



# Minutes of the Holmes Chapel Partnership AGM Monday, 28th April 2025

7.00pm - Massey Room, St Lukes Church Hall

**Present:** Peter Whiers, Hazel Sutcliffe, David Savage, Richard Garton, Gail Griggs, Diane Tams, Rachel Nixon, Mike Cooper

**Apologies:** Karoline Peach, Sarah Archibald, Mandie Maddock, Russell Chadwick, Rab Parry

Peter Whiers welcomed everyone to the AGM, including five members of the public.

## 1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM (15/04/24)

The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.

## 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution was last amended in 2023 and has recently been updated to reintroduce the voluntary role of secretary. The new version was approved.

## 3. CHAIRMANS REPORT - PETER WHIERS

Peter gave his report for the last year. Main points include:

- The Partnership continues to find new ways to make up the funding lost from Cheshire East.
- Peter thanked our Patron sponsors including the Holmes Chapel Parish Council, Duttons, Hurstwood Holdings, Massey Feeds and TMC (previously Calvin Marketing), as well as all Christmas Market Sponsors.
- In April 2024 we started the process of recruiting Tour Guides for Harry Styles inspired tours around Holmes Chapel and to Twemlow Viaduct.
- 2024 was a whirlwind of PR, thankfully looked after by Karoline Peach from Calvin Marketing who arranged TV, print and radio interviews on a generous pro bono offer. The worldwide campaign reached over 1.9 billion people with key messages around safe walking routes and stopping graffiti on the Twemlow Viaduct.
- The first public Tour was held on 8th June and continued over 5 months. We hosted over 50 Tours with over 400 Harries around our village.
- Peter thanked Sam Dale & Son for their instrumental role in making the Tours happen.
- The newsletter continues to thrive thanks to Hazel as Editor with support from The Print Room. Thanks also to Martin Cummins who delivers the hard copies and Gail Griggs who updates the website and distributes the electronic version.
- HCP continues to run the Walk to School Event in May, along with SpeedWatch sessions on Macclesfield Road to highlight the need for crossings and safer walking routes.
- Having attended the Village Fair at the Vic Club with a stall for many years HCP will be organising the stalls for the 2025 event.
- Christmas Market was fourth one with a road closure. With warm weather mulled wine sales were down but general stall sales were better than expected.
- Sleigh Runs were coordinated throughout December to raise money for local groups and charities, with thanks to Richard Garton and Will Burnham for helping this to run smoothly.
- In early 2025 we supported Holmes Chapel Train Station, and Station Master Graham Blake, to design and install some new artwork at the station. This includes a life-size Harry Styles and local landmarks. This was funded by Cross Rail Community Engagement Fund together with a contribution from the recently closed Community Cinema HC3.
- New for 2025: We are moving to an online self-guided version of the Tour assisted by Matt O'Reagan from The Villages Mag. There will be a Fun Run at the Dane Meadow in May to help support charity fundraising efforts. We are organising the stalls at the Village Fair at the Vic Club with funds from stall fees going to the Partnership.

## 4. TREASURERS REPORT - DAVID SAVAGE

David gave the Treasurers report and accounts were accepted:

- David explained how he took over the role earlier this year and thanked Richard Garton for his time as Treasurer and for the handover.
- Loss of £8k CE grant has been reduced due to funding efforts and thanks to our Patron Sponsors.
- While the current bank account looks healthy, a 6 month income contingency is needed to pay invoices and ensure cashflow.

- Chris Jackson explained that the support from HCPC for the Christmas Market needs to be requested on an annual basis, and asked if the Partnerships involvement in the Summer Fair would generate any income. David confirmed that all stall fees come to HCP.
- High start up costs for the Guided Tours meant no income was generated for the Partnership, although almost all of the Village business did benefit due to increased customer numbers.

## **5. ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS**

As there has only been one nomination for each post there was no requirement for a vote. Posts are as follows:

- Chair: Peter Whiers
- Vice-chair: Hazel Sutcliffe
- Treasurer: David Savage
- Secretary: Richard Garton

## **6. ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS**

Gail Griggs, Marie Bennett, Karoline Peach, Sarah Archibald, Mandie Maddock, Rachel Nixon, Mike Cooper

## **7. ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

Holmes Chapel Parish Council accepted as a member organisation.

## **8. FUTURE PLANS - PETER WHIERS**

Peter gave an overview of HCP plans for the next year, including:

- Recruitment: Need to attract new members to the committee and volunteers for events.
- Income: Sponsorship will continue to provide largest source of funding.
- One of the biggest costs to the Partnership is the monthly newsletter - small charges for adverts will be introduced.
- Organising the stalls for the Village Fair at the Vic Club in July will also generate income.
- Guided tours for visitors will go online via our website, with a charge for access to the information.
- Currently in talks with the artists of the artwork at the Train Station to get postcards etc printed for local retailers to sell, with profits going to HCP. Dales continues to sell HHVT branded t-shirts and keyrings.
- The Fun Run in May is a new event for 2025 which builds on HCP involvement with the Dane Meadow and provides opportunities for participants to fundraise.
- Would ultimately like to generate enough income to fund a crossing or improvements to roads for pedestrians.
- Continuing projects: Walk to School Week (May), monthly newsletter, Safe Spaces, SpeedWatch, Christmas Market (7th December), Sleigh Runs (from 1st December).

## **9. Q&A / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Chris Jackson explained that HCPC have a meeting this week with CE Highways committee to discuss improvements to the roads through the Village, including reducing speed limits and improving the A50/A54 junction. He explained that the 'Reclaim the Pavements' project was very successful in making paths and pavements more usable, and they support events such as 'Walk to School' day which are useful to continue to highlight where change is needed. The Parish Council support the need for a pedestrian crossing on Macclesfield Road and explained that there is move back to zebra crossings without traffic lights which are much cheaper.
- No other questions or comments were raised.

Peter thanked all who attended and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

HCP - Holmes Chapel Partnership  
 CE - Cheshire East  
 HCPC - Holmes Chapel Parish Council