WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

In conjunction with

CAVERSWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Public Meeting Minutes

Monday 29th September 2025 at 1830hrs

in Werrington Methodist Church

31 Members of Public in attendance.

1. **Werrington Chairman opens the meeting to include introductions.**

The Chairman of Werrington Parish Council opened the meeting with introductions to include the District Councillors Ross Ward and Pat Hughes, The Vice Chair of Werrington Parish Council Cllr Jocelyn Morrison and the Clerk Mrs Keiher-Knapper. The Chairman explained that this planning application sits in Caverswall Parish but is very close to Werrington's Boundary which is why the two Parishes have worked together to facilitate a public meeting.

2. Cllr R Ward gave a brief description of the **Planning Application SMD/2025/0354** Proposal: *Erection of a 300 MW Battery Energy Storage System* and shared large A3 plans and diagrams and confirmed that he will call the application in to be heard by the Planning Committee.

3. **Save Rownall, Bagnall & Werrington Green Belt Group.**

A representative from the group informed the meeting that this is 1 application of 8 in the area and 5 have already been passed in Rownall and Armshead giving a total of 1000 storage units to come.

One is due to start construction on Wednesday which is the East of CellarHead for 280 containers.

Why here? The constant excuse is its close to a power station but only 10% is used the rest is stored.

BESS sites that have been approved so far are over 10% of the total needed for the UK and they are all in Rownall.

Continuous issues:

- No technical knowledge in the SMDC Planning Dept or the SMDC Planning Committee.
- The Fire Service is not a consultee. The Fire Brigade don't know how to deal with these sites if they catch fire. The local applications that have been passed do not have suitable routes in or out.
- The Highways responses have been disappointing.
- Transfer Plans have been incorrect and not challenged.

4. **An opportunity for somebody to talk FOR the application.**

There were no residents in attendance that wanted to speak for the proposed planning application.

5. **Werrington Parish Councils reasons for objection.**

The Clerk explained that the District Council has the Authority for Planning and that the Parish Council is similar to a residents where it can object, comment or agree with planning applications that come forward. The application has been granted an extension until 28th October to allow residents to send in objections using recorded delivery if they are not confident using the Planning portal.

The Clerk explained that for objections to be considered they must be in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and encouraged residents to go away and read up on the Policy.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Werrington Parish Council will be objecting because of the following reasons:

1. Cumulative Impact.
2. Noise Concerns.
3. Over Intensification.
4. Floodlighting and Light Pollution
5. Unsuitable hours of operation.
6. Security Risks.
7. Monitors and Safety Concerns.
8. Impact of the Countryside.

Caverswall Clerk Mrs Cantlay also added about an investigation being required with regards the land registry and any covenants on the land.

6. **Opportunity to ask any Questions.**

Several discussions were held.

The Clerk informed the meeting of the following drop-in sessions and asked residents to spread the word to other residents that may not be on social media.

Drop-in sessions available for anyone unable to use the Planning Portal
Saturday 4th October 2025 - 10:00 am – 11:00 am. -Werrington Library
Cllr Ward.

Friday 10th October 2025 -10:00 am – 11:00 am - Werrington Library
Cllr B Hughes & Cllr P Hughes

7. **Chair closed the meeting at 1940hrs**