

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING
HELD ON THE 4th FEBRUARY 2025
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Mrs S. Dodd, Messrs, A. Brown, J. Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A. Lloyd, S. Moore (Chairman), D. Massie; Staffordshire County Councillor Mr M. Winnington, Mr Nick Shaw on behalf of Leigh Ingram MP, members from the Staffordshire County Council FAIR Flood Team and ten members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D.M.Key.

APOLOGIES: Were received from Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr J. Rose.

The Chairman, Councillor S. Moore opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed those present and explained what form the meeting would take and when there would be opportunity for public participation.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 7th January 2025 were proposed for approval by Councillor A. Lloyd, and seconded by Councillor S. Dodd. All were in favour. The Clerk thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman for taking and preparing the minutes following her absence at the January meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

LATE ITEMS AGREED BY THE CHAIR: There were no late items.

OPEN FORUM: The Chairman welcomed members of the Staffordshire County Council FAIR (Flood Resilience) Team who were in attendance to conduct a workshop during Open Forum. The FAIR Team was aware that Church Eaton village has been cut-off during recent flooding events and wanted to make sure that they captured as much information as possible in order to assist with creating a priority route to the village. Those present who wished to participate were requested to consider the following when they filled in the feedback forms.

- The areas that were most prone to flooding
- How frequently these sections of road flooded.
- How long it typically took for water to drain away
- The impact that highway flooding around Church Eaton has on residents
- The critical infrastructure in and around Church Eaton (schools, care homes etc)

They were also asked to mark areas of concern on five large scale maps of the routes into the Village which the team had brought with them.

After three quarters of an hour the Chairman thanked the team members for their attendance. The Clerk was asked to include a piece in the next Parish Magazine about the gathering of information for those residents who wished to participate but were unable to attend the meeting.

There were concerns raised by a local landowner, who asked for a general reminder to be made for dog walkers to please clean up after any dog fouling and be mindful to keep dogs on a lead around livestock.

Church Eaton resident updated the Parish Council on a recent email she had received from Severn Trent Water in relation to the pumping station. The next cleanse would take place during April 2025 and there would also be a review to increase its capacity.

Blocked drains and ditching concerns were also raised during Open Forum. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to go out and inspect these.

CASUAL VACANCY UPDATE: The Clerk reported that the election office at the Borough Council had emailed to confirm that an election would not be required and that the Parish Council could go ahead and co-opt a new Councillor. The Clerk was to draw up a notice advertising the vacancy and outlining the co-option process. This notice was to be placed in the Parish Magazine, on the web site and on the village notice board. Any interested parties were to be asked to send an expression of interest to the Clerk. The selection process would take place at a future Parish Council meeting as was customary.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor A. Brown reported on his inspections and had noted that the cradle swing would require some future maintenance and should be monitored and a replacement part costed. The centre post of the rebound board was detached and he had removed some tape from an item of the gym equipment. Other than a small amount of litter, everything else was in good order.

PLANNING: The Chairman had drafted a letter for the Clerk to send to Mr Dean Piper Head of Economic Development and Planning at Stafford Borough Council with various concerns such as the lack of response to enquiries from Planning Enforcement. No response to this letter had yet been received. The Chairman was to chase this matter up.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman had reported more pot hole problems. The new highways reporting system was discussed although it appeared that there had been some initial difficulties with using it. The Chairman's advice was to persevere with reporting.

It was reported that some of the village troughs required maintenance and needed levelling where the legs had sunk over time. They would all require wood staining at some point.

FINANCE: The planting budget for the village troughs was discussed. It was proposed by Councillor Brown that the same level of funding of £15.00 per trough be continued. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor J. Gibbs. All were in favour.

The Chairman presented an invoice amounting to £24.32 for concrete for the playground maintenance work. This was proposed for payment Councillor S.Dodd, seconded by the Vice Chairman J.Gibbs. All were in favour.

The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded the Council's precept request on to the Borough Council finance department and had received an acknowledgement.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Civic Amenity risk assessment and agreement form had been received. The Clerk would attend to this.

There had been a very nice thank you from Mr and Mrs Latham in relation to the Parish Council's assistance with flooding problems at their property.

Councillor A.Lloyd reported that the village map notice board door had been found on the ground. It was presumed that this had blown off during the recent windy weather but fortunately the glass was not broken. Councillor Lloyd also reported that the map might need replacing soon as it was showing some signs of wear.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 4th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.