**WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2025**

**AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**
Cllr K Griffiths (Chair)
Cllr J Morrison (Vice Chair)
B Hughes, D Shaw, K Whitehurst
G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes
SMDC Cllr P Roberts
There were 5 members of the public present.

**Cllr K Griffiths opened the meeting at 19.00**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
The Chair opened the meeting informing everyone that it is not acceptable for anyone to expect the Chair or any Councillor to sign a diary for acceptance of anything because minutes of every Parish Council meeting are taken and act as a record.

A resident asked when the pavements are going to be repaired as his wife has fallen as a result of the pavement being in such poor condition. The Clerk informed the resident that pavements are a Staffordshire County Council responsibility and to report the pavement with photographs online then please share it with the Parish Council who will also make a report and encourage other residents to do so because the more reports that are received the higher up the priority list the defect goes.

A resident asked about the three building plots that are for sale and what is happening with the missing bus shelter. Cllr P Hughes answered that apparently the developer is awaiting utilities clearance then the Highways will reinstall it, this has been totally unacceptable the amount of time it has taken. The plots it seems have been sold off by the developer with granted planning permission.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for getting part of the hedge at Kerry Hill cut back. The Chair informed the resident that efforts will continue to get the remainder of the hedge cut too.

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A resident requested three items:

1. Breakdown of the sales from most recent development. This had already been sent.

2. Copy of this evenings planning list which was provided.

3. Request a private meeting with the Chair and Clerk.

Clerk agreed to make contact after the meeting.

Public Question Time ended at 1910hrs

**081/25 APOLOGIES**
Cllr L Ibbs, Cllr R Ward, Cllr W Mckenzie.

**082/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None received.

**083/25 REGISTER OF INTEREST**
Councillors were reminded.

**084/25 Co Option Of Ross Ward onto Werrington Parish Council.**

Proposed: Cllr D Shaw Seconded: Cllr J Morrisson

For: 5 Against:0 Abstain:0

**085/25** The **minutes** of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 14th July 2025.
b) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Notes Monday 4th August 2025.

**086/25 Accounts** The following accounts were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) July 2025 Bank Reconciliation.
b) August 2025 Bank Reconciliation.
c) Jul/Aug 25 payment schedule.
d) Aug/Sept 25 payment schedule.
e) Budget Review was noted.
f) Clerks Annual Pay Award was noted.

**087/25 Planning Applications**.
SMD/2025/0325, DET/2025/0031, SMD/2025/0378 and CON/2025/0028 were discussed and there were no comments.

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SMD/2025/0354 Land off Leek Road Erection of a 300MW battery storage a public meeting is being arrange for the 29th September at the Methodist Church 1830-1930hrs an extension has been granted until the end of October.

SMDC Cllr P Roberts requested that it was recorded in the minute that he had not made any comments on any of the planning applications discussed.

**088/25** The Following **Policies** were reviewed:

a) The **CCTV** Policy was deferred until Oct 25-SPCA proof reading.
b) **Dignity at Work Policy** was approved.
c) **Equality and Diversity Policy** was approved.

**089/25** Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

**Cllr P Hughes** informed the meeting that:

- Residents were grateful for the support with the Traveler planning application which has been refused.

**Cllr B Hughes** informed the meeting that the future of Leek Hospital is still unknown.

b) County Councillor

**Cllr W Mckenzie** was unable to attend.

**090/25 Clerks Report**

Had been distributed to Parish Councillors. Key points include:

- The Wardens monthly jobs list was approved.
- SPACE Update numbers attended Stoke Community Sports and Staffs Wildlife Activities over the Summer Holidays.
- Youth Club had 10 young people attend the first session.
- Village Life to return with a Christmas edition.
- Volunteers Christmas Light Switch on 22nd November the Parish Council has offered support where required.
- The Clerk reminded all Parish Councillor that the MUST move over to Parish Council email address and to make contact with the Clerk if they are struggling.
- Clerk requested Christmas Leave Dates 24th December until 2nd January 2026.

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**091/25 Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) The Clerk read out the Policy Mapping and it will be uploaded on to the PC website.
b) Next Meeting Monday 29th September 10am at Werrington Library.

