



15th January 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 8.50 pm

Present: Councillor Jones (in the Chair – part)
Brassington (Deputy Chair in the Chair - part)
Councillors Coulter, Crowe and Plunkett

Councillor Simon Eardley – Cheshire West and Chester Councillor

There was one member of the public in attendance.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, Councillor Jones was appointed as Chair of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wells. Councillor Brassington had notified the Parish Council, that she would be arriving to the meeting, a little later.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the Parish Council

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of the meeting, Councillor Jones.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions raised by the Member of the Public.

5. FINANCE AND BUDGET 2025-2026

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the following matters:-

(i) Transactions

RESOLVED

That the transactions detailed below, be approved:-

Payer/Payee	Details	Receipts	Payments
MD Coxey & Co Ltd	Payroll fees		£36.00
Dawn Coulter	Nativity Displays reimbursement		£150.00
Dawn Coulter	Planters reimbursement		£120.00
HMRC	November PAYE		£95.20
M Clough	November Salary		£254.46
	November Salary		£127.13

Service Charge	Monthly Service Charge		£6.00
HugoFox	Website		£11.99
TAGS Ltd	Newsletter		£60.00
Public Works Loan	Loan repayment		£1,117.35
M Clough	Microsoft 365 reimbursement		£84.99
HMRC	PAYE December		£95.40
	December Salary		£126.93
M Clough	December Salary		£254.46
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
John McDonald	Gardening - Email invoice 06/01/2026		£15.00

(ii) Approval of Payments

RESOLVED

That the payments detailed below, be approved:-

Payer	Details	£
	January Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	January Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	January PAYE	Approx. £80.00
	February Salary	Approx. £125.00
M Clough	February Salary	Approx. £255.00
HMRC	February PAYE	Approx. £80.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure to 7th January 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 7th January 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Staff Costs	£4,322.47	£5,750.00	£1,427.53
Monthly Payments to Clerk for Home Office	£60.00	£120.00	£60.00
Travel	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Payroll	£72.00	£120.00	£48.00
Administrative Costs	£91.49	£100.00	£8.51
Room Hire	£22.00	£140.00	£118.00
Insurance	£300.00	£375.00	£75.00
Subscriptions	£284.82	£300.00	£15.18
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
Audit Fees	£136.50	£173.00	£36.50
St Oswald's School Field Licence	£0.00	£350.00	£350.00
Website	£358.79	£360.00	£1.21
Training	£50.00	£105.00	£55.00
Community Projects	£439.95	£3,745.00	£3,305.05
Gardener	£548.00	£800.00	£252.00
Remembrance Wreath	£114.99	£200.00	£85.01
Unity Trust Service Charges	£54.00	£80.00	£26.00
Repayment of PWLB Loan	£2,234.70	£2,235.00	£0.30
RINGFENCED CIL	£3,049.74	£3,605.10	£555.36
Balance including CIL income/expenditure	£12,186.45	£18,605.10	£6,418.65

(iv) Explanation of Variances

RESOLVED

- (i) That the transfer of £110.00 (not £100.00) from the Travel Budget to the Website Budget, be approved;
- (ii) That the virement of £50.00 from the Remembrance Wreath Budget to the Website Budget, be approved.

(v) Bank Reconciliation to 7th January 2026

RESOLVED

That the Bank Reconciliation detailed below as at 7th January 2026, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 7th January 2026	
MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2026	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statement as at 31st December 2025	£
Current Account (07572433)	£19,691.08
Less: any unpresented payments	£15.00
Add: any unbanked cash	
Net bank balances as at 7th January 2026	£19,676.08
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	
CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance at 1st April 2025	£16,034.79
Add: Receipts in the year	£15,827.74
Less: Payments in the year	£12,186.45
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£19,676.08

(vi) BANK STATEMENTS

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Statements, circulated with the Report, be received:-

- 30th November 2025
- 31st December 2025

At this juncture, Councillor Brassington, the Deputy Chair arrived at the meeting and assumed the position of Chair.

6. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2026-2027

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the 2026-2027 Budget and associated Precept.

Mollington Parish Council's tax base for 2026/27 was 381.2.

The Budget presented by the Clerk amounted to an increase of 2.83%. In practical terms, each Band D household will pay £40.46. This is an increase of £1.36 per year, per Band D property. Members considered that this was a modest and realistic increase for the Parish.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Budget for 2026-2027, as Appended to these Minutes, be approved;**
- (ii) That the Precept request for 2026-2027, in the sum of £15,425.00, be approved.**

7. HYNET PROJECT

Councillor Jones declared an interest in this matter, however, the member of public was allowed to participate in the discussion, and therefore Councillor Jones updated the Parish Council on the latest plans. There were no decisions made.

