

# GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Tim Parry Community Centre

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**Chair:** P. Watson  
**Councillors:** B Simpson                      S Pennington                      S Parish  
                    N Catlow                                      C Wren                                      C Lynas  
                    T Williams                                      L Hussain                                      H Cooksey  
                    M Hussain

**1. To receive apologies for unavoidable absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Morley, Cotter, Cameron & Muqem.

**2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

*PARISH/2026/01/1: To approve minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 as a true and accurate record (LGA 1972, Sch 12, para41(1)).*

**3. To receive any declarations of interest.**

Agenda item 5: Personal interest declared by Cllr Pennington as a member of the Friends of Westbrook Library and Cllr Catlow as a member of Burtonwood & Westbrook Parish Council.

**4. Community Policing.**

**4.1 to receive the PCSO report for December 2025, request further information or raise additional queries with the PCSO.**

Noted.

**4.2 to receive correspondence on the PCSO review being undertaken by Cheshire Constabulary.**

Noted that the PCC has negotiated with the Chief Constable to retain 37 PCSO's out of the current 87 across Cheshire. A letter received from the Chief Constable states that should the proposals go ahead, the current arrangement for parish-funded PCSO's will end on 31 March 2026 and there will no longer be a dedicated PCSO for the parish. Until the final decision on PCSO's is clear, it was suggested that the Parish Council retains its budget for PCSO provision.

**5. To receive a presentation and request for financial assistance from Westbrook Library Friends CIC.**

The presentation was provided by the Chair of Westbrook Library Friends CIC and Cllr Warburton (Chapelford & Old Hall ward). Following the consultation on the future of the library in May 2025, WBC revised the plans for the library for it to remain open and operate as a reduced, unstaffed library provision, similar to other libraries categorised as Tier 4 within the new tiered system. There is now a partnership between Livewire/Comunities & Wellbeing and Westbrook Library Friends CIC with the aim to generate income to cover operational costs (~£37K pa) and become self-funded within the next 2 years. A large part of this will rely on the hire of the space to community groups for rental income. There are already a number of community activities and workshops on offer at the library with a total of around 400 people attending per week, and 60+ active volunteers involved in the running of the library. To increase the hiring potential, the building needs some modifications; mainly replacing part of the flooring and installing an acoustic partition. The CIC is requesting financial contributions for this from both GSPC and Burtonwood and Westbrook Parish Council. The council thanked them for their presentation and informed them that the contribution would be considered by the Finance Committee and full council at the February meetings.

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## 6. Finance Committee

### 6.1 to decide on recommendations from previous meeting held on 2.12.25

All approved:

**PARISH/2026/01/2:** To purchase a replacement play turnstile from Wicksteed for Tim Parry Play area, £2,733 +VAT (Open Spaces Act 1906, s10)

**PARISH/2026/01/3:** To purchase a replacement wall-mounted water heater for Whittle Hall Community Centre, £648 +VAT (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s19)

**PARISH/2026/01/4:** To purchase a replacement front door from Merseyside Multi Glazing Ltd for Whittle Hall Community Centre, £5,399.71 +VAT (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s19)

**PARISH/2026/01/5:** To accept quote from Tom Taylor Company Ltd for website accessibility upgrades and design refresh, £16,850 +VAT (LGA 1972 s142)

**PARISH/2026/01/6:** To give a donation of £2,500 towards Warrington Armed Forces Day in the new financial year, 26-27 (LGA 1972 s137)

### 6.2 to receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 6.1.26 and request clarification from the Committee, if necessary.

A question was asked about the earmarked reserves for Childs Wood Field and whether this was for the potential building or for landscaping. It was confirmed that the money is to start these projects, although no decisions have been made on the final design. The feasibility study for the building is currently underway and there is to be a community consultation on the landscaping element. Once these have been completed the council can decide how to move forwards with the site.

## 7. Budget & Precept Deliberations

### 7.1 to receive the draft budget proposal (3 options) and note the summary of discussions from prior meetings (see draft minutes from the Finance Committee 6-1-26)

Received and noted. Councillors agreed the recommendation from the Finance Committee regarding the precept level should be consider before item 7.2.1 which was for a 4% increase. Prior to the vote, representations were made both for and against. The recommendation was agreed by majority (6 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions which were Cllrs Catlow, M Hussain & L Hussain). Decision noted under agenda item 7.3.

### 7.2 to receive the following motions from Cllr Williams (seconded Cllr Lynas):

From 2011, this PC has had an ongoing policy of Greening Great Sankey. This policy does not stand still. The policy has formed part of our Aims and Objectives and sits alongside our commitments to maintain and develop our community centres thereby improving the facilities for our residents. Developing Childs Wood and the Parish Playing Field estates will need further investment and another pair of hands.

**7.2.1 I propose increasing the Precept by £50,000 to £680,276. This will mean an increase from £55.88 to £60.32 = £4.35 per year or 6p per week per band D property.**

Motion nullified by the decision under agenda item 7.1.

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## **7.2.2 I propose the employment of another apprentice from April 2026, subject to the same conditions as the previous apprentice.**

Cllr Williams explained the reasons for proposing a start date of the beginning of April for a second apprentice. Members pointed out that the Finance Committee had previously recommended that a second apprentice should be taken on mid-way through the 2026-27 financial year and that this should take precedence for a vote. The Finance Committee recommendation was voted on and agreed by majority nullifying the motion by Cllr Williams.

***PARISH/2026/01/7:** To recruit a second Horticultural Apprentice in 2026-27 to start mid-year (around September 2026).*

## **7.3 to decide on the budget and the level of precept for the financial year 2026-27.**

The potential budget and precept for 2026-27 had been discussed at several prior meetings of both the Finance Committee, Parish Estates Committee and full Council. A summary of these discussions and any decisions made to date were given in the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and the final decision noted above under agenda item 7.2.

***PARISH/2026/01/8:** To approve the budget for 2026-27*

***PARISH/2026/01/9:** To agree a precept of £58.12 per annum per Band D property for 2026-27 to give a total precept of £655,419 for the Parish Council (LGFA 1992, Part 1, s41).*

## **8. To consider planning applications received by the Council and decide if any objections are to be raised.**

Noted.

## **9. To consider correspondence received by the Council and decide if any action is required.**

a) Local Government Boundary Review. It was explained that the review is for the Borough Council ward boundaries and not the Parish Council boundaries. However, both GSPC and Burtonwood and Westbrook Parish Council have requested a Community Governance Review of the current parish boundaries which are not in line with the Borough wards in some areas causing confusion. It is likely that this will be delayed until after the Boundary Review.

b) Royal British Legion calendar of events for 2026 – noted.

## **10. To hear verbal reports from Parish Councillors and from Borough Councillors on items of note within the Parish.**

None.

## **11. *PARISH/2026/01/10: Resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of the item in Part 2 of the Agenda because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.***

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## Part 2



### 12. To receive latest update on Sankey Station, including,

- Draft licence for alterations
- Draft licence to underlet

A couple of queries were raised – one on clause 5.1(a) of the Licence for Alterations and one on clause 4.1 (d) of the Licence to Underlet. These will be referred to the solicitor for clarification.

**PARISH/2026/01/11:** To clarify with Taylor Rose solicitor's clause 5.1 (a) of the draft Licence for Alterations and clause 4.1 (d) of the draft Licence to Underlet for the station house (LGA 1972, s124).

