M Williams (reimburse cost of lock Screwfix)		£ 24.29
	Mark Sproston (hedge cutting at The Mossland)		£ 200.00
	The Clerk's salary was paid by standing order. Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments. Proposed by Cllr James Collins and seconded by Cllr Dickenson. 12.3 <u>Receipts Received as at 30th April 2026:-</u> Parish Council account:- Precept:- £60,000.00 HMRC VAT Refund:- £7,471.42 (Breakdown - MPC - £3,768.88; MJBC - £3,314.33; Events Committee - £220.49; The Mossland - £167.72) 12.4 <u>Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:-</u> The summary of Receipts and Payments was previously circulated. The reconciled balance in the deposit bank account as at 1st May 2026 was £ 259,109.54. The reconciled balance in the current bank account as at 1st May 2026 was £82,498.83 The funds are allocated as follows:- Parish Council - £81,857.61 s106 allocated to allotments - £1,438.83 Neighbourhood Plan:- (£284.28) Christmas Tree (to be reimbursed) – (£313.28) CCTV donations (to be reimbursed) – (£200.05) 12.5 <u>S.106:-</u> The Council has contacted CWaC to request an up to date list of s.106 monies that are available to the Council		
13.	ANNUAL AUDIT 13.1 <u>To agree the Fixed Asset register:-</u> Resolved: - The Council agreed to approve the Fixed Asset Register. Proposed by Cllr Dickenson and seconded by Cllr James Collins. 13.2 <u>To approve the Annual Governance Statement:-</u> Resolved: - The Council approved and signed the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2026 for the purpose of the External Audit. Proposed by Cllr Dickenson and seconded by Cllr James Collins. 13.3 <u>To approve the year end accounts, explanation of variances and audit summary 2025-2026 and to approve the Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2026:-</u> Resolved: - The Council approved and signed the year end accounts, explanation of variances and audit summary 2025 - 2026 and approved the Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2026 for the purpose of the External Audit.		

