

Chairman's Report 28th May 2026

Defibrillator

The existing defibrillator in the disused phone box on Rainow Road was about eight years old which is considered to be about its life span, therefore we decided to replace it with a new one. This was installed a couple of months ago and being a more modern machine the battery and pads supplied should last a great deal longer than the old one. We are currently looking to site another defibrillator in the Roewood Lane area. It's early days and we need to secure funding and we are in discussions with Peaks and Plains with a view to perhaps attaching it to one of their properties.

Roewood Lane Wall

Since the wall at the junction of Roewood Lane and Rainow Road was demolished by a large wagon several years ago we have been pushing Cheshire East to have it repaired. The money for the repair had been obtained from the vehicle's insurance company so there shouldn't have been a problem, however it has taken until now for them to finally effect the repair. As well as the vehicle demolishing the wall a traffic sign was also badly damaged but this has yet to be repaired.

Bus Shelter Notice Board

The notice board situated in the bus shelter on Rainow Road was badly damaged by an inconsiderate person last year so we have purchased a new one and the Clerk has gone to considerable trouble to create a backing frame and affix the new board. We have provided an Emergency Document on each of the notice boards detailing phone numbers of important services such as social services as well as emergency services.

Cliff Lane

We keep pressuring Cheshire East to improve the road surface on Cliff Lane but apart from the odd patching of large holes they are reluctant to spend money on the bigger issue of water drainage. As it is water runs down the carriageway instead of down the correct channel with the result that the road surface and particularly the carriageway edges being eroded unnecessarily. It doesn't help that Rainow Road has been closed to through traffic and so many vehicles are being directed along Cliff Lane by Sat navs.

Well Lane

Well Lane road surface is in a similar condition to Cliff Lane's however a lot less traffic use it and since the B5470 has been closed there has been much less a problem of large lorries using it in order to effect a U turn having strayed up Rainow Road from Macclesfield by mistake. We have been pushing for signage to be installed warning HGVs not to use Well Lane and Swanscoe Lane as a diversion and finally funds have been allocated however just when the signs are to be installed we don't know.

Road Subsidence

It was noticed last year that there were signs of potential subsidence on the footpath just past the George and Dragon on the other side of the road. A local resident brought it to our attention and on inspection it appeared that not only was the footpath subsiding but a very high retaining wall was also in danger of collapse. Along with the residents we contacted Cheshire East who monitored the situation for a while before deciding that some form of urgent repair was necessary. This work has now been completed, though it took six weeks instead of the planned three weeks, it was quite a complicated procedure but as it turned out it was a very necessary repair that could have had drastic repercussions.

B5470 Closure

The work to repair the B5470 is now nearing completion, it was a far more complicated job than it first appeared. When work started last October It became obvious that the extent of the problem was greater

than had been anticipated which is why the repair has taken so long to rectify. It will be quite a shock when the large wagons start running up and down Rainow Road again having been absent for nearly eighteen months, however a lot of people will be pleased that the wretched diversion round Pott Shrigley has come to an end.

New Members

We welcomed Will Forshaw on to the Council last year, Will lives on Rainow Road and is particularly keen to play his part in the welfare of the village.

Monthly Police Crime Report

Every month we receive a crime report from our local PCSO, the bulk of the report is quite often taken up with traffic parking offences. Parking is particularly difficult around the Roewood Lane area but some people are particularly careless where they park their vehicles.

Online Banking

Over the last year Councillor McArthur has been working towards creating an online banking system for the Parish Council. It has turned out to be a most complicated procedure involving many contradictory statements by the bank's staff and a frustrating number of forms that have had to be re-submitted. Hopefully we are now on the home stretch, having had the proposal forms accepted by the bank we just need submit the signature mandate with the authorised signatories.

Changing Parish Boundaries

It has been announced that the areas of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Warrington are to be merged into one unitary authority with a mayor overseeing it. As a result of this a levelling up of parish boundaries will be implemented. What this means for Higher Hurdsfield is that we will be moved from the Bollington Ward into the Hurdsfield Ward. We have strongly objected to this change as we feel that as we are mainly a rural parish we identify more with Bollington than Hurdsfield, which is an urban ward. Our objections have been overruled so from 2027 we will pass into the Hurdsfield Ward. In reality all it means to us is that we will be represented on Cheshire Council by a different ward councillor, we will stay as an independent parish in our own right.

Peak Cluster

The government has put forward a proposal to capture the carbon which is created during the manufacture of cement. The two main cement manufacturing areas are in Staffordshire and the High Peak around Dove Holes. The plan is to create a three foot diameter pipe line which will run from Dove Holes towards Whaley Bridge the circle round the northern and western sides of Macclesfield to link up with a similar pipeline running from Staffordshire around Holmes Chapel and then continuing along the Wirral peninsula to finally end in the Irish Sea where the carbon will be sealed in disused undersea gas fields. While this proposal will not directly affect us there could be knock on effects felt across the area because the amount of infrastructure required for the project is going to be colossal. There are thoughts that the project is too large to be managed successfully and that it will not go ahead, we shall see.

Andy Broadhurst (Chairman) 28/05/2026