WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026

AT WERRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENT

Cllr M Fair (Chair)

Cllr K Griffiths, S Hill, D Shaw, B Hughes, T Latala and L Ibbs, R Ward and K Whitehurst

Cllr P Flanagen (Co opted)

G Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

SMDC Cllr P Highes

There were 15 members of the public present.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed all Members and members of the public, and explained the format of the Parish Council meeting. The Chair advised that the first 15 minutes of the meeting were allocated to Public Participation, during which members of the public could ask one question or make a statement of up to three minutes.

Cllr P Hughes requested that the Parish Council include concerns regarding potential noise disturbance arising from the proposed Co-op planning application within its planning comments.

A resident asked to view the Deputy Chair's Chain, which was displayed on the table in front of the Deputy Chair. The resident also asked about access to the defibrillator when the gate is locked. It was explained that an item was included under the confidential section of the agenda which would address this matter.

The resident subsequently raised a number of further questions. The Chair advised that these questions formed part of the resident's third Freedom of Information request to the Parish Council and that a formal written response would be provided within the permitted timescale.

Another resident asked whether a decision regarding the pump track would be made at the meeting. The Chair confirmed that the matter was included as an agenda item for consideration later in the meeting.

Representatives from Ashcombe Cricket Club attended the meeting and thanked Werrington Parish Council for the use of the Sports Ground, which had enabled the development of a youth pathway for cricket. A written request had been circulated to

Councillors for consideration regarding ground works which the Club proposed to undertake at its own expense. The Chair thanked the representatives for attending and advised that the matter was included as a later agenda item for Councillor discussion and decision.

A resident questioned how reducing the size of the pump track would assist in reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB). The resident stated that, in their view, the main issue appeared to be loud music and that most young people using the facility behaved appropriately. A discussion followed between residents, and the Chair intervened and requested that personal exchanges cease.

A resident explained that the position and raised construction of the pump track meant that properties were situated below the track, which they believed contributed to increased noise levels and was having an adverse effect on their mental health. The resident acknowledged that the impact may be affecting only a small number of residents but expressed the view that the location of the pump track was inappropriate and that it should not have been situated so close to residential properties.

The Chair reassured the resident that the concerns raised had been noted and taken into consideration, and that it was hoped a decision would be reached later in the agenda.

A resident stated that the Parish Council was responsible for the land and therefore liable for the impact the pump track was having on residents' mental health. The Chair responded that the Parish Council was aware of the concerns raised and had provided residents with details of Harmony, which offers mental health support.

The resident reiterated that, as the Parish Council was responsible for the land, it had a responsibility to consider the impact on residents' wellbeing and suggested that, where families considered the facility to be affecting their wellbeing, the pump track should be removed and an alternative safe facility found for children to play.

Public Question Time ended at 1915hrs, and 5 members of public left the meeting

073/26 **Apologies**

Cllr J Morrison

Cllr B Hughes informed the meeting that Cllr Morrison is recovering well and hopes to be back soon.

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074/26 **Co Option of Dr Pauline Flanagen onto Werrington Parish Council.**
Proposed: Cllr T Latala Seconded: Cllr L Ibbs

For: 9 Against:0 Abstain:0

075/26 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations (from agenda):**

None.

076/26 **Register of Interests**:

Councillors were reminded of the need to maintain their register of interests.

077/26 The **Minutes** of the following meetings were reviewed for accuracy and approved:

a) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th July 2026.

b) Action points/Summary from Anti-Social Behaviour meeting Monday 28th July 2026

078/26 The following **Accounts** were approved:

a) **July 2026** Bank Reconciliation (circulated via email)
b) **August 2026** Bank Reconciliation (circulated via email)
c) **July/August and Septembers 26 payment** schedule (circulated via email)
d) **2025-26 Reviewed AGAR and Audit Completion notice**
e) **2026-27 National salary award noted**

079/26 The following Planning **Applications** were discussed:

SMD/2026/0350 and DET/2026/0027 Werrington Parish Council has no comments.

a) Werrington Parish Council retrospectively approved representation on Stoke on Trent's Local plan to meet the deadline.
b) Werrington Parish Council requested that the Clerk review the SMDC Local Plan and draft a representation for the Council's consideration and approval.

080/26 Receive a **report** from:

a) Staffordshire Moorlands Councillors.

Cllr P Hughes informed the meeting that she continues to pursue the installation of the bus shelter and pedestrian crossing.

Cllr R Ward informed the meeting that the Local Government Reorganisation has now been paused. There remain a number of questions to be addressed, together with complications regarding the proposed arrangements with High Peak. A meeting of the full Council at SMDC is scheduled for tomorrow, at which it is hoped that further clarification will be provided, including arrangements for the May 2027 elections.

