**WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES MONDAY 12th MAY 2025**

**AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

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

L Ibbs, B Hughes, K Whiteurst, N Barlow, S Hill

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

There were 5 members of the public present.

**Cllr K Griffiths, as the current Chair, opened the meeting at 19.00**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public made the meeting aware that they have been experiencing four weeks of issues with users on the pump track, and that more recently, the bramble was set on fire. The Chair responded that he has made contact with the Police Commander and has discovered that they have changed, but he has a meeting booked and this will be discussed along with the problems with the reporting system, E-bikes and the lack of PCSOS attending the Parish or Parish meetings.

Cllr S Hill added that when she was at Meigh Road Playing se witnessed an e-bike with three passengers, no helmets, wearing balaclavas, who were rude when approached.

Cllr B Hughes added that she is contacting the Councillor/Officer responsible for Anti-Social Behaviour at SMDC.

A member of the public added that some areas in the Moorlands make more reports, therefore get more of a police presence.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the next Police Clinic at the library is Saturday, 24th May 10-1100hrs organised by Werrington Parish Council.

Public Question Time ended at 1930hrs

**AMC002/25 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr J Morrison nominated Cllr K Griffiths. Cllr S Hill seconded Cllr K Griffiths and 6 Councillor voted for Cllr K Griffiths.

**Cllr K Griffiths became Chair of Werrington Parish Council by a unanimous vote.**

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**AMC003/25 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr L Ibbs nominated Cllr J Morrison. This was seconded by Cllr B Hughes and 4 Councillors votes for and 2 Councillors abstained.

**AMC004/25 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Acceptance of Office forms for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair were signed accordingly and witnessed by the Clerk.

**AMC005/25 APOLOGIES**

None received.

**AMC006/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**AMC007/25 REGISTER OF INTEREST**

Councillors were reminded.

**AMC008/25** The **minutes** of the following minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 14th April 2025.

**AMC009/25 Co Option** of David Shaw onto Werrington Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr J Morrison Seconded: Cllr S Hill

For: 7 Against:0 Abstain:0

**AMC010/25 Report from the Police** (if available)

Did not attend.

**AMC011/25** Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr P Hughes thanked Werrington Parish Council for all that they do for the Community.

Cllr B Hughes informed the meeting that their Community Initiative Fund is now open.

Also that SMDC meet this week.

b) County Councillor

New County Councillor Warwick Davies gave his apologies as he has not been formally signed in yet.

**AMC012/25 Clerks Report**

Had been distributed to Parish Councillors. Key points include:

- 19th May: Allotment clearance.
- Attempted break-in at the Sports Ground Easter Weekend, resulting in a new Fire Exit installation.
- 26th April weekend, a water leak – System drained and isolated awaiting plumber.
- Meigh Road pump track signage to be installed soon.
- Cllr N Barlow gave an update on the CCTV, and hopefully, a meeting will be arranged soon.
- The Warden's Job List was agreed.
- VE Day Event was a success.
- Settlement with the liquidation company as previously shared.

**AMC013/25** Review **Delegated** Arrangements.

It was agreed that the current delegation arrangements for committees and the Clerk will remain the same.

**AMC014/25 Terms of Reference**

It was agreed that Terms of reference would be agreed by Committees when they first meet,

**AMC015/25 Committees and Working Groups**

a) Planning Committee – Cllr Hughes, Cllr Morrison and Cllr Hill.
b) Risk & Asset Management Committee – Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Whitehurst and Cllr Shaw.
c) Highways Working Group –All welcome.
d) Antisocial Behaviour Working Group – Defer to June's meeting.
e) Disciplinary Panel – Chairman, Cllr K Whitehurst and Cllr L Ibbs.
f) Grievance Panel – Chairman, Cllr Morrison and Cllr Hughes.
g) Appraisal Panel – Chairman and Vice Chairman

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**AMC016/25 REPRESENTATIVES**

The following representatives were appointed:

a) Wetley Moor Committee – Cllr J Morrison
(Cllr Morrison to investigate if this Committee still exists)
b) Parish Assembly – Cllrs B Hughes, L Ibbs
c) Village Hall Committee – Cllrs S Hill, L Ibbs

**AMC017/25 LEAD COUNCILLORS**

The following Councillors were appointed as contacts for the following:

a) Allotments/Memorial Stone/Notice Board/Flagpole – Cllr Morrison

Mr Brindley gave a final report on the allotments and offered a handover.

b) Footpaths - (North) Cllr P Nixon and (South) Cllr Griffiths
c) Meigh Road Playing Fields – Cllr Ibbs and Cllr Ibbs
d) Sports Ground – Cllr Whitehurst
e) Land off Whitmore Avenue – Cllr Hughes
f) Delivery of flowers to residents 90+ - Cllr Hughes
g) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr D Shaw

**AMC018/25** The following **accounts/finances** were approved:

a) April 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) April / May 25 payments schedule.
c) Bank Signatories: Cllr Morrison, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Hill
d) Online Payments.
e) Annual Governance Statement.
f) Annual Accounting Statement.
g) Noted internal Audit.
h) Appointed Kim Squires Services for Internal Audit 2025-26

**AMC019/25** Werrington Parish Council discussed the following **Planning Applications** and had no comments:

SMD/2025/0189, APP/B3438/W/3363739, SMD/2025/0185, SMD/2025/0193, SMD/2025/0216 and SMD/2025/0219.

Werrington Parish Council agreed to submit the same objections from SMD/2024/0486 for SMD/2025/0212 and requested Cllr P Hughes investigate why the application has been resubmitted when it has already been refused.

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**AMC020/25 Chairman's Report:**

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

The Chair asked the Clerk to read Cllr Brindley's resignation letter to the meeting and went on to thank Cllr Brindley for all of his hard work over the years.

The Chair also stressed that the Parish Council is low on Councillors and must recruit.

**AMC021/25** Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies**:

a) Standing Orders.
b) Financial regulations.

**AMC022/25 Neighbourhood Plan**

Werrington Parish Council approved the Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey.

Werrington Parish Council deferred the Housing Needs Assessment until the update has been received.

**AMC023/25 Werrington Allotments**

Werrington Parish Council approved a request to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the transfer of ownership of Werrington Allotments to Werrington Parish Council as a designated Community Asset.

**Confidential Items (public and press excluded)**

**AMC024/25 Meigh Road Drainage**

Werrington Parish Council discussed the proposal, and it was agreed that Cllr Griffiths will share the proposal with Cllr R Ward to review it, and that further quotations will try to be obtained for the June meeting.

**AMC025/25 Neighbourhood Plan Printing**
Deferred until June.

**AMC026/25 Wardens Fee Increase**

The Wardens did not accept the pay increase to minimum wage. Werrington Parish Council discussed alternatives and delegated the Chair and Cllr Ibbs to meet with the Wardens to discuss further.

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**AMC027/25 Items for the next agenda**

**AMC028/25 Date of next meeting is Monday 9th June 2025**

**Meeting Closed at 2145hrs**

**Signed** _____ **Date** _____