

DUDDON AND BURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

Contact detailsC/O Clerk to the Parish Council ... Trudy Ryall-Harvey

Parish Councillors as at March 2025

Geoffrey Goulbourne (Chair)
Clive Cummins
Anthony Green
Martin Lightfoot
Katie Warburton

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 2024/25

1. The PC has five Parish Councillor seats, and currently five Parish Councillors at the end of the year.
2. The parish of Duddon and Burton has approximately 227 households and 427 elector's.
3. Four Planning applications were considered and no-objections to these consultations placed by the council to Cheshire West and Chester Council.
4. The PC continues to utilise its website to provide access to PC papers and distribute information of potential public interest.

5. The PC was disappointed again with the results of the Wildflowers on corner of Willington Lane and Back Lane and therefore Cheshire West and Chester's Wildflower Team have agreed to restore this area back to grass and plant an area on the Cheshire West and Chester's land off New Road instead.
6. The PC continue to report to CWaC any issues, these include potholes and footpaths requiring cleaning amongst other issues.
7. The PC applied for and was awarded it's bronze award from the National Association of Local Councils, achieving this award necessitates the council demonstrating that it possesses the necessary documentation and information to operate lawfully and in accordance with established practices. Furthermore, the council has policies in place for training its councillors and officers, laying the groundwork for future improvement and development initiatives.

Financial Performance

The Parish Council's Budget for 2024-25 was set at £11,762 with a Precept for the year of £8,825 which was an increase of 5%, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

For 2024-25, the PC operating costs and projects have mostly in-line with the budget with a slight saving due to some village maintenance that the Parish Council delayed and hope to undertake in April-May 2025.

The Precept for 2025-26 has been set at £9,220 which is a 5% increase on the previous year.

Council Attendance 2024-25

Duddon and Burton Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2024 and April 2025.

An average of 4 out of 5 Parish Councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Tom Cooper attended four of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the May, November meetings.

CWaC Councillor Edward Lush attended no meeting of the Parish Council for the period May 2024 – April 2025.

The PCSO attended no Parish Council meetings for the period May 2024 – April 2025.

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged from zero to 3 members of the public. In November three residents attended and raised concerns, under the Public Participation about the condition of the play area of New Road, the Parish Council confirmed that it paid for External Annual Playground Inspections and had undertaken some painting of equipment following the recommendations of the Inspection Report. The residents undertook to explore improving or replacing the equipment and funding streams available for this work and bring back recommendations to a future Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council always welcome members of the public to attend the Parish Council meeting and there is a maximum of 20 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.

This report is signed and dated following a meeting of the Parish Council where the report was approved by all present.

Signed on behalf of the Parish Council

Geoffrey Goulbourne (Chair)