

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON THE 1st APRIL 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; and five members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** These were received from the Clerk, Mrs D.M