WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES MONDAY 11th MAY 2026

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Cllr K Griffiths, Cllr J Morrison

L Ibbs, B Hughes, K Whiteurst, M Fair, S Hill

D Shaw, R Ward and T Latala

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Hughes

There were 3 members of the public present.

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

AMC001/26 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr L Ibbs nominated Cllr M Fair. Cllr B Hughes seconded Cllr M Fair

Cllr M Fair became Chair of Werrington Parish Council by a unanimous vote.

Councillor Fair thanked the Council for bestowing on him the honour of Chair and paid tribute to the work of the outgoing Chair, Councillor K Griffith who had laid the foundations for a stronger, transparent and focused Council.

Councillor Fair pledged to continue developing the role of the Council in its role of improving the Parish in the interests of the community it serves.

Councillor Fair acknowledged that there are several competing challenges facing the Council no more so than anti social behaviour. It is his intention, at an early stage to establish three Council measurable targets for the year.

AMC002/25 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr T Latala nominated Cllr K Whitehurst. This was seconded by Cllr B Hughes.

Cllr L Ibbs nominated Cllr S Hill. This was seconded by Cllr R ward

A secret ballot was held which Cllr K Whitehurst gained the majority vote and became Vice Chair to Werrington Parish Council.

AMC003/26 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Acceptance of Office forms for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair were signed accordingly and witnessed by the Clerk.

AMC004/26 APOLOGIES

None received.

AMC005/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

AMC006/26 REGISTER OF INTEREST

Councillors were reminded.

AMC007/26 The **minutes** of the following minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) Full Council Meeting Monday 13th April 2026.
b) Neighbourhood Plan Action Points Monday 20th April 2026.

AMC008/26 Report from the Police

Did not attend.

AMC009/26 Werrington Parish Council received **reports** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting about the District Council cluster meetings and the Clerk handed out the presentation slides. Cllr Ward informed the meeting that Werrington Parish Council already actively does what the District Council are requesting.

Cllr P Hughes has nothing further to report but requested support with regards to refuse collections on Eaves Lane as they still have sacks. The Clerk said that she would try o assist.

Cllr B Hughes had nothing further to report as its full council meeting on Wednesday.

b) County Councillor

County Councillor Davies was absent once again, having attended only one meeting during the past 12 months. The Parish Council has previously written to Cllr Davies but has received no response. Members therefore agreed that a letter should be sent to his political party expressing the Council's disappointment regarding the continued lack of attendance and engagement.

AMC010/26 Clerks Report

Had been distributed to Parish Councillors. Key points include:

- Allotments update.
- Charity Football Match agreed.
- Agreed to fund 1 SWT Event and Cllr D Shaw Volunteers fund an additional 1.
- Highways meetings agreed to start again.

AMC011/26 Review **Delegated** Arrangements.

It was agreed that the current delegation arrangements for committees and the Clerk will remain the same.

AMC012/26 Terms of Reference

It was agreed that Terms of reference would be agreed and ratified by Committees when they first meet.

AMC013/26 Committees and Working Groups

a) Planning Committee – Agreed to remain with Full Council.
b) Risk & Asset Management Committee – Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Ward and Cllr Hughes.
c) Highways Working Group –All welcome.
d) Antisocial Behaviour Working Group –
Cllr Whitehurst, Cllr Fair, Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Hughes.
e) Staffing Committee – Cllr Whitehurst, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Morrison

f) Grievance Panel – Elected as and when required.
g) Appraisal Panel – As per Staffing Committee

It was agreed that a Disaster Recovery Group would be required going forward.

AMC014/26 REPRESENTATIVES

The following representatives were appointed:

a) Wetley Moor Committee – Cllr Hughes and Cllr Griffiths
b) Parish Assembly – Cllrs B Hughes
c) Village Hall Committee – Cllrs S Hill, L Ibbs. Cllr Fair is a member but as a hirer.

AMC015/26 LEAD COUNCILLORS

The following Councillors were appointed as contacts for the following:

a) Allotments/Memorial Stone/Notice Board/Flagpole – Cllr Latala

b) Footpaths – Cllr Ibbs

c) Meigh Road Playing Fields – Cllr Fair and Cllr Whitehurst
d) Sports Ground – Cllr Griffiths and Cllr M Fair
e) Land off Whitmore Avenue – Cllr Hughes
f) Delivery of flowers to residents 90+ - Cllr Hughes and Cllr Fair
g) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Griffiths

AMC016/26 The following **accounts/finances** were approved:

a) April 26 Bank Reconciliation.
b) April / May 25 payments schedule.
c) Bank Signatories: Cllr Morrison, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Hill
d) Online Payments.
e) Annual Governance Statement.
f) Annual Accounting Statement.
g) Noted internal Audit.
h) Appointed Kim Squires Services for Internal Audit 2026-27

AMC017/26 Werrington Parish Council discussed the following **Planning Applications** and had no comments:

SMD/2026/0186 and SMD/2026/0191.

