

SWETTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at The Swettenham Club on
16th March 2026

Present:	Councillors Shaw, Sturrock, Andow, Kirk, French & Millward; Clerk & RFO, Mrs P Sturrock																													
Item	Detail	Action																												
1	Apologies: Cllr Keen and CEC Cllr Wray had given their apologies																													
2	Declaration of interest. There were none																													
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th January 2026 The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 th January 2026 were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Millward Seconded: Cllr French Carried Unanimously																													
4	Public Forum: There were no questions from members of the public. Mrs Maria Hay, a local resident was in attendance.																													
5	Matters Arising: There are two defibrillators in the Parish, one on the wall of the Swettenham Club and one at the Swettenham Arms. It is important that these are serviced annually and to be aware that the batteries last between 2 and 7 years and the pads last between 2 and 4 years. The Clerk was asked to contact the Club and the Swettenham Arms to check that the defibrillators are being well maintained	Clerk																												
6	<p>Finance:</p> <p>a. Finance Report to March 2026 The RFO had produced a financial report for the period to 16th March 2026 showing balances of £452.46 in the current account, after approval of payments on the agenda, and £8498.40 in the reserve account. The Clerk advised that she would be making a claim for a VAT refund after the end of the month amounting to £553.56</p> <p>b. Payments</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>i.</td> <td>Payment of Clerk’s salary – February/March 2026</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£747.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii</td> <td>Clerk’s Expenses - October 2025 to March 2026</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£65.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii</td> <td>HMRC PAYE</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£161.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iv</td> <td>Swettenham Club Room Hire Nov, Jan Mar</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£105.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v</td> <td>PKF Littlejohn exempt status fees</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£48.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>v</td> <td>WaterPlus cemetery water charges</td> <td>05/02/2026 DD</td> <td>£7.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>09/03.2026 DD</td> <td>£7.16</td> </tr> </table> <p align="right">All payments Proposed: Cllr Shaw Seconded: Cllr Kirk Carried unanimously</p>	i.	Payment of Clerk’s salary – February/March 2026	BACS	£747.04	ii	Clerk’s Expenses - October 2025 to March 2026	BACS	£65.49	iii	HMRC PAYE	BACS	£161.40	iv	Swettenham Club Room Hire Nov, Jan Mar	BACS	£105.00	v	PKF Littlejohn exempt status fees	BACS	£48.00	v	WaterPlus cemetery water charges	05/02/2026 DD	£7.16			09/03.2026 DD	£7.16	Clerk
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7	Peak Cluster The Clerk reported that she had asked CEC Cllr Wray for an update on the position being taken by Cheshire East Council on the Peak Cluster project. He had advised that there will be a full public consultation on the project for all areas affected by it. There is quite a lot of opposition to the project and he shares those concerns and he expresses that view in his role as ward councillor. There are future briefings to be arranged and he will then give us more information. The planning process will be dealt with by central government with local consultation. He understands that it will be a very long process – 6 -10 years.	Clerk																												

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8	<p>Cemetery & War Memorial</p> <p>a. The Clerk reported that the bark of the young tree at the front of the cemetery had split down the length of the trunk. This could be frost damage and it was agreed to review the state of the tree in the autumn. The tree does not pose a danger.</p> <p>Some dead flowers had been removed from a grave and placed on the soil pile despite the request on the sign in the cemetery that they should have been taken away. It would be helpful if a door could be fixed on the screen around the soil pile to act as a deterrent. Cllr Shaw will get an estimate.</p> <p>b. There had been no new applications for memorials. The application for a memorial for Mr CW Padfield had been approved by email at the beginning of February.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Shaw</p> <p>Clerk</p>
9	<p>Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>a. A Planning Application 26/0289/HOUS Pitt Farm Swettenham - Demolition and relocation of existing outbuildings, erection of part two-storey, part single storey extension to the South East of the existing dwelling, with associated landscaping had been received.</p> <p>b. A Planning Application 26/0812/HOUS The White House Kermincham - Extension and alterations, had been received</p> <p>Following a discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications</p>	
10	<p>Highways Maintenance & Footpaths/Bridlepaths</p> <p>a. The Clerk had emailed Richard Cooper about the proposed roadworks on Swettenham Lane. The road sign had said that the road would be closed between February 23rd and 27th. It would appear that the drains had been cleared but no work had been carried out on the road surface. Richard Cooper had forwarded this email on to CEH Drainage team and asked them to update the Clerk but she had heard nothing further. The Clerk was asked to chase this up.</p> <p>b. Cllr Shaw said that the retaining wall at the top of the hill opposite the Swettenham Club was beginning to collapse and a meeting was needed with Highways about these issues</p> <p>c. Cllr French reported that the works in the Swettenham Arms car park to deal with the issue with the water treatment plant had been completed but the fall is poor so they are going to increase the layers of bricks to give more depth. The tractor and trailer will continue to visit until United Utilities are sure that the problem is resolved</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Shaw</p>
11	<p>Review of dates for meetings 2026/27</p> <p>The clerk had, pre-meeting, submitted suggested dates for meetings in 2026/2027. Following a discussion, the following dates were agreed as most suitable:</p> <p>Monday 18th May 2026 Monday 13th July 2026 Monday 28th September 2026 Monday 23rd November 2026 Monday 18th January 2027 Monday 15th March 2027 Monday 17th May 2027</p>	
12	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Correspondence, received since the date of the last meeting, appended to these minutes (but not displayed on notice board), was noted by the Council.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting. Resolved: to note the date of the next scheduled Council meeting (Annual Meeting) as Monday 18th May 2026 following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7:30pm</p>	