

# DUNHAM HILL AND HAPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024

**Contact details** .....C/O Clerk to the Parish Council ... Trudy Ryall-Harvey

### **Parish Councillors as at March 2024**

Heather Boardman  
Keith Bradley  
Stuart Clarke  
Claire Green  
Kevin Holmes  
Richard Johnson  
Sally Wallace

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

As per Parish Council (PC) Standing Orders

#### **Governance**

1. The Parish Council (PC) employs a Clerk who is also the Responsible Finance Officer.
2. All Parish Councillors identify in advance any pecuniary interests, outside body's involvement and family or personal interests they or their partners might have and sign a declaration of interest form when elected to the Council. In addition, each parish councillor is expected to abide by the Cheshire West and Chester's Code of Conduct and declare any other potential conflicts of interest with their PC duties at the start of each PC meeting.

#### **Objectives**

As per Standing Orders but in summary to represent and act to address the interests of the community and its local residents

### **Main Points of Note in 2023/24**

1. The PC has ten Parish Councillor seats, and currently seven Parish Councillors with three vacancies at the end of the year.
2. The parish of Dunham Hill and Hapsford has approximately 263 households and 502 elector's.
3. Seven Planning applications were considered and commented on by the council. Of the applications received:
  - One was Supported,
  - Two were given a Neutral response
  - Two were Objected too,
4. The PC has continued working towards researching and developing policies to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the area and has consulted with residents as appropriate. It has undertaken a Housing Needs Survey and commissioned a wildlife and bio-diversity study.

5. The PC continues to undertake bi-annual litter picking events and wishes to thank all those who come out to support these events or who undertake similar non-organised litter picking for their continued support in trying to reduce the amount of litter that is seen around the area.
6. The PC continues to utilise its website to provide access to PC papers and distribute information of potential public interest. It also circulates newsletters providing updates on items taking place within the community, Parish Council news and other information affecting the area.
7. The PC continues to utilise the Speed Indication Device (SID) it owns at the sites approved by Cheshire West and Chester throughout the year
8. Highways issues have been a constant challenge throughout the year. The key actions have been and remain:
  - Reporting potholes where they are more than 4cms deep. This is the minimum size at which CWaC will repair them. The public are also encouraged to report problems they see, via the CWaC online reporting tool.
  - Reporting missing signs when speed limit signs or road nameplate signs have come into disrepair.
  - Fly tipping in the area.
  - Flooding on the A49 and A5117

### **Financial Performance**

The Parish Council's Budget for 2023-24 was set at £14,123 with a Precept for the year of £7,537 which was an increase of 5%, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

For 2023-24, the PC operating costs were over budget due to the additional Neighbourhood Planning work that was undertaken, however grants were received in to support this work so overall the Parish Council did not overspend.

The Precept for 2024-25 has been set at £8,291 which is a 10% increase on the previous year.

### **Council Attendance 2023-24**

Dunham Hill and Hapsford Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2023 and April 2024.

On average 6 Parish Councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Hugo Deynem attended two of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the May, July, November & March meetings.

The PCSO attended two of the Parish Council meetings, providing the Parish Council with an update of issues arising in the area and giving them the opportunity to highlight concerns.

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged from zero to 10 members of the Public depending on the subject matter on the agenda. The Parish Council always welcome members of the public to attend the Parish Council meeting and there is a maximum of 15 minutes set aside on the agenda for Public Participation at each meeting.

The Chair wishes to pass on his thanks to all of the Parish Councillors who give their time and energy free of charge to assist in Parish Council matters.

**Signed on behalf of the Parish Council**  
Keith Bradley (Chair)