WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 14th APRIL 2025

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

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

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

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 asked what the Parish Council's plan is regarding the laurel that continues to be pulled out of the ground at the pump track on Meigh Road playing fields, and as a result, has died. The Chair informed the meeting that at least 100 laurels were planted to create a barrier for the residents backing onto the pump track and to help maintain the structure of the bank. Unfortunately, like the conifers planted before, the children have killed the laurel. The Chair went on to explain that this is part of a bigger issue that is not going to go away, but the Parish Council will keep working at it.

A member of the public asked about the bus shelter and when it would be returned. The Chair explained that the developer had removed it without permission from the District Council, but the District Council failed to hold the developer accountable for this when it was reported to them, therefore, now it is a County Council issue because the bus shelter belongs to the County Council and the Developer is no longer responding. Cllr Ward added that lessons will be learnt, and a date of replacement should be given before removal.

A member of the public made the Parish Council aware of a development currently taking place on Malt House Lane. The Clerk agreed to report this to Enforcement for further investigation.

Question Time closed at 1920hrs

260/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr S Hill, K Whitehurst, C Foster-McTigue and P Brown.

261/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

262/25 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded.

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263/25 The **minutes** of the following minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 10th March 2025.

264/25 The following **accounts** were approved:

a) March 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) March 25 payments schedule.
c) April 25 payment schedule.
d) 2025-26 Updated Budget.
e) 2024-25 Receipts List.
f) VAT Reclaim 2024-25

265/25 Werrington Parish Council discussed the following **planning applications** and had no comments: SMD/2025/0141 344 Ash Bank Rd, SMD/2025/0175 15 Ash Grove and SMD/2025/0181 65 67 Washerwall Lane.

Werrington Parish Council approved Cllr K Whitehurst to speak at SMDC Planning Committee if she wishes to on behalf of the residents of Meigh Road about only planning considerations for 19 Meigh Road planning application to include more off-road parking and reasonable hours for staff shift change over as to not disturb residents during quiet hours also suitable staff break areas that are not on the street. SMDC will need to be informed.

266/25 Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies**:

a) Fire door and building weekly inspections.
b) Flush Checklist.
c) Weekly defib and flood lights checks.
d) Werrington Parish Councils Sports Ground Fire Safety Policy.
e) Werrington Parish Council Sports Ground Safeguarding.

267/25 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors. – Nothing to report.

b) County Councillor

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that he is not currently a County Councillor as it is currently purdah. So speaking as a District Councillor, not a lot has changed since the last meeting, apart from the fact that South Staffordshire has now submitted a proposal to the Government which puts more pressure on the North Staffordshire area. Still, no to Stoke. The people of the Moorlands should get the choice.

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268/25 Staff Reports:

a) **Clerks report** was circulated.
Main Items:
- Approved removing allotment rubbish as it existed under the trees when the trees were cleared.
- **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER SKIPS PROVIDED FOR THE ALLOTMENTS.**
- The Speed Indicator is now installed on Ash Bank Road.
- SPACE Wildlife Trust Activities for over summer 50% Funding agreed by the PC.
- SPACE football coaching on Meigh Road Playing fields 100% Funding agreed by the PC.
- VE Day - Councillors to invite residents and get RSVPS.
- Arrangements for Monday 12th May 1800hrs Annual Parish Meeting
- Monday 12th May 1900hrs Annual Meeting of the Council.

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

269/25 Neighbourhood Plan

The next meeting is on Monday 28th April at 1000hrs at Werrington Methodist Church.

Cllr R Ward left the meeting at 1940hrs.

270/25 Allotments

Cllr D Brindley informed the Parish Council that the Allotment AGM was held on Monday 24th March, and that it was very constructive and went very well, and another meeting was agreed for September. Also, following today's inspection, Cllr Brindley informed the meeting that he will address the broken fence panel with the Housing Association. Also, one plot holder needs to be written to as the plot has not been attended to for at least two months.

The Parish Council went on to agree to a like-for-like replacement shed for plot 3 and a private skip to be hired by plots 2 and 3, privately paid for.

271/25 Meigh Road Playing Fields:

a) Monthly and Annual play equipment inspections.

Werrington Parish Council agreed for Alliance to continue to carry out monthly play equipment inspections.

b) Discuss the closure of an evening.

The Chair went on to explain the difficulties with locking the park at night:

- The PC doesn't own the bottom entrance yet.
- Who is going to lock up?
- Who is going to ensure everyone leaves before locking up?
- Who is going to ensure it remains closed and people don't still enter?
- Who is going to open the park in the mornings?
- The defibrillator is not accessible if the park is locked.

Meigh Road Playing Field requires a sole meeting. The Clerk requested additional questions to be added to the Neighbourhood Household survey, asking the residents if they wish for the Playing Fields to be closed in the evening and also asking what equipment they would like to see and a 3-5 year plan to work towards. The Chair agreed to call a meeting once further information has been gathered from the current working group with regards to not-for-profit organisations.

272/25 Chairmans Report:

The Chair thanked everyone for all the work that they were doing, including the Clerk and said that the situation is a lot more positive than it used to be. Also, Werrington Parish Council hopes to lead Werrington to where it needs to be, especially involving the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair informed the Parish Council that Cllr Nixon has resigned and that recruitment is required, however recruitment of active Councillors. The Chair stressed if you, as a Councillor are not able to fulfil a request, then please feed that back to the Chair and the Clerk so that those jobs can be completed by somebody else. The Parish Council believed links with the schools and drama groups were in progress, but it seems this was not the case.

273/25 Correspondence

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

274/25 Councillor Updates

Cllr L Ibbs Road sweeper was promised following the recent works for the roads and pavements. Cllr P Hughes to request SMDC.

A resident requested that the Parish Council contact the landowner to request fridge removal.

Cllr P Hughes and the Members of the Public left the meeting.

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Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

275/25 Pump Track Signage Quotation

Werrington Parish Council approved Signabilities' quotations for the two signs required on the Pump Track. Cllr N Barlow abstained due to a conflict of interest.

276/25 Meigh Road Play Equipment repairs quotations.

No quotations were provided.

277/25 Wardens Fee Increase

Werrington Parish Council approved an hourly rate fee increase for the Werrington Parish Council contracted Wardens.

278/25 SJL Liquidation

Werrington Parish Council agreed to take legal advice as soon as possible and to pay the invoice and dispute the invoice afterwards.

279/25 CCTV Contract

Cllr N Barlow gave an update on the current situation. The Parish Council agreed to contact the company again because they have recently merged in the hope they fulfil what is required, but at the same time, Cllr N Barlow is to research other companies for quotations to access the cameras and help provide recorded footage.

280/25 Items for the next agenda

281/25 Date of next meeting is Monday 12th May 2025

Meeting Closed at 2140hrs

Signed _____ **Date** _____