WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr J Morrison, B Hughes, K Whitehurst,

S Hill, M Fair, D Shaw, L Ibbs,

T Latala, R Ward

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

There were 3 members of the public present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public attended the meeting to elaborate on their application to hold a summer event at Meigh Road Playing Fields. The applicant explained that the proposed event would be free to enter and designed to cater for all age groups.

The event would include a range of stalls and community activities, such as tug-of-war competitions and cake bakes, with the aim of encouraging broad community participation. A dedicated children's zone with inflatables would be provided, along with a stage featuring live music. No alcohol would be available at the event.

Local businesses would be invited to participate and support the event. The proposed operating hours would be 12.00 noon to 7.00 pm, with activities aimed at teenagers scheduled for later in the afternoon and early evening, including a disco and a darts competition.

Toilet facilities would be provided on site. Insurance would be sourced by the Event provider closer to the time with stall holders having their own insurance.

Two members of public left the meeting at 1910hrs

Public Question Time ended at 1905hrs

215/26 **Apologies**

Cllr P Hughes SMDC.

216/26 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations (from agenda):**

None received.

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217/26 **Register of Interests**:

Councillors were reminded.

218/26 The **Minutes** of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 12th January 2026.

b) Action points from Neighbourhood Plan meeting Monday 2nd February 2026.

219/26 The following **Accounts** were approved:

a) **January 2026** Bank Reconciliation (circulated via email)

b) **Jan/Feb 26 payment** schedule (circulated via email)

c) **Asset Register**.

d) **Precept Statement** for Social Media.

220/26 The following Planning **Applications** were discussed:

SMD/2026/0019 and SMD/2025/0535 Werrington Parish Council has no comments.

SMD/2025/0504 Werrington Clinic Salters Close, existing disused clinic to be demolished and replaced with proposed 5 new bungalows. Werrington Parish Council decided to comment on the application requesting further investigation to be carried out with regards to drainage for surface water and foul because Salters Close, the Village Hall and Chatsworth regularly experience issues and an increase to the existing properties could cause residents further drainage problems.

The Chairman suspended standing orders to allow a member of the public to comment on the application about the foul drainage to Salters Close going up towards the Young Offenders Institute. The member of the public then left the meeting.

221/26 The following **policies were approved**:

a) Werrington Sports Ground Operating Document

b) Werrington Sports Ground Safeguarding Policy

c) Events Booking Proforma

d) Warden Storage Agreement – Cllr M Fair abstained – This is a dynamic agreement

e) Access to Meigh Road Playing Fields request form – Agreed to write to residents

f) Risk Register

1222/26 Receive a **report** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that the budget setting is due on 25th February and that he has requested no rise because of Government reorganisation. Also updated that the Government reorganisation consultation has now gone live. The Clerk confirmed that it has been shared on Werrington Parish Council social media and website.

Cllr B Hughes – No further updates.

Cllr P Hughes – Apologies received.

Cllr D Shaw – Informed the meeting that he has requested the support of the County Councillor with regards to the Werrington Care at Home project.

b) County Councillor.

Did not attend

223/26 **Staff Reports**:

a) Clerks Report

- The Wardens job list was approved.
- Annual Allotment meeting agreed Monday 13th April at 1800hrs Werrington Village Hall.
- Outstanding and ongoing Bus shelter and Crossing.
- The Parish Council agreed ProFM CCTV replacement still awaiting a date.
- 4 way springer installation took place today Monday 9th February 2026.
- Tender for MUGA drainage is live and hopefully will be on the Government website soon.

- Enquire about the heating at the Village Hall in case change of location required for Monday 23rd February Meigh Road Working Group Meeting.

B) May Meeting Arrangements have been agreed:
Monday 11th May at 1800hrs Annual Meeting of the Parish
Monday 11th May at 1900hrs Annual Meeting of the Council
It was agreed to provide light refreshments of drinks, cakes and savoury snacks.

c) Approved purchase of the latest edition of Arnold Baker – Local Government

224/26 **Neighbourhood Plan**.

a) Working Group Update.

- Councillors are inputting questionnaires manually.
- Councillor completing Green Space Templates

b) Next meeting.

- Next meeting Monday 23rd February at 1000hrs in Werrington Library.

225/26 **Allotments:**

Plot 8 a long-standing tenant of 40 years has resigned the clerk is meeting with the next person on the waiting list.

Annual Meeting Monday 13th April at 1800hrs Werrington Village Hall.

226/26 **Meigh Road Playing Fields:**

Public Working Group Meeting Monday 23rd February at 1830-1930hrs the location of the Village Hall may need to be changed.

The Chairman asked the Councillors to only have one meeting and stop private conversation.

227/26 **Sports Ground:**

a) 2026 Pitch Maintenance programme was approved
b) Cricket booking was approved and payment agreed to be set at £400 for April – Sept 26 hire fee.

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

228/26 **Bowling Club**:

Cllr Griffiths informed the meeting that he has recently attended safeguarding training to be able invite young people to join in.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the peppercorn rent payments are now fully up to date.

229/26 **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for all the ongoing work that they do.