	Proposed by Cllr Dickenson and seconded by Cllr James Collins. 13.4 <u>Internal Audit:-</u> Morren Accountancy has carried out the Internal Audit; there were no issues raised.																																																	
14.	ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES / COMMITTEES Resolved:- That the Council appoints the above Councillors as listed below:- <table border="1"> <tr> <td>14.1</td><td>Malpas Joint Burial Committee</td><td>Cllrs D Parry, K Parry, O Adam</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.2</td><td>Ches Assoc of Town & Parish Councils</td><td>Cllrs Higgie, Moore</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.3</td><td>Recreation Ground Committee</td><td>Cllr Powell</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.4</td><td>Young Persons Project</td><td>Cllr Powell</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.5</td><td>Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee</td><td>Cllr Moore</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.6</td><td>Financial Scrutiniser</td><td>Cllr James Collins</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.7</td><td>Internal Procedures Working Group</td><td>Cllrs Moore, Williams</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.8</td><td>Planning Working Group</td><td>Lead – Cllr Moore</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.9</td><td>Personnel Committee</td><td>Cllrs Moore, Williams, James Collins</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.10</td><td>Neighbourhood Plan Working Group</td><td>Cllrs Dickenson, Higgie, Moore, Williams</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.11</td><td>Climate Emergency Working Group</td><td>Cllr Williams</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.12</td><td>Social Media Moderator</td><td>Cllr S Adam</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.13</td><td>Website Admin</td><td>Cllr S Adam and the Clerk</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.14</td><td>Highways Working Group</td><td>Cllr Williams</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.15</td><td>Events Committee</td><td>All Cllrs</td></tr> <tr> <td>14.16</td><td>Comms Working Group</td><td>Cllr S Adam</td></tr> </table> Resolved:- That the Council agrees to the above appointments. Proposed by Cllr James Collins and seconded by Cllr Barnett.		14.1	Malpas Joint Burial Committee	Cllrs D Parry, K Parry, O Adam	14.2	Ches Assoc of Town & Parish Councils	Cllrs Higgie, Moore	14.3	Recreation Ground Committee	Cllr Powell	14.4	Young Persons Project	Cllr Powell	14.5	Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee	Cllr Moore	14.6	Financial Scrutiniser	Cllr James Collins	14.7	Internal Procedures Working Group	Cllrs Moore, Williams	14.8	Planning Working Group	Lead – Cllr Moore	14.9	Personnel Committee	Cllrs Moore, Williams, James Collins	14.10	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group	Cllrs Dickenson, Higgie, Moore, Williams	14.11	Climate Emergency Working Group	Cllr Williams	14.12	Social Media Moderator	Cllr S Adam	14.13	Website Admin	Cllr S Adam and the Clerk	14.14	Highways Working Group	Cllr Williams	14.15	Events Committee	All Cllrs	14.16	Comms Working Group	Cllr S Adam
14.1	Malpas Joint Burial Committee	Cllrs D Parry, K Parry, O Adam																																																
14.2	Ches Assoc of Town & Parish Councils	Cllrs Higgie, Moore																																																
14.3	Recreation Ground Committee	Cllr Powell																																																
14.4	Young Persons Project	Cllr Powell																																																
14.5	Victoria Jubilee Hall Committee	Cllr Moore																																																
14.6	Financial Scrutiniser	Cllr James Collins																																																
14.7	Internal Procedures Working Group	Cllrs Moore, Williams																																																
14.8	Planning Working Group	Lead – Cllr Moore																																																
14.9	Personnel Committee	Cllrs Moore, Williams, James Collins																																																
14.10	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group	Cllrs Dickenson, Higgie, Moore, Williams																																																
14.11	Climate Emergency Working Group	Cllr Williams																																																
14.12	Social Media Moderator	Cllr S Adam																																																
14.13	Website Admin	Cllr S Adam and the Clerk																																																
14.14	Highways Working Group	Cllr Williams																																																
14.15	Events Committee	All Cllrs																																																
14.16	Comms Working Group	Cllr S Adam																																																
15.	GRANT PROCESS The Council considered whether to accept late grant applications received from:- - 617 (Heber) Squadron, RAF Air cadets (Community Engagement) £1,975.00 - Malpas Community Minibus Association (insurance costs) £1,641.00 Resolved:- That the Council agreed to consider both the above grant applications. Proposed by Cllr Higgie and seconded by Cllr O Adam. The Council considered the grant applications received. Resolved:- The Council agreed not to award grants to the following organisations:- - Nomansheath Allotment Growers - Malpas Bowling Club and Social Institute - Protect Malpas The Council agreed the following grant awards:- <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation</th><th>Project</th><th>Amount</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Malpas Darts Group</td><td>Malpas Darts Group</td><td>£ 700.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Malpas Young Persons Centre</td><td>Young Persons Project</td><td>£1,500.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Malpas Community Links</td><td>Malpas War Memorial Upgrade</td><td>£2,500.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Garrison Explorer Scouts</td><td>Camping Equipment</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>617 (Heber) Squadron</td><td>Community Engagement</td><td>£1,975.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Malpas Community Minibus Assoc</td><td>Insurance</td><td>£1,641.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td><td></td><td>£9,316.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The Clerk is to contact Garrison Explorer Scouts to request for clarification regarding the sum requested for International Fund Raising. Proposed by Cllr O Adam and seconded by Cllr Dickenson.		Organisation	Project	Amount	Malpas Darts Group	Malpas Darts Group	£ 700.00	Malpas Young Persons Centre	Young Persons Project	£1,500.00	Malpas Community Links	Malpas War Memorial Upgrade	£2,500.00	Garrison Explorer Scouts	Camping Equipment	£1,000.00	617 (Heber) Squadron	Community Engagement	£1,975.00	Malpas Community Minibus Assoc	Insurance	£1,641.00	TOTAL		£9,316.00																								
Organisation	Project	Amount																																																
Malpas Darts Group	Malpas Darts Group	£ 700.00																																																
Malpas Young Persons Centre	Young Persons Project	£1,500.00																																																
Malpas Community Links	Malpas War Memorial Upgrade	£2,500.00																																																
Garrison Explorer Scouts	Camping Equipment	£1,000.00																																																
617 (Heber) Squadron	Community Engagement	£1,975.00																																																
Malpas Community Minibus Assoc	Insurance	£1,641.00																																																
TOTAL		£9,316.00																																																

