

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

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Mrs S. Dodd, Messrs J. Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A. Lloyd, S. Moore (Chairman), D. Massie; six members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs D.M.Key.

APOLOGIES: These were received from Stafford Borough Councillor, Mr J. Rose and Staffordshire County Councillor, Mr M. Winnington,

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 4th February 2025 were proposed for approval by the Vice Chairman, Councillor J.Gibbs, seconded by Councillor A.Lloyd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

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

OPEN FORUM: A member from the organisation Men's Sheds for the Church Eaton area was in attendance to publicise membership and their various activities, involving sharing skills and undertaking practical projects in a social environment. Interested parties were invited to drop in at Church Eaton Cricket Club pavilion on any Wednesday or Friday between 10.00am – 2.00pm. Members would be required to be over eighteen years of age. The Clerk was asked to add this information in the next Parish Magazine.

The Clerk was asked to chase up with Dominic Ward (the Staffs County Council Rights of Way Officer for the North) delivery of the bridle gate which had been requested by a local resident and agreed several months ago, despite several chasing emails from the Clerk.

Potholes, especially at Little Onn, and blocked drains and roadside ditching were also raised during Open Forum. The Chairman and Vice Chairman agreed to go out and inspect these areas of concern.

CASUAL VACANCY UPDATE: The Clerk reported that two expressions of interest had been received so far for the current Parish Councillor vacancy. The closing date for these had been set for the 31st March 2025. The selection process for co-option would take place at the April 2025 Parish Council meeting.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor A. Lloyd had undertaken the weekly inspections for February and reported that there had been a little debris from the fallen tree and had tested the bearings on all of the relevant play equipment. He also thought that at some stage some repainting would be required in various areas of the playground. Councillor Lloyd also confirmed Councillor Brown's findings that the cradle seat was starting to show signs of wear. The Clerk was asked to check invoicing records to see where the last cradle seat was purchased from - presumably from Wicksteed. No grass cutting had taken place yet.

Councillor D.Massie was to carry out the next round of weekly inspections. The Chairman was to undertake the concreting that was required as soon as he had opportunity.

PLANNING: Two planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

The Caravan Club site at High Onn (Application Ref: 25/40172/LDC) – had applied for Certificate of Lawfulness for the Use of Land for the provision of 65 Pitches for caravan and camping between the 22nd March and 4th October of each year. The Clerk was asked to reply and to query whether the site had been open continuously for the prescribed period as several Councillors understood that it had been closed. There were however no objections in principle to the application.

Walton Fields (Application Ref; 25/40114/FUL) - construction of new vehicular site access to previously approved equestrian development. There were no objections to this application although the Parish Council requested that the splay work was to be undertaken before the access was brought into use.

The Chairman had now received a reply to the letter which the Clerk had sent to Mr Dean Piper Head of Economic Development and Planning at Stafford Borough Council outlining various concerns including the lack of response to enquiries from Planning Enforcement. The response stated that a full reply would be sent shortly. Thanks were expressed to the office of Leigh Ingham MP who had contacted Mr Piper to expediate this matter.

HIGHWAYS: It was reported that no decision had yet been reached by the Staffs County Council FAIR (Flooding) Team in relation to the creation of a priority route in and out of Church Eaton during bad weather events.

Pothole were discussed especially at Little Onn following concerns raised by a local resident in Open Forum.

It was good to hear that water levels had appeared to have dropped on the flood plain and water courses following the recent ditching works. It was acknowledged however that there had not been any recent heavy rainfall to ‘test’ the drainage works, but the various flooding prone areas were being monitored. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were to continue inspecting these sites and carrying out their own drainage improvements where possible or required. The Chairman expressed thanks to the SCC Fair Team, County Highways and Severn Trent Water for their participation in these matters so far.

The Chairman had raised the matter of community self help with repairing pot holes but this was deferred until the next meeting in April.

There had been another update from a local resident that Severn Trent Water were scheduling some changes to the pumping station to help increase its capacity and efficiency.

FINANCE: The Chairman presented an invoice amounting to £234.00 for a replacement defibrillator battery. The Clerk presented her expenses for 2024 – 2025 amounting to £128.59 These were proposed for payment Councillor S.Dodd, seconded by the Vice Chairman J.Gibbs. All were in favour.

The Clerk had contacted the Borough Finance Department over their invoice for this year's Civic Amenity visits. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would pay for these two services as and when they had been carried out.

The proposed maintenance of the village troughs was discussed. The Chairman was to look at undertaking the levelling of the uneven ones. The village troughs all required new wood treatment. Councillor D.Massie would liaise with Councillor A.Brown over this matter. It was generally agreed that expenses of no more than £50 would be allocated for this.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had sent back a signed Civic Amenity risk assessment and agreement form and had received confirmation this had been received.

The Cricket Club had forwarded information about the 'Elvis Night' the Club would be holding on 22nd March.

There had an invitation sent to the Clerk for the forthcoming Mayoral Charity Appeal Race Night to be held in May 2025.

Information had been received about the Staffs & Stoke Integrated Care Board's Cancer Board which was visiting several locations throughout Staffordshire and Stoke On Trent.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 1st April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.25pm.