Cllr D Shaw and **Cllr B Hughes** had nothing further to report.

b) County Councillor.

Did not attend the Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to write to the leader of the council again.

081/26 **Staff Reports**:

Clerks Report (circulated via email)

Remembrance – Werrington Parish Council agreed to purchase a wreath to be laid at the Remembrance Service at the Millennium Rock.

Christmas – Werrington Parish Council agreed to contact the Werrington Volunteers to enquire whether they require any support with the Christmas arrangements for the Parish and to ask them to advise the Council of any assistance required.

Warden Duties – It was agreed to reduce the Wardens' litter-picking hours at Meigh Road Playing Fields, allowing the time saved to be allocated to tidying and weeding the area surrounding the Millennium Rock.

Notice Board – Cllr T. Latala and Cllr K. Whitehurst agreed to assist the Clerk with the installation of the new notice board on the gates at Meigh Road Playing Fields.

082/26 **Allotments**.

Nothing to report.

083/26 **Meigh Road Playing Fields**

a) Deferred to the Chairmans agenda item
b) Future of Meigh Road Playing Field Pump Track

The Clerk provided an update to the meeting for the benefit of members of the public attending, including the following information:

- British Cycling's grant funding stipulates that the Pump Track must remain in situ for a period of seven years; otherwise, the funding may be subject to clawback.
- Velosolutions has advised that it is not possible to provide a quotation for reducing the size of the track, relocating it further away from residents' properties, and reshaping it so that it would remain suitable for use.

The matter was discussed further. During the discussion, a member of the public stated that the Pump Track had adversely affected their mental health over a period of five years. The member of the public subsequently left the meeting.

Following further discussion, which took into account the written representations from a number of residents and the contents of the petition the following next steps were agreed:

- Contact British Cycling to seek clarification as to whether any potential clawback of funding could be reduced, given that the Pump Track has already been in situ for five of the required seven years. The circumstances will be fully explained, and British Cycling will be invited to meet with the residents affected.
- Provide residents with a weekly update on progress and any response received from British Cycling. The possibility of convening an Extraordinary Meeting will also be considered, if appropriate.
- Continue to pursue Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) measures alongside the consideration of the Pump Track, rather than as an alternative to reaching a decision on the matter.
- Explore further national ASB support and guidance.

A further member of the public informed the meeting that they intended to seek legal advice and subsequently left the meeting.

Cllr S Hill left the meeting at 20:20hrs.

c) Review the trial of reducing the number of entrances/exits open over night

Cllr T Latala confirmed that the defibrillator will be relocated as soon as practicable.

Cllr K Whitehurst confirmed that the pedestrian entrance at the top of the Play Fields is not suitable as an accessible entrance for disabled users due to the height of the step.

The Clerk raised concerns regarding repeated passing of notes between members of the public during the meeting and the displaying of a sign referring to Judicial Review. The Clerk stated that such behaviour was disrespectful and inappropriate, particularly while she was carrying out her duties in her place of work.

The Chair reminded those present that disruptive or disrespectful behaviour would not be tolerated. It was confirmed that, should such behaviour continue, the meeting may be paused and those responsible may be asked to leave.

Cllr K Griffiths outlined the progress made by the Parish Council following correspondence with SMDC's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) team and the Chief Crime Commissioner. It was noted that bringing the relevant agencies together to meet regularly represents significant progress and has provided an opportunity for a coordinated approach to addressing ASB.

Cllr K Griffiths explained that the Parish Council needs to demonstrate its support for the recommendations made by the agencies involved, including consideration of reducing the number of entrances to the Play Fields. The closure of the top entrance was therefore introduced as a trial, as a gate is already in place and this could be undertaken at no additional cost.

It was noted that, as part of the November budget-setting process, the Parish Council will consider the potential installation of gates at the remaining entrances. This would provide an option to further restrict access should ASB levels increase again during the following summer and should the Police advise that reducing the number of available exits would assist in managing the situation.

The Clerk advised that the report recommends that only the bottom entrance remain open and it gives reasons why. However, the Parish Council does not own this entrance, as Fradley still retains ownership. Consequently, any fence and gate could only be installed from the Meigh Playfields side. The Parish Council has previously discussed this option and recognised that permanently keeping this entrance open could be considered unfair.

An alternative option discussed was to alternate which entrance remains unlocked on a regular basis. It was emphasised that no decision has been made regarding this option.

Cllr K Whitehurst proposed that the trial of the top entrance closure be extended for a further month, taking into account the seasonal change, the change in clocks and the opportunity to obtain further feedback from the Police and the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to extend the trial for a further month.

d) Discuss the plan for footpath maintenance

Moved to confidential items as a quotation has been received.

