WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 14th APRIL 2026

AT WERRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths (Chair)

Cllr J Morrison, K Whitehurst,

S Hill, D Shaw, L Ibbs, T Latala,

R Ward, B Hughes

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

There were 5 members of the public present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited a representative of the Bowling Club to address the meeting first, as they had a prior engagement. The representative informed the Council that all neighbouring residents had been consulted regarding the proposed disability access, and no concerns had been raised. The Chairman advised that drainage provisions have now been incorporated into the Bowling Club's plans to ensure that the existing drainage issues at Meigh Road Playing Fields are not exacerbated. The Clerk enquired whether it had been confirmed by SMDC if a planning application was required; however, the Bowling Club is still awaiting a response.

A member of the public raised concerns with Cllr R. Ward regarding the poor condition of the road surfaces off Chatsworth Drive, noting that they are in a significantly worse state compared to the recently resurfaced Meigh Road. Cllr R. Ward explained that he is no longer the County Councillor but would offer support where possible. The Clerk requested a reference number to assist further, but the member of the public was unable to provide any.

Another resident asked whether there were any updates regarding the reinstallation of the bus shelter. The Chairman invited Cllr P. Hughes to respond, who stated that she hoped to have an update the following day, acknowledging that the absence of a bus shelter for three years is unacceptable.

The same resident also enquired about any developments concerning the former Post Office. The Chairman confirmed that a planning application had been refused and that no new applications have since been submitted.

A further member of the public asked about the land adjacent to Croft Cottage, noting that additional items appear to be accumulating on the site. The Chairman confirmed that the matter has been reported to SMDC Enforcement.

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Public Question Time ended at 1925hrs

263/26 **Apologies**

Cllr M Fair.

264/26 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations (from agenda):**

None.

265/26 **Register of Interests**:

Councillors were reminded.

266/26 The **Minutes** of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 9th March 2026.

b) Action points from Neighbourhood Plan meeting Monday 16th March 2026.

267/26 The following **Accounts** were approved:

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

b) **March 26 payment** schedule (circulated via email)

c) **April 26 payment** schedule (circulated via email)

c) **Earmarked Funds** approved £10,000 Elections and £10,000 Devolution**.**

268/26 The following Planning **Applications** were discussed:

SMD/2025/0460 Werrington Parish Council has no comments.

SMD/2026/0151 Werrington Parish Council request Cllr R Ward to call the application in because it is not clear what the application is for.

SMD/2026/0410 Werrington Parish Council objects to the application as further investigation is required with regards to Highways access and Green Belt Land.

SMD/2026/0154 Werrington Parish Council has no comments.

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269/26 Receive a **report** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that SMDC voted to increase council tax to the maximum allowed despite his group objection as there is large amounts in reserves. On top of the council tax increase is the £47 a year to empty green waste which will increase again under local government reform.

Cllr P Hughes – No further updates.

Cllr D Shaw – No further updates.

b) County Councillor.

In March, the Parish Council approved a letter of concern from Cllr L Ibbs to the County Councillor regarding his attendance to Werrington Parish Council meetings, noting that they had attended only one meeting in the past eleven months. As no response or acknowledgement has been received, the Parish Council resolved to write to the relevant political party to highlight the County Councillor's lack of attendance.

270/26 **Staff Reports**:

a) Clerks Report

- The Wardens job list was approved.
- 4th July Shuckers charity football match request deferred until cricket fixtures are known.
- Agreed just plots 1 & 2 for transfer of asset at the allotments.
- Parish Council approved goal post repairs.
- New CCTV camera installed by previous provider.
- Reminded Councillors again to move across to .gov email addresses asap.

271/26 **Allotments:**

Annual Meeting took place this evening and there will be another one in July.

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272/26 **Meigh Road Playing Fields:**

After a period of consultation with Werrington residents and there being no correspondence received the Parish Council approved the new car park opening and closing times British Summer time 8-8. Wintertime 8-5. These times would align with the season clock changes.

273/26 **Sports Ground:**

A working group meeting towards the end of May will be held inviting residents and hirers to discuss the future of Werrington Sports Ground.

274/26 **Bowling Club**:

Nothing further to report.

275/26 **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that this would be his final Chairman's report, as a Councillor has expressed interest in standing for the role of Chairman in May, subject to election.

The Chairman invited any Councillors interested in the position of Vice-Chair to come forward for consideration.

The Chair also advised the meeting that Disaster Recovery Planning will be included as a standing item on the agenda each month.

276/26 **Anti Social Behaviour Update.**

Reports received of electric scooters and bikes regularly around Werrington and Meigh Road playing Fields, residents are requested to report all instances to the police.

277/26 **Asset of Community Value**

Werrington Parish Council approved submitting an application for the Windmill Public House and Car park. Cllr Morrison agreed to inform the Landlady.

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278/26 Werrington Parish Council approved the following motion and letter requesting **Neighbourhood Governance**
a) Ensuring an influential role for Parish/Town Council in Neighbourhood Governance.
b) Letter to our local Member of Parliament.

277/26 **Correspondence**

a) Werrington Parish Council approved an formal response to the rejection of a crossing for Moorside High School.

289/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**

The Chair thanked Cllr Shaw and Cllr Latala for all of their hard work with getting Village Life up and running again.

The Chairman then showed the meeting photographs from Cllr Ibbs with regards the dangerous fence on Draw well footpath and agreed to speak with Elizabeth House again and the property whose extension seems to have claimed some of the footpath this will be reported to enforcement.

Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

281/26 **Drainage Consultation**.

Werrington Parish Council approved the quotation and extra required works quotation. Cllr R Ward, Cllr K Griffiths and the Clerk to meet to make final arrangements before going ahead.

282/26 **Second Warden.**

The Parish Council decided to not advertise at the moment.

283/26 **Meigh Road Muga Drainage Replacement**

Cllr R Ward agreed to look through all 10 quotations and design a marking criteria to be used at next months Parish Council meeting.

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284/26 **Neighbourhood Plan professional Planning Support Quotation**

Werrington Parish Council approved the quotation.

285/26 **Items for the next Agenda**.

Please inform the Clerk

286/26 **To confirm Date, Time and Location of the next meeting.**

Monday 11th May 1800hrs Annual Parish Meeting and 1900hrs Annual Meeting of the Council at Werrington Methodist Church.

Signature_____

Name_____

Date_____