**092/25 Allotments**

The Chair invited Mr. Brindley to present the allotment report. Mr. Brindley reported that graffiti had been found on the Queen's Bench. Overall, the allotments continue to show improvement in both housekeeping and crop quality. A small number of plots remain below the required standard, but these are being addressed. Three bags of rubbish including asbestos are still awaiting removal, which the Clerk is currently pursuing. Mr. Brindley also noted a productive meeting with an allotment tenant earlier this evening, with positive feedback received regarding the grounds maintenance contractors.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brindley for continuing to inspect the allotments despite stepping down from the Parish Council and thanked him for all of his hard work developing the site.

**093/25 Meigh Road Playing Fields**

- CCTV to be installed 7th October.
- Possible requirement for further trees by the pump track if the new cctv does not solve the ongoing issues.

**094/25 Sports Ground**

- The ground was extremely dry and cracks were forming but recent downfall so should be ok now, teams advised to monitor and only play if safe to do so.

**095/25 Bowling Club**

- Issues with young people makes threats to members.
- Bowling Club won the league.
- Looking for grants to improve disabled access.
- Provide the Clerk with details to advertise to new members.

**096/25 Asset of Community Value**

Werrington Parish Council approved submitting an application for the Red Cow. The application is complete the Chair will gather the remaining signatures required.

**097/25 Transfer Ownership request**

The Parish Council agreed to request the transfer of ownership of the additional land off Cotehill.

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**098/25 Chairman's Report**
The Chairman thanked the Vice Chair for standing in at the July meeting. The Chair also informed the meeting that he is fast approaching the end of a two year Chair ship and would like to look for succession planning and someone to take over the Chair in the future.

The Chairman wanted to take the opportunity to remind the Parish Councillors that you are always a Parish Councillor and should behalf as such including whilst using social media.

**099/25 Correspondence**
There has been 7 accidents in Winterfield Lane in 15 weeks. Residents have concerns about the speed limit and would like it reduced. The Clerk advised that reports should be submitted to Staffordshire County Council Highways and the Clerk advises to make a residents group to push for the change as Hilderstone in Meir Heath are doing.

The Clerk informed the meeting that herself and the Chairman met with a resident at Meigh Road who is experiencing issues that hopefully the CCTV will resolve but if not a plan for trees may need to be approved.

**100/25 Councillor Updates/Items**
None.

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

**101/25 Meigh Signage Quotation**
Werrington Parish Council approved a full aluminium sign for Meigh Road but to investigate if any anti vandalism spray was possible.

**102/25 Tree Survey Quotes**
Werrington Parish Council approved a quote from Tree Heritage

**103/25 Meigh Road Drainage Plan**
Deferred until October Parish Council meeting following further questions with regards to quotations and Cllr Ross Ward to join the Parish Council and champion this investigation work.

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**104/25 Cease Contract for previous CCTV**
Werrington Parish Council approved the issuing of a letter to formally cease the previous contract, due to the contractor's failure to deliver the required services and maintain adequate communication.

**105/25 Meigh Road Play Equipment Quotations**
Werrington Parish Council approved a quote from School Playground Specialists for a 4 way spinger.

**106/25 Quotes for Millenium Garden bed edge**
Werrington Parish Council agreed to proceed with the lowest quotation for replacing the wooden edges. The decision was made on the basis that the Council wishes to consult with residents regarding their preferences for the future of the area, and then budget accordingly over the next couple of years with a view to a full revamp.

**107/25 Bespoke Council Training**
Werrington Parish Council deferred training until the Council recruit more Parish Councillors.

**108/25 Site Suggestions for the Local Plan**
To be looked at in more depth once the Neighbourhood Plan Questions have closed.

**109/25 Remembrance**
Werrington Parish Council agreed to purchase two silhouette figures for use in the local Remembrance display. The figures will remain assets of the Parish Council and will be stored in the Parish Council's Lengthsman's hut when not in use.

**110/25 Items for the next agenda**
1800-1900 – Budget Meeting
Staffing report and Staffing Committee

**111/25 Date of next meeting is Monday 13th October 2025**

**Meeting Closed at 2035hrs**

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