AMC018/26 Chairman's Report:

All ready delivered in the Annual Parish Meeting.

AMC019/26 Werrington Parish Council approved the following **policies**:

a) Standing Orders.
b) Financial regulations.

AMC020/26 Neighbourhood Plan

Next meeting is Monday 22nd June at 1000hrs at Werrington Methodist Church when all green space templates must be completed and shared the meeting date.

AMC021/26 Werrington Allotments

Already covered under the Clerks report

AMC022/26 Bowling Club

SMDC Planning Dept have confirmed that Planning Permission is required for the Bowling Clubs disability access plans. The Bowling Club is going to ensure that the grant monies are still available and confirm that the Bowling Club still wish to go ahead and report back at next months meeting. It was agreed that if the Bowling Club wishes to pursue then a public meeting would be held for all neighbouring residents on Meigh Road Playing Fields to attend and be made aware of the plans and a risk assessment for vehicular access would be considered at that point.

AMC023/26 Disaster Recovery

Cllr Griffiths informed the meeting that it has moved off at a pace with a mention in Parliament and has been transferred to the Director of Security. It is confirmed to exist in other areas. Manchester University now has several other Councils on board.

AMC024/26 Correspondence

The Complaint about loud music and anti social behaviour was discussed and agreed to be the reason for a ASB Working Group to meet asap.

The Clerk informed the meeting of a parent calling with regards to play equipment safety concerns, the Clerk is meeting with Alliance tomorrow to review the parents concerns.

Cllr Ibbs made the meeting aware of an overflowing bin and the Clerk confirmed that the warden is aware and will address it this evening.

AMC025/26 Councillor Updates

Cllr Shaw provided an update on Village Life and reported that profits generated by the publication have enabled the group to provide funding support to local organisations.

Cllr Shaw agreed to include an advertisement for significant birthdays in the next edition of Village Life.

The Parish Council agreed to publish the Action Group's report alongside Village Life on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Latala asked whether the Parish Council would agree to upload the late Tony McNicol's *History of Werrington* book to the Parish Council website, having obtained Mrs McNicol's permission to do so.

The Parish Council agreed, subject to Cllr Latala checking copyright ownership of the photographs.

Cllr Shaw requested that contact be made with representatives of the Co-op regarding their future plans for the existing Co-op premises should planning permission be granted for the proposed new store.

The Parish Council advised that no contact should be made until a planning decision has been reached.

Cllr Griffiths informed the meeting that the MP had visited Moorside regarding the rejection of a proposed pedestrian crossing installation for students travelling to and from the bus stop.

Cllr Ward agreed to seek an update on whether a petition is to be initiated by Moorside School as had been recommended..

Members were made aware of a serious incident involving fighting with weapons on Meigh Road on Bank Holiday Monday afternoon when it appears there was no police attendance.

The Parish Council agreed that the incident should be included in the letter to the Commander. It was also agreed that access to Meigh Road Playing Fields should be included as an item on the next ASB agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Fair informed the meeting that he has met with the Head of School at Moorside and was arranging to work collaboratively to develop a performance involving students, focusing on the impacts and consequence of antisocial behaviour (ASB).

Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

AMC026/26 Meigh Road Drainage

The Clerk informed the meeting that, following WPC approval of the quotation, she, Cllr Griffiths, and Cllr Ward have met to discuss the finer details. They are now awaiting a suitable date to coordinate Cllr Griffiths' project management role or cover warden arrangements with the availability of the plant operator, ensuring all parties are available on the same day. It is hoped that, subject to these arrangements, the investigation will take place in the near future.

AMC027/26 Meigh Road Muga replacement
Soakaway Quotations
After some discussion the Parish Council
approved to continue with SG Group.

AMC028/26 Sports Ground Chairty Match

Approved

AMC029/26 Items for the next agenda

AMC030/26 Date of next meeting is Monday 8th June 2026

Meeting Closed at 2045hrs

Signed

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