084/26 **Sports Ground:**

a) Deferred to the Chairmans agenda item

b) Ashcombe Cricket Club request for works to the wicket to be carried out at their expense.
   Appointed Councillor to meet with cricket booking to manage expectations
c) The clerk informed the meeting that hirers has improved their security and cleanliness of the Sports Ground after use

085/26 **Bowling Club:**

Cllr K Griffiths updated the meeting as a member of the bowling club that they are looking at alterative disability access all around the bowling club. The formal request will come via the Bowling Cub Chair at the next Parish Council meeting.

086/26 **Chairmans Report**

The report had already been circulated around the Councillors via email but the Chair informed the meeting that he is pleased with the way in which the Parish Council is working and becoming more proactive rather than reactive. Following a strategic meeting the Chairman proposes lead councillors in the following areas to help take the pressure from the Clerk having to deal with all projects and everyday clerking duties.

- ASB – Cllr Fair
- Communications – Cllr Griffiths
- Disaster recovery – Cllr Griffith
- Finance Champion (Grants) – Cllr Shaw
- Sports Ground – Cllr Whitehurst
- Meigh Road Playing Fields – Cllr Ibbs
- Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Hughes
- Strategic Planning Cllr Fair, Cllr Hill, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Whitehurst
  Cllr Fair requested that Cllr Flanagan also join the Strategic Planning Group

The Parish Council approved the Chairs proposal of lead councillors.

087/26 **Anti Social Behaviour Update.**

The report from SMDC's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Department was circulated electronically to members.

It was agreed that all ASB had already been addressed, with the exception of engaging with local schools. Cllr Fair, as the Lead Councillor, will contact the schools to encourage their participation in the existing multi-agency ASB Hub.

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088/26 **Disaster Recovery**

Cllr Fair thanked Cllr K Griffiths for his on going work on such an extensive project. Cllr Griffiths informed the meeting that it has now been sent to external organisations for their formal feedback. Cllr Ibbs and Cllr Latala agreed to support where required along with the Clerk to print large documents that are required.

089/26 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Parish Council approved the following:

a) Approve Green Spaces for consultation.
b) Approve Village Centre for consultation.
c) Approve poster advertising consultations.
d) Approve feedback/comments for consultations.
e) Volunteer Councillors for library drop in consultations

Monday 21st September 0930hrs meeting at Werrington Methodist Church to confirm the article content for the Christmas edition of Village Life giving a full update about the NHP.

090/26 SPCA Call for evidence

Deferred at LGR as been paused.

091/26 Werrington Parish Council reviewed and adopted the following Risk Assessments:

1. Werrington Parish Council Open Spaces
2. Meigh Road Playing Fields Play Equipment
3. Pump Track
4. Lone Working
5. Lengthsmans Hut
6. Allotments
7. Bowling Club
8. Sports Ground Generic
9. Parish Council Meetings
10. Manual Handling Generic

Cllr D Shaw left the meeting at 2051hrs

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092/26 **Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed that all relevant correspondence had previously been circulated to all Councillors including emails received from residents on Penmere Drive requesting a gate on their entrance to Meigh Road Playign Fields.

Cllr K Griffiths requested that the District Councillors support the Parish Council in asking SMDC to take appropriate action regarding the condition of the former Post Office premises and the surrounding area.

It was noted that the Parish Council's previous attempts to contact the property owner and seek support from SMDC had been unsuccessful. The area has remained in an unsightly condition for at least two years.

The Parish Council requested that the District Councillors raise the matter with SMDC and seek appropriate action to address the condition of the site.

093/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**

Cllr B Hughes brought to the Parish Council's attention concerns raised by residents of the new development adjacent to the YOI regarding inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking on grass verges, which is obstructing visibility at junctions and creating a potential safety hazard.

The Clerk agreed to provide Cllr Hughes the appropriate link for residents to report their concerns directly to Staffordshire County Council.

Confidential Items (public and press excluded)

094/26 **Thermal Defibrillator Cabinet**.

The Parish Council resolved to proceed with the quotation. Possibly match funding from County Councillor.

Extended Standing Orders for an extra 15 minutes to complete the meeting agenda

095/26 **Meigh Road Playing Fields Meadow and footpath repairs**

It was agreed or the Lead Councillor Cllr Ibbs to arrange a meeting with alliance for more information, but it was agreed that the tree saplings need removing.

The Parish Council resolves to proceed with Alliance for path repairs.

096/26 **Pump Track correspondence/Insurance**

No further action leave with insurance company.

097/26 **Items for the next Agenda**.

Please inform the Clerk

098/26 **To confirm Date, Time and Location of the next meeting.**

Monday 12th October 2026 at Werrington Methodist Church

Meeting Closed at 2145hrs

Signature_____

Name_____

Date_____