



*Parish Council Office, Vicars Cross Community Centre, Thackeray Drive, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5LP*

## **Annual Meeting of the Parish**

**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**6pm – 7pm**

### **Programme:**

- 1. Meet your local parish councillors informally, enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and piece of cake and find out more about the parish council:**

**Present:** Cllr Keith Scargill, Cllr Peter Bulmer, Cllr Steve Collings, Cllr Julie Felgate, Cllr Rob Herd, Cllr Sian Wilkes, Cllr Amanda Miller, Cllr Krissie Myler, Cllr Sam Otter, Cllr Martin Whiteley, Cllr James Reeves, Interim Clerk Sophia Samuel, 2 members of public

**Apologies:** Cllr David Flood, Cllr Jeanette McCartan

- 2. Welcome from the Chair:** The Chairman opened the meeting and the minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish in 2024 were approved as accurate – proposed by Cllr Bulmer and seconded by Cllr Otter who were both present at the meeting, approved unanimously as accurate.

- 3. Chairperson's Report 2024-25**

This has been a busy year for the Council and my thanks go to all the Councillors, and especially the Vice Chair, Councillor Peter Bulmer, who give up their time throughout the year in their efforts to make sure that Great Boughton (including Vicars Cross and Caldy) continues to be a lovely place to live, work and bring up families. Some Councillors have left us over the year but we are very lucky to have welcomed Councillors Sian Wilkes and James Reeves to our ranks.

I wish to give special thanks on behalf of the whole Council to Kath Lloyd, our exceptional Clerk, who over the last 7 years has supported the Council through so many ventures and steered superbly through highs and lows such as the Covid years. She has stepped away from the post of Clerk but is still supporting us greatly through helping with JMC meetings and volunteering at the Vicars Cross Community Centre. She is greatly missed by all in the office and is so difficult to replace but her kindness and support to all at Great Boughton Council is seen every day.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Clerk, Sophia Samuel, for stepping up as acting Clerk when the new Clerk resigned suddenly for personal reasons.

The Council owns and manages the Allotments at the top of Pearl Lane and this year, has spent a considerable amount of money removing the old compost heap there (which had become a bit of a rubbish heap to be honest) and has created an additional allotment plot. The Council carries out a monthly inspection and encourages plot holders to be actively involved in their plots – woe betide any that are left untidy!

The Council has seven green spaces that it is responsible for and our Grounds Maintenance bill is the highest part of our spending, apart from staffing – both essential, I'm sure you will agree!

We also own and manage Vicars Cross Community Centre and this year, that has been busier than ever with events throughout the year to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Parish Council ownership. I would like to extend the Council's thanks to Claire Smith, the Community Centre Manager, who has

brought music, plays and laughter to the Community with a catalogue of great shows and events on top of the busy schedule of classes and events that go on daily.

The Council has had its challenges this year – changes of staff, a new website, new email system, new bank accounts.....you name it, we've tackled it! We're still here though..... doing our best to speak on behalf of all our residents, advise Cheshire West and Chester on planning issues and improve and enhance our local area.

Thank you for your support and I'd like to hand over to Cllr Peter Bulmer, our Vice Chair .....

Cllr Keith Scargill

Chairperson

Great Boughton Council

May 2025

#### 4. Presentation of Annual Events by Chair Peter Bulmer

Peter Bulmer showed a slide show of highlights and lowlights from the proceeding year.

#### 5. Presentation of Annual Accounts – Summary of Receipts & Payments, Year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

*Note: to see the full accounts, please contact the Clerk.*

2024	INCOME	2025
£ 88,000.00	Precept	£ 92,500.00
£ 406.32	Bank Interest	£ 500.38
£ 4,808.49	CIL Payments	£ 1,909.37
£ 33,838.59	VAT Refund	£ 18,693.11
£ 2,414.20	Rents	£ 2,381.50
£ 456.20	Charged Services	£ 325.58
£ 362.05	Miscellaneous	£ 851.06
£ 45,191.01	VXCC Income	£ 54,529.05
£ 175,476.86		£ 171,690.05
	EXPENDITURE	
£ 44,939.00	Salaries	£ 52,947.11
£ 12,195.16	Council Costs	£ 9,692.71
£ 4,298.47	Facilities & Buildings	£ 2,055.69
£ 39,539.03	Open Spaces	£ 37,818.82
£ 6,118.10	Communications & Events	£ 5,237.76
£ 5,537.66	Projects	£ 13,321.60
£ 36,185.20	VXCC Running Costs	£ 51,778.90
£ 148,812.62		£ 172,852.59
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SUMMARY		
Balance @ 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024		£ 114,906.55
Receipts to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025		£ 171,690.05
		£ 286,596.60
Less		
Payments to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025		£ 172,852.59
		<b>£ 113,744.01</b>

## 6. Parish Matters: issues raised by residents -

There was one resident who asked whether the Council knew about future plans for the Twirl Of Hay. Cllr Bulmer explained that the Parish Council are not privy to any further information than the public and that the Planning team in Cheshire West and Chester inform the Parish Council as all plans are made public. The proposed Drive-thru was mentioned, and even though Councillors were approached by KFC, the Councillors attending a meeting regarding this had voted to keep land a green space.

A Councillor asked what a CIL payment was. Cllr Scargill explained it was a Community Infrastructure Levy, received from new development to help fund local infrastructure that benefit the Community. Member of Public expressed concern regarding Green Space with changes made by the Current Government. Again, Parish Council have little power but the Planning Officer can listen when comments are made.

Great Boughton Council have decided not to have a Neighbourhood Plan as our Parish is land locked in and the pockets of green spaces are relatively small. That said, we do support neighbouring parishes, such as Littleton and Christleton, as land opposite the A41 is vulnerable and Manor Farm, past Rowton.

7. **Meeting closed:** The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited residents to stay to listen to the parish council meeting which would start shortly.