16.	ASSERTION 10 The Clerk is due to commence the changeover to the new email address ending in .gov.uk and will notify relevant parties accordingly.
17.	BUSINESS PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS - WORK PLAN 2026 / 2027 17.1 <u>Floral Displays:-</u> The order has been placed with Walkers for 24 self-watering hanging baskets at a total cost of £1,458.84 plus VAT. The hanging baskets are reusable. Whilst the baskets are self-watering, additional watering may still be required as necessary, and the Council discussed the ongoing watering arrangements. Resolved:- That the Council instruct Walkers to carry out regular watering of the plants at a total cost of £1,798.20 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr Powell and seconded by Cllr D Parry. 17.2 <u>Clayhole Croft:-</u> Cllr Moore and the Clerk met with Driftwood Construction to discuss proposed works regarding drainage and clearing the site; they are due to advise start date. Resolved:- That the Council instruct Driftwood Construction to carry out the proposed works regarding drainage and clearing the site at a cost of £6,000.00 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr K Parry and seconded by Cllr O Adam. 17.3 <u>BT Phone Box, Church Street:-</u> An order has been placed with Colin Bennett to provide a lock / padlock. 17.4 <u>Malpas QR History Tour:-</u> YOU media has confirmed the project costs as follows for Web Design - for Malpas Village Locations Multi Page Wordpress CMS Website Including: - Content Pages with Content and Imagery - Vector Logo Creation - Custom Build to suit branding / styles and liked layouts - Image Editing as Required and Free Plugins as Required - Mobile optimisation - Imagery Editing - Rocket Caching Installation - Site from test to live server - Privacy Policy Page On Page SEO: - Description and Meta as required - Alt tagging as required Total: £2,500.00 Resolved:- That the Council agree to the quote supplied by YOU Media to enable the Malpas QR History Tour as detailed above. Proposed by Cllr D Parry and seconded by Cllr Dickenson. 17.5 <u>CCTV Extension:-</u> The Clerk is in the process of making enquiries regarding an alternative location and sourcing quotes. The Council discussed appointing a CCTV co-ordinator. Resolved:- The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Moore as the CCTV co-ordinator. Proposed by Cllr James Collins and seconded by Cllr Powell.
18.	PLANNING 18.1 <u>Planning Applications:-</u> 18.1.1 26/01081/FUL - Change of use from shop at ground floor and flat at first floor to a dwelling, to include demolition of rear extensions and construction of new extensions at 25 Church Street Malpas

	Resolved:- The Council agreed to support the application. Proposed by Cllr Dickenson and seconded by Cllr Powell. 18.2 <u>To consider any applications received after the agenda has been distributed:-</u> None have been received. 18.3 <u>Recent decisions by CW&C:-</u> Approved:- 25/03546/FUL - Flat The Malpas Chippy Church Street Malpas
19.	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (NPSG) CWaC has raised queries in relation to the updated Neighbourhood Plan submitted by the Council. Cllr Moore, having taken over the lead role for planning matters, will review the queries following discussions with Karen Meredith.
20.	MONTHLY SURGERY Cllrs also noted positive feedback received from attendees at the May surgery, who thanked the Parish Council for its work and commented favourably on the recent communications issued by the Council. The following matters were raised at the surgery:- 20.1 <u>Speeding on Well Meadow:-</u> Resident raised concerns regarding speeding vehicles on Well Meadow, which is currently subject to a 40mph speed limit. It was reported that the speed limit is frequently exceeded, with concerns also expressed regarding the increasing number of vehicles using the road as a cut-through route from Malpas via No Man's Heath to the A41, including approximately 7–8 coaches per day. Residents advised that the road is becoming increasingly dangerous. Suggested Actions: - To undertake a speed monitoring exercise, similar to that carried out in Oldcastle, in order to assess the extent of the issue. The Speedwatch team is to carry out a survey. - Cllr D Parry to provide the resident with an update. 20.2 <u>Land for Sale on Hughes Lane:-</u> Concerns were raised regarding the land for sale near the bowling green on Hughes Lane. The sales particulars indicate potential development options including approximately 20 smaller houses, 9 larger dwellings, or a care home with fewer houses. Concerns related to increased traffic exiting onto Hughes Lane, the level of social housing provision, the appearance of any future development, and disruption during construction works, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times when Hughes Lane is frequently used for parking. Suggested Actions: - To clarify the social housing requirements applicable to any future development. It is understood this may be 10% for developments of more than 10 dwellings; the planning team to confirm. - To review the original planning application for the Hughes Lane development of 60+ houses to establish whether CWAC imposed any restrictions on the number of dwellings permitted. The planning team is to comment. - To seek an update from Rachel Williams regarding the adoption status of Hughes Lane, which has not yet been adopted by CWaC. - Cllr D and K Parry to provide residents with an update.
21.	THE MOSSLAND The Clerk is due to meet with the Allotments Association to discuss financial matters and related issues. A new lock has been installed at the site. An invoice has been issued to Mr Reeves for the annual rent of the land.
22.	HIGHWAYS (INCL SLOW DOWN FOR MALPAS / SPEEDWATCH) 22.1 <u>Speedwatch:-</u> Cllr D Parry has put out a request for volunteers to assist carrying out future Speedwatch exercises.

