

DUDDON AND BURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2025 – March 2026

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

Parish Councillors as at March 2026

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 2025/26

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 electors.
3. Nine planning applications were considered, and the parish council submitted a neutral response to one and no-objections to eight of the consultations circulated 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 continue to report to CWaC any issues, these include potholes and footpaths requiring cleaning amongst other issues.

Financial Performance

The Parish Council's Budget for 2025-26 was set at £11,976 with a Precept for the year of £9,220 which was an increase of 5%, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

For 2025-26, the PC operating costs have been in-line with the budget with savings been seen in insurance, membership/subscriptions, expenses, training, village enhancement and playground maintenance and increases in costs on website, bank charges and data protection fees. Community events budget has not been spent and this will be carried over into 2026-27.

The Precept for 2026-27 has been set at £9,363 which is a 5.7% increase on the previous year and equates to £40.71 on a Band D house.

Council Attendance 2025-26

Duddon and Burton Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2025 and April 2026.

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

CW&C Councillor Tom Cooper and CWaC Councillor Edward Lush attended no meetings of the Parish Council for the period May 2025 – April 2026.

The PCSO attended no Parish Council meetings for the period May 2025 – April 2026.

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged from one and thirteen members of the public. In January thirteen members of the public attended the meeting to hear about the proposed development at Duddon Waste Water Site, issues around Speeding on A51 and a 'Planning in Principle' consultation that had been received in.

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)