WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths (Chair), Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair)

L Ibbs, B Hughes, D Brindley, N Barlow, S Hill

C Foster-McTigue, K Whitehurst

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SCC Cllr R Ward

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

There were 4 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 1900hrs

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public thanked Cllr P Hughes for helping to inform the residents about the Co-Op planning appeal. The MOP is aware that they cannot be co-opted onto the Parish Council because they do not reside in the Parish and are outside the three-mile radius rule. The member of the public would like to offer their services as a Parish Council volunteer.

A member of the public raised concerns about speeding on Armshead Road and informed the Parish Council of a couple of recent accidents. The Clerk informed the members of the public about the speed watch volunteers and requesting an approved location (risk assessed) on Armshead Road for Speed Watch Volunteers and the Police Speed Van and the Clerk will request the van to attend. The member of the public also offered to volunteer to clean the Village Signs etc.

A member of the public asked about the missing vice chair chain and if a claim could be made on the Parish Council insurance. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

Question Time closed at 1920hrs

The Chair brought Cllr R Wards agenda items forward:

244/25 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

b) County Councillor

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that the Co-Op planning application was dismissed but it had been agreed by Highways but was dismissed on design grounds so expect the application to be re-submitted.

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247/25 Devolution:

Cllr R Ward explained that Parliament have released a Devolution White Paper calling for the re-structure of Local Government.

Authorities must now serve over half a million residents and the new areas must be confirmed by 21st March 2025. Stoke on Trent has submitted a request to the Government to include Staffordshire Moorlands. Staffordshire County Council will possibly be submitting a counter-request to not include Stoke on Trent purely because Stoke on Trent generated a forty-two million deficit a year.

Staffordshire County Council will possibly call for a referendum to give the people the choice if required.

It was agreed that once the County Council elections are complete WPC will hold a public meeting informing Werrington residents what changes have been agreed by Parliament.

The Members of the Public left the meeting.

236/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr P Nixons' apologies were received.

237/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

238/25 REGISTER OF INTEREST

None.

239/25 The **minutes** of the following minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 10th February 2025.

240/25 The **action plan** was discussed and closed as all matters are complete or in hand.

Cllr R Ward left the meeting at 1950hrs

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241/25 The following **accounts** were approved:

a) February 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) February/March 25 payments list.

242/25 Werrington Parish Council discussed the following **planning applications** and had no comments: SMD/2025/0086, SMD/2024/0549 and SMD/2025/0111.

243/25 Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies**:

a) Retention Schedule
b) Grants Policy
c) Code of Conduct

244/25 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr P Hughes informed the meeting that Light Speed had been very helpful in consulting with Cellar Head residents and some telegraph pole locations had been re located upon request by residents.

Cllr B Hughes informed the meeting that Devolution will reduce Moorlands Council seats to 11-14 Councillors only.

b) County Councillor – Update given at the start of the meeting.

245/25 Staff Reports:

a) **Clerks report** was circulated.
Main Items:
-Councillor volunteers are required to investigate solar panels and heat source pumps for the Sports Ground.
-Councillor volunteers are required to investigate grants to re new Meigh Road play equipment.
-Wardens monthly job sheet was approved.

Cllr N Barlow asked when the Neighbourhood Plan survey results would be shared with the residents. The Clerk said once the common themes have been identified.

b) **Village Warden's report:**
-No report received.

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246/25 Neighbourhood Plan

The next meeting is on Monday 31st March at 10 am at the Methodist Church and is open to all residents to attend. The Planning Consultant will attend and help draft the main household questionnaire questions from the common themes.

Maps of the Parish will also be studied to identify areas that cannot be developed and possible areas for development because growth has to happen in the Parish.

All Councillors are to help to advertise on Wednesday 2nd April at 6 pm at Werrington Methodist Church for Werrington registered businesses to meet and network and include Neighbourhood Plan discussions. A maximum budget was set of £200 for refreshments from the Neighbourhood Plan Grant.

It was agreed a similar event for residents is to be arranged next.

247/25 Devolution

An update was given at the start of the meeting.

248/25 Allotments

Cllr D Brindley updated the meeting following the allotment inspection that he is very impressed with the housekeeping and that all plots are being worked well.

The tenancy agreement for 2025/26 was agreed as well as the plot fee increase that was previously agreed of £2 a year for a full-sized plot. The cost this year is £54 for a full plot and £27 for a half plot.

The annual meeting will be on Monday 24th March, the tenants will be written to by the Clerk inviting them to attend and an agenda for discussions shared.

249/25 Sports Ground Werrington Parish Council reviewed the following:

a) Booking Policy
b) Booking Proforma
c) Contract of hire T&C
d) Hirer Guide
e) Booking Agreement

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250/25 Meigh Road Playing Fields:

a) Safety of carpark entrance

Cllr K Whitehurst reported to the Parish Council the dangerous parking mostly by vans at the Playing Fields car park entrance. The Clerk is to share the reporting system with Councillors to make regular reports. The Clerk is also to request support from Cllr R Ward for double yellow lines.

Cllr K Whitehurst also asked when the tree survey is due. The Clerk responded that it is due this summer.

b) Monthly and Annual play equipment inspections.

The Clerk had previously shared the annual report with the Councillors. The Clerk requested that a ROSPA-certified company be used next year. Also once the PC has the information from the NHP household survey to what play equipment the residents want then we must progress with grant applications or other avenues to improve the asset.

251/25 Chairmans Report:

The Chair thanked everyone for all the work that they were doing.

The Chair asked the Clerk to leave the meeting whilst a discussion took place with regard to the Clerk's husband carrying out maintenance and play equipment repairs because this can be seen as a conflict of interest. After a discussion, the Parish Council agreed to only use other professional bodies going forward.

252/25 Correspondence

The Clerk and Chair are to meet with a resident who backs onto Meigh Road about their drainage issues.

253/25 Councillor Updates

Cllr N Barlow informed the meeting that a resident has informed him of on going ASB issues on Johnstone Ave.

Cllr B Hughes informed the PC that the street name Ash Bank is confusing on the new development.

254/25 Chairmans Report

Agenda Item repeated in error.

Cllr P Hughes left the meeting.

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Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

255/25 VE Day

Werrington Parish Council approved the Carolines afternoon tea quotation at £10 per head. Decorations are ordered and the singer is booked. An invitation list was shared and the Clerk will create invites for the next Parish Council meeting.

256/25 Meigh Road Play Equipment repairs quotations.

Cllr N Barlow and Cllr C Foster-Mctigue will source quotations for the April meeting.

257/25 Cross Roads Café Grant Application

Werrington Parish Council approved the Grant Application of £500 to help replace the fridge freezer and hot water boiler to ensure that the Cross Roads café is able to continue serving the Werrington Community.

258/25 Items for the next agenda

Wardens

Play equipment

259/25 Date of next meeting is Monday 14th April 2025

Meeting Closed at 2120hrs

Signed _____ **Date** _____