	22.2 VAS:- The Clerk has again chased Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) regarding the installation date for the VAS at Old Hall Street, reminding officers that the scheme is being funded through Section 106 monies and has been ongoing for some time. Ward Cllr Williams is also liaising with CWaC regarding the matter.																		
23.	MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC) Cllr D Parry advised there is a meeting on 4th June and that MJBC will be considering the Terms of Reference.																		
24.	EVENTS COMMITTEE Cllr James Collins updated the meeting on the proposed plans for the Summer Fair, including potential activities and event requirements. The proposed date for the event is 30 August. Ward Cllr Williams is leading on the arrangements for the event, and a further meeting is to be held to discuss the proposals in more detail.																		
25.	<table><tr><th colspan="3">CLERK'S REPORT</th></tr><tr><th>No.</th><th>Item</th><th>Update</th></tr><tr><td>25.1</td><td>The Mossland - Charity Commission</td><td>No further update from CCA (Cheshire Community Action).</td></tr><tr><td>25.2</td><td>Village Pump</td><td>Cllr Moore is to make enquiries regarding the pump.</td></tr><tr><td>25.3</td><td>Website</td><td>Request has been sent to Then Media to add a new 'Summaries' tab be added on the .gov.uk site so as we can load updates.</td></tr><tr><td>25.4</td><td>MJBC email</td><td>Request sent to Then Media to set up new email address.</td></tr></table>	CLERK'S REPORT			No.	Item	Update	25.1	The Mossland - Charity Commission	No further update from CCA (Cheshire Community Action).	25.2	Village Pump	Cllr Moore is to make enquiries regarding the pump.	25.3	Website	Request has been sent to Then Media to add a new 'Summaries' tab be added on the .gov.uk site so as we can load updates.	25.4	MJBC email	Request sent to Then Media to set up new email address.
CLERK'S REPORT																			
No.	Item	Update																	
25.1	The Mossland - Charity Commission	No further update from CCA (Cheshire Community Action).																	
25.2	Village Pump	Cllr Moore is to make enquiries regarding the pump.																	
25.3	Website	Request has been sent to Then Media to add a new 'Summaries' tab be added on the .gov.uk site so as we can load updates.																	
25.4	MJBC email	Request sent to Then Media to set up new email address.																	
26.	EXTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE List previously circulated to Cllrs.																		
27.	UPDATES FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES Recreation Ground:- Cllrs expressed their horror and disgust at the recent arson attacks that have taken place.																		
28.	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 Higgie and seconded by O Adam.																		

The meeting closed at

8.50 p.m.

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

Malpas Parish Council – Chairman's Report 2025 - 26

I would like to begin by apologising for our Chair Mike Williams not being present this evening as he is unable to be present due to circumstances unrelated to the Parish Council. He has asked that we express our sincere thanks to our Clerk Ruth for the continued hard work, professionalism, and expertise she brings to the Council. Her dedication ensures that the Council operates smoothly and effectively, and her support is greatly appreciated by us all. It would also be appropriate to thank councillors for their commitment over the past year. Councillors active participation in meetings, along with the considerable work undertaken outside of them, has been invaluable. It is especially pleasing to see that we now have enjoyed a full council for some part of the year, which strengthens our ability to serve the parish effectively.

