WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th JUNE 2025

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

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

L Ibbs, B Hughes, K Whiteurst, S Hill, D Shaw

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

SMDC Cllr R Ward

There were 10 members of the public present.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident inquired about the transfer of the allotment asset from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to Werrington Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that it was an approved agenda item last month, and a letter has been sent to the Head of Assets at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council requesting the transfer of the allotments to Werrington Parish Council.

A guest speaker from Connect Fibre informed the meeting that the project aims to deliver where nobody else will commercially. By summer, it is aimed at connecting 25,000 premises in Derbyshire and Staffordshire to enable people to live their lives fully. At the moment, the locations have not been confirmed. This team will be supervising and delivering the project because it is important to the economy, children's education and it is proven to increase house value by 1.6%. Design principles will always be where possible to use existing underground or overground facilities, but there may need to be disruption from digging and more poles. If that is the case, they wish to work with the communities, and good communication is vital; therefore, public meetings will be held. The Government funding is paying to put the infrastructure in place and Connect Fibre will also engage with community support for disadvantaged groups and help uplift digital skills.

Public Question Time ended at 1930hrs

The Connect Fibre Team left the meeting.

029/25 APOLOGIES

None received.

030/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

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031/25 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded.

032/25 The **minutes** of the following minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council Monday 12th May 2025.
b) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Monday 12th May 2025.

033/25 Accounts The following accounts were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) May 2025 Bank Reconciliation.
b) May/June 25 payment schedule.
c) 2025-26 Budget Review.

034/25 Planning Applications.

SMD/2025/0239 and SMD/2025/0246 were discussed, and no comments were made.

SMD/2025/0250 was noted as not in Werrington Parish.

The proposed development of a 300 MW BESS facility was noted as not in Werrington Parish.

Werrington Parish Council will support the neighbouring Parish Councils if required.

035/25 The Following **Policies** were reviewed:

a) The **CCTV** Policy was deferred until July 25.
b) **Grievance** Policy was approved.
c) **Complaints** Policy was discussed and deferred until July 25

036/25 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that Devolution is the main effort, but worryingly, the next SMDC meeting is not until September, therefore, they will be calling for an extraordinary meeting.

Called in the Eaves Lane planning application.

Scrutiny meeting for Social Services and the Crime Commissioner soon, so will feed back.

Cllr D Shaw is still working towards the care at home project in the Moorlands.

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Cllr B Hughes will be attending the Health Committee meeting on 25th June.

Cllr P Hughes informed the meeting that since the last meeting, she had established the street cleaning contact and schedule.

b) County Councillor

Did not attend.

Cllr R Ward left at 1940hrs

037/25 Clerks Report

Had been distributed to Parish Councillors. Key points include:

- **VJ Day –** It was decided to purchase and fly a flag.
- **Wardens'** monthly jobs list was approved.

038/25 Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the household surveys are being printed currently.

It was agreed to meet separately to discuss engaging with all residents to ensure maximum participation by going live on social and the internet, and arranging drop-in clinics and public meetings.

039/25 Allotments

Ex Cllr D Brindley has kindly volunteered to continue carrying out monthly inspections of the allotments until alternative arrangements can be made.

040/25 Meigh Road Playing Fields

Cllr Whitehurst and Cllr Ibbs are researching alternative management options for the Playing Fields. In the meantime, it was agreed to arrange a working group meeting to discuss repairs and options in more detail.

Cllr Ibbs provided a report on the condition of the Playing Fields.

041/25 Sports Ground

It was agreed that the Clerk can obtain three quotes to empty the septic tank and go ahead with the cheapest one before the next meeting.

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042/25 Bowling Club

The Bowling Club are working toward disabled access funding.
The membership has doubled.
Adverts will be provided to the Clerk to help advertise the club to new members.

043/25 Chairman's Report:

The Parish Councillor has lost another Councillor again recently, and the Councillor has submitted a complaint, which has been passed to the Staffing Committee to investigate.

The Parish Council has been working with residents and the Police, which has resulted in one E-bike no longer causing a hazard on Meigh Road Playing Fields. There is now an issue with trail bikes that the police are working hard to stop.

044/25 Correspondence
Resident reported removal of bollards, Meigh Rd to Uplands – Cllr B Hughes investigating
Resident reported flooding on Hulme Lane – Cllr D Shaw
Resident requires access to Meigh rd playing fields to reduce trees – Clerk
Resident reported condition of play equipment offered support with play equipment – Clerk

045/25 Councillor Updates/Items
Cllr D Shaw provided updates on the following: Village Life, Friday Club, Fun Day, Kidz2Kidz, Care at home and The Red Cow. It was agreed for the Clerk to reach out to Transform Communities Staffordshire with regards to the possibility of reinstating the Friday Club. It was also agreed to add Community Asset to the July Agenda.

Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

046/25 Meigh Signage Quotation

Werrington Parish Council agreed to further investigate how much a thicker material would cost and the content of the main sign on Meigh Road Playing Fields to replace it after vandalism.

047/25 Meigh Road Playing Fields
It was agreed to hold a working group meeting to review the monthly inspections and make a plan of work for repairs and replacements.

048/25 Wardens Fee Increase

The Warden's hourly rate fee was increased, but hours were reduced from 15 hours a week to 14 hours a week.

049/25 Meigh Road Land Transfer

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Werrington Parish Council decided not to proceed with the Land exchange at the bottom entrance to Meigh Road playing Fields because confirmation of who is responsible for the fences was not clear. Therefore, the Parish Council decided to pay the solicitors for the current work conducted and stop the land transfer. If required in the future, the Parish Council would erect a gate and fence on their land of Meigh Road, creating two entrances with an area of land that the Parish Council are not responsible for in the middle because the fences are in disrepair and the land is extremely wet.

050/25 CCTV Contract

The Clerk has made contact and will provide an update at the July meeting.

Cllr K Whitehurst will also make enquiries.

051/25 Meigh Road Drainage Plan

The second quotation has not been received yet so the decision was made to defer this agenda item until the July meeting.

052/25 Parish Council Insurance

It was agreed to continue with the existing provider at a reduced rate for a three year contract.

053/25 Grant Application

The Parish Council decided to refuse the Grant Application at this time. The Grant Funds available were reduced when the Parish Council budgeted in order to not have to increase the Precept. The Applicant has used a Grant in the last few years, and the Parish Council would like to allow other organisations to apply that directly benefit more residents of Werrington. However, the applicant can apply again towards the end of the financial year if no other organisations have applied for the budgeted grant money available. The Parish Council also recommend that Grant Applicants attend Parish Council meetings to explain further their applications.

054/25 Items for the next agenda

Community Asset

055/25 Date of next meeting is Monday 14th July 2025

Meeting Closed at 2045hrs

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Signed _____ **Date** _____