

HEAPEY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES (subject to approval at the next meeting) of the Annual Council Meeting held on 6 May 2025 at 7.30 pm at St Barnabas Church, Heapey.

Present Councillors C Grunstein (Chairman), C Egerton-Smith, A Hodgson and M Osborne.

25.23 Election of Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Grunstein was elected.

The Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was received.

25.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs A Crompton and G France.

25.25 Declarations of Interests

None received.

25.26 Election of Vice Chairman

Resolved: Cllr Osborne was elected.

25.27 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Chorley Council Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area Meeting - Cllr Grunstein

Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall Committee - Cllr Hodgson

Rivington and Brinscall Local Advisory Group - Cllr Osborne

It was agreed that any remaining positions would be filled when necessary.

25.28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2025

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25.29 Public Participation

Information relating to a potential housing development on a piece of land off Blackburn Road in Little Knowley was provided. At this stage, no planning application appears to have been submitted.

25.30 Planning Matters

25/00184/FULHH Single storey rear extension with balcony to roof (following demolition of existing conservatory) at 175B Blackburn Road

25/00253/FUL Conversion of an existing stone barn into a self- build dwelling including part single/part two storey rear extension at Smithills Farm, Higher House Lane

25/00294/FULHH Single storey rear extension and erection of outbuilding to enclose existing swimming pool (following demolition of existing rear projection at 140 Blackburn Road

25/00301/PIP Permission in principle application for the demolition of existing dwelling and its replacement with two detached dwellings Denewood, Coppice Lane

There were no objections to these applications.

25.31 Financial Matters

- i) Resolved: the Monitoring Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025 was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- ii) Resolved: the Monitoring Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman.
- iii) A request, from the Friend's of Finnington Resident's Group, for a contribution towards costs of legal and consultancy fees which may be incurred in any future appeal against the potential refusal of a planning application for large scale warehousing, was considered. Councillors raised concerns regarding the legal status of the Resident's Group and it was suggested a pledge, of £100, to be paid directly to consultants, should be offered.

Resolved: a pledge of £100 is to be offered.

- i) Resolved: the following payments were approved:

£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Monthly fee - May
£ 27.00	Heapey Parish Church	Room hire
£ 83.00	DWG (NW)	Gras cutting
£ 882.88	Wheelton Parish Council	Play area/War Memorial maintenance
£ 193.53	LALC	Annual subscription
£ 264.00	Zurich Municipal	Annual insurance premium
£ 100.00	Internal Auditor	Internal audit fee
£ 830.81	Staff costs	Salaries, reimbursements and deductions
£ 30.36	Easy Websites	Monthly fee - June

25.32 Asset Register

Councillors carried out the annual review of the asset register. It was noted there were no additions or disposals during the year.

Resolved: the Asset Register was approved.

25.33 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025 was considered in accordance with guidance within the publication Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide 2024.

- i) The Internal Auditor's report was noted.
- ii) Resolved: the Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- iii) Resolved: the Accounting Statements, having been signed by the Responsible Financial Officer prior to the meeting, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

As gross income or expenditure for the financial year did not exceed £25000 and the remaining criteria for exemption from a limited assurance review were met, Councillors considered certification as exempt from a limited assurance review.

- iv) Resolved: the Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

25.34 Licence for Wayside Seat

Lancashire County Council requires a Section 144 Licence to allow the installation of a seat by the notice board on Blackburn Road. Councillors had previously agreed to cover ongoing maintenance costs.

Resolved: the licence was approved and signed by the Chairman.

25.35 Reports from Outside Bodies

Chorley Liaison - Chief Inspector Neale, from the Local Policing and Partnerships Team at Lancashire Constabulary, provided details on local policing within Chorley. Information was provided on how issues including possible drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and speeding and other traffic issues may be reported.

A request was made for Planning Officers to provide guidance relating to the definition of 'Grey belt' land used as justification for recent Planning in Principle applications.

Rivington and Brinscall Advisory Group - details of the latest meeting will be sent to the Clerk to forward to Councillors.

25.36 Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 6 May 2025.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.