Councillor Jones explained that temporary possession of land had now been assumed, with major construction works, using large scale plant and machinery, commencing in Spring.

Currently, there were no plans to compensate the village for the disruption, but Councillor Eardley was continuing to put pressure on Hynet to provide adequate recompense. The project had been backed by the Government in the sum of around £22 billion.

Another briefing would take place the following Tuesday, and Members and residents were encouraged to attend. The Parish Council was concerned that there were still many residents who were unaware of the Hynet project

Councillor Eardley also referred to the Peak Cluster, which was another large scale project involving the decarbonisation of the cement industry in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Whilst this project did not have the same financial commitment of funding from the Government, he encouraged Members to also attend the briefing session on this Project.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. WARD COUNCILLOR'S BRIEFING

Councillor Eardley reported on the following matters relating to the Parish:-

- Peak Cluster project;
- Hynet project;
- A new Police Constable had been allocated to the Parish, PC Ellie Barnett;
- Coal Pit Lane waste slurry and verge destruction was being pursued via the Borough Council;
- Fly tipping;
- No updates to report on Grove Road drainage;
- Speed gun site visits in areas of speeding traffic would be encouraged as there was now a reduced opportunity to seek funding assistance from the Borough Council towards changing speed limits on roads. This would result in making such changes potentially out of the reach of the Parish Council, due to financial restraints;
- The Borough Council's Budget Meeting would take place in February;
- The number of PCSOs were being reduced from 87 to 60
- Warren Farm Planning Appeal.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Clerk invites the Police Constable to the next meeting of the Parish Council and seeks to obtain Police reports for meetings;
- (ii) That the previous comments relating to the Warren Farm planning application made by the Parish Council, be reiterated to the Planning Inspectorate.

9. PLANNING

The Parish Council considered the following:-

- **Comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders**

- (i) **Reference Number:** 25/02964/FUL

Site Address: Land At Mere Farm Townfield Lane Mollington Chester

Proposal: Construction of a permanent key workers dwelling (including retention of temporary facilities (caravan) during construction)

RESOLVED

That the comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders, as circulated with the Agenda, be ratified.

- (ii) **Reference Number:** 25/03571/PDQ

Site Address: Warren Farm Townfield Lane Mollington Chester Cheshire CH1 6LB

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural barn into 3 dwellings and associated building operations within the residential curtilage

Objection submitted – please see attached.

RESOLVED

(a) That the comments submitted under the provisions of the Standing Orders, as circulated with the Agenda, be ratified.

(b) That the same comments to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, in relation to the Planning Appeal.

10. PLANS FOR 2025-2026

The Parish Council received an update on the status of the following projects:

- (i) Planters – Councillor Coulter had now purchased the planters which would be opposite the Oak Tree, to replace the existing planters which were now rotten. Two smaller versions would be sourced for the area next to the Notice Board on Townfield Lane.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Coulter for her work to nativity scenes for the Christmas Village display. A number of positive comments had been received from residents

- (ii) Notice Board – Councillor Jones agreed that the Notice Board would be installed on Sunday, 1st February 2026. Arrangements were made that work would commence at 10 am.

- (iii) Spring Community Event – Councillor Brassington suggested a Community Event including a tug of war, gazebo, picnics, drinks to take place on Sunday, 3rd May 2026, subject to the availability of the school. The event would be lead by Councillors Brassington and Jones.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That Councillor Jones confirms the availability of the ‘tug’ team on the 3rd May 2026;**
- (ii) **Following confirmation of the availability of the ‘tug’ team on 3rd May 2026, Councillors Brassington and Jones will make arrangements to meet with the Head of St Oswald’s Primary School, seek the availability of the school.**

11. FLYTIPPING

Councillor Brassington referred to fly tipping on Townfield Lane, Grove Road and Coal Pit Lane. Councillor Eardley agreed to ask the Borough Council to install replacement warning signs in these areas.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

12. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no other items that should be considered as a matter of urgency.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council noted that the next date of the Parish Council was Thursday, 19th March 2026 at 7.30 pm at St. Oswald's Primary School.

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

BUDGET
2026-2027

Budget Head	Budget 2026-2027
Staff Costs	£6,250.00
Monthly Payments to Clerk for Home Office	£120.00
Payroll	£120.00
Administrative Costs	£100.00
Room Hire	£150.00
Insurance	£375.00
Subscriptions	£300.00
Information Commissioner	£50.00
Audit Fees	£150.00
St Oswald's School Field Licence	£375.00
Website and Emails	£300.00
Training	£120.00
Community Projects	£3,600.00
Gardener	£1,000.00
Remembrance Wreath	£100.00
Unity Trust Service Charges	£80.00
Repayment of PWLB Loan	£2,235.00
	£15,425.00