WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD MONDAY 12th MAY 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

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr R Ward

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

There were 2 members of the public present.

THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING AT 1800hrs

APM01/25 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting is to allow residents to discuss parish affairs, update themselves on the activities of the Parish Council and other local organisations, and have a voice in matters affecting their community.

APM02/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr K Whiteurst.

APM03/25 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chair informed the meeting that this time last year, he took on the Chairship, and at a similar time, the Clerk went off with ill health, so lots of work in the first part of the year was spent ensuring the statutory requirements were in place and ensuring the Parish Council had open access to the information required from the Clerk.

This year has also seen the start of a very important project for the Parish in the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Parish Council hopes that the residents get involved in the consultation process when the Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey is delivered. Growth and development are coming everywhere, and the Neighbourhood Plan is the only layer of protection that the Parish Council can provide to ensure that what is important to Werrington residents is protected and not affected by any future developments and ensuring that Werrington continues to have adequate services and amenities.

This year has also seen the announcement of Devolution and the change in County Councillor.

Finally, the Chair thanked all the Councillors for being dedicated Councillors as without them, there is no Parish Council.

APM04/25 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public asked how the County Council's political change would affect the Parish Council. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council is non-political.

A member of the public asked about the speed limits outside the schools in Werrington, including Moorside and also raised concerns about the poor condition of the pavements in Werrington.

The Clerk explained that the roads and pavements come under Staffordshire County Council, as do the pavements and as a Parish, we make the reports on the Highways reporting app the same way as the residents do, then we rally the District and County Councillors or supporting agencies to support in carrying out the changes or improvements. Werrington Parish Council has had a Speed Indicator installed this year to try to reduce the speed on Ash Bank Road, but again, the Parish is governed by the Highways Agency because they have rules to follow for where it can be safely sighted.

Cllr R Ward went on to explain that all footpath repairs were halted for five years whilst Cadent and internet companies all had works scheduled, and this year was the year that that work should have been completed and the pavement improvement plan to begin, but the change in leadership may now change that plan.

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROSS WARD

SMDC Cllr Ross Ward informed the meeting that after 8 years as the area's County Councillor he has lost his seat in the recent elections, but he wanted to inform the meeting that he will continue to attend Werrington parish Council meetings in his capacity as the District Councillor.

Cllr Ross Ward looked back at what had been achieved over the 8 years

- Supported Werrington Community Volunteers to take over the library.
- Received the Queen's Award as a result of that work.
- Supporting funding applications for disability access to the library and well-being.
- Helped to fund the Village Hall car park resurface.
- Helped to secure a grant to fund disability access to the Village Hall.
- Funded honesty boxes at the Village Hall Carpark.
- Paid for a defibrillator at the Library.
- Supported the Scout Group, Girls Brigade, WASPS, Bowling Club, Methodist Church, Wombles.

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- Reported 897 potholes personally.
- Most importantly for Cllr Ward supported 526 residents through case work.
- Always helped at Werrington Fun Days.
- Got the Double Yellow Lines at Southlowe.
- Bus shelter refurbished on Southlowe.
- Worked on over 150 planning applications
- Reduced the housing from 300 for Werrington down to 75 in the Local Plan.
- Secured funding for the Headteachers following the 75-house development.
- Supported Co Op being overturned because the location was dangerous.
- Footpaths on Meigh Rd have been resurfaced.
- Leek Road resurfacing.
- Speed Watch Group.
- Bollards installed in numerous locations.
- COVID NHS Volunteer responder will still do so until it closes 31st May, picking up prescriptions and shopping for people unable to.
- Attended Solar meetings and arranged MP visit.
- Supported Staffordshire Wildlife Trust taken over Wetley Moor.
- In 8 years County Council and the 10-year District Council have never claimed expenses.
- Ongoing are Devolution and Solar/Wind Farms

The Chair thanks Cllr R Ward for his commitment as a County Councillor in serving Werrington.

APM05/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – QUESTIONS ARE INVITED FROM RESIDENTS.

There were no further questions.

APM06/25 FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND CLOSE.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and invited them to stay for refreshments. The Chair also made a request for people to volunteer to become Parish Councillors.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1845HRS

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Signed _____ **Date** _____