It would also be important to record special thanks to Cllrs Martin Shackleton and Karen Meredith who leave us this month. Both have been long-serving members but more especially have worked long and hard over the years to bring our responses to planning issues up to a level where we are better prepared and well informed. Their work on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan over the past 2 years has been constantly beset with problems not of their making and I would like to recognise the excellent progress that has been made which will need to be carried forward by others. Bringing it to the present stage involved a great deal of effort and collaboration, and their work completed so far is commendable in the face of intransigence further along the planning line.

This year has not been without its challenges, particularly in relation to planning matters over which as a Parish Council we have no control. However, Planning will most certainly be a major issue going forward with two large housing projects having been submitted for Cheshire West approval as well as a third that may well happen, all of which raise serious concerns on the impact for the Village and its residents. The Parish Council will work with all residents to ensure that their views are heard and considered in all of our responses. It is also very encouraging that we now have regular liaison meetings on a range of issues with many other parishes and ward councillors and have joined with them in the Rural Alliance which will stand up to preserve and support the Countryside for years to come. These meetings are proving to be highly beneficial in improving communication and cooperation across the wider area. We meet quarterly with them and Cheshire Police to push for better safety locally and on the improvement of our CCTV coverage in the Village in particular I would like to highlight the work of several working groups in the Parish. The Speedwatch team, which is doing excellent work in helping to improve road safety within our community. Likewise, the Burial Ground Committee and all the volunteers they work with as they continue to do a splendid job maintaining and managing this important local facility under difficult financial conditions. The Events team who arrange the Christmas Market and Grotto, and Summer Fair along with our Ward Councillor Rachel Williams, The Appearance of Malpas team, who are organising hanging baskets, are also looking to find a contractor to keep the Village appearance generally better and bring forward ideas to lift the feel good factor generally. Last but not least the Publicity team who have been recently formed with the express role to keep Malpas up to date on Parish Council work and promote the Village (not necessarily for housing development!) to a wider audience and maintain a consistent and authorised message across the media in general.

While much has been achieved, there remain several important projects that we must bring to completion. These include the installation of CCTV , the car park and the Clayhole Croft project, which have seen progress this year but would benefit from being finalised in the coming year. In addition, matters such as the ownership of the former BT phonebox and our continued participation in Remembrance Day and other events remain important priorities.

It would be remiss of me not to mention finances. As a Parish Council it has been nearly 5 years since there was any increase in the monies we have requested from Parishioners to support the work we needed to do. We have asked for a noticeable increase for the 2026/7 period to address three principal matters which have already been referred to. Firstly to enable us to pay for professional advice and assistance in respect of any and all planning matters that already are and will be certainly coming before us. The advice does not come cheaply but the money will also support training for Councillors to enable us to give the best service that the Parish deserves.

Secondly the additional finance will be supporting the appearance of Malpas in a very difficult national financial climate when it costs more to do everything and runs the risk of actually doing nothing. Money that has been available from those Developers who have built in Malpas over recent years has sat unavailable for use while discussions have dragged on. The Car Park project is a prime example but this has now been kick-started after almost 10 years under the Chairmanship of Cllr Mike Williams and is happening - however the Council are not prepared to let similar things happen in future but promise to spend your money well and wisely.

Finally we will be increasing CCTV coverage of the Village on the grounds of Community Safety and will be bearing the cost from increased funds available to us and I personally would like to thank Cllr Mike Williams who has served as Chair of the Council for several years and who has advised he is stepping down from that role at this Annual Meeting. He has contributed much to the Village in that time and has collaborated on putting this Report together for me to deliver on his behalf. I know that he has thoroughly enjoyed serving as Chairman over the past few years. He wished me to ensure I emphasised he considered it a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of people, and he will continue serving the parish as a councillor for some years to come.

Alan Moore (Vice Chairman)