The Chairman reminded Parish Councillors to be mindful of comments made outside of meetings, as they can be misinterpreted.

Members were reminded that the Parish Council previously met with representatives of the Co-op to discuss highways-related concerns and to encourage the Co-op to consult with residents of Werrington before submitting a further planning application.

A subsequent planning application was submitted several months after that meeting and details were shared on social media by the Parish Council to ensure that residents were aware. Comments were then made by some residents alleging an inappropriate relationship between the Parish Council and the Co-op. The Chairman in the meeting had suggested that the current co-op building would make a good Parish Council Office and community hub this had gone on to be misinterpreted.

It was noted that the initial planning application had been approved by the Highways Authority and was only refused on design grounds and that the Parish Council has no authority on Planning decisions.

230/26 **Anti Social Behaviour Update.**

Cllr L Ibbs raised concerns about young people on bikes in the area not abiding by the highway code and being a danger to themselves and others. The Clerk agreed to look into any high school age schemes and discussing with the PCSOs.

One of the PCSOs that covers Werrington is currently off.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that policing may be moved to the West Midlands which is a great concern for the decline in service received as what happened when the Ambulance Service moved.

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

231/26 **Correspondence**

The Clerk shared the response from The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP with regards to requesting a crossing for Moorside students.

The Clerk informed the meeting about reports received about the fallen fence outside Elizabeth House, the Clerk informed the manager and she said she would inform the owner.

232/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**

Cllr Shaw informed the meeting that he has a slot on Moorland radio soon.

Cllr Fair informed the meeting that he has a very successful meeting with the Head of school at Moorside and will be meeting again after Half Term and the plan is to write and produce something that covers the effects of Anti-Social behaviour that can be rolled out to the schools and community groups in the area.

Cllr S Hill asked what is happening with the old post office, the Clerk agreed to enquire.

The Chairman asked the Councillors to only have one meeting and stop private conversation.

Cllr B Hughes asked if the Chair had managed to investigate the fence removal on Hill Village Road. The Chair said that he will investigate this week.

Cllr Fair informed the meeting that he had attended a Best Kept Village meeting and that is now also more so about community too, Cllr Fair is happy to pursue further with regards to what area should enter because Werrington Parish is too large to enter as a whole. Applications start in April and judging takes place in June and July. It now encourages all organisations to get involved schools and community groups too.

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

233/26 Review and decide on **Grant Application**.

Cllr D Shaw declared an interest and remained out of discussions and voting.

The Parish Council awarded a Grant of £300 to the re launch of Village Life Community magazine

234/26 **Event Application for Meigh Road Playing Fields.**

The Parish Council approved the Event on Meigh Road Playing Fields providing the following were provided for final approval:

- A more detailed **method statement** document outlining the safe, step-by-step procedures for setting up, operating, and dismantling equipment like inflatables, simulators, and games.

- **More details on description of Work:** A clear, step-by-step procedure for the task, such as installing a bouncy castle, operating a simulator, or managing a side stall.
- **More details on Site Details & Personnel:** Location, date of the event, and key personnel involved (e.g., event manager, trained operators).
- **More details about Equipment Details:** Information on the equipment being used and confirmation of safety checks.
- **More details on Hazards & Risk Control:** Identification of potential hazards (e.g., electrocution, trip hazards, high winds, storage of fuels) and the control measures in place.
- **More details on Emergency Procedures:** Actions to take in case of an accident or emergency.
- **Information on PPE Requirements:** Personal Protective Equipment, if required.
- **Insurance quotation** to show it has been looked into and is achievable.
- **Risk Assessment** to be in more detail.

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman asked for a third time that the Councillors to only have one meeting and stop private conversation.

235/26 **Basket Swing Quotations**

The Parish Council agreed to defer the approval of a provider until the new financial year and to first monitor how the new four-way springer is received and treated.

236/26 **Contractor Annual Fee Increases**

The Clerk informed the meeting that **Alliance** has still not provided any information.

The Parish Council approved **Town and Country Services** increase on two treatments only grass cutting £115 and marking pitch lines £140.

The Parish Council discussed the **Village Wardens** hourly rate increase request at length. Cllr Fair declared and interest and did not participate in any discussions or vote. A 10% from £13.69 to £15.06 increase was agreed by a majority vote.

The Chairman asked the Councillors for fourth time to stop cackling like naughty school children and suggested that they should perhaps split up to enable just one meeting to take place as constant personal conversation makes it difficult to control.

237/26 **Drainage Consultation Quotations**

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that the two quotations did not include the test digs part of the consultation. The Clerk agreed to obtain a day rate quote for digger and driver to dig the required holes for the company to provide consultation reports for.

238/26 **Transfer of Assets**

The Clerk updated the meeting that The Red Cow Community Asset request was still being processed and the allotments and Millenium Rock land transfer of asset request was also still being processed by SMDC.

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

239/26 **Items for the next Agenda**.

Please inform the Clerk

240/26 To confirm Date, Time and Location of the next meeting.

Monday 9th March 2026 location tbc

Signature_____

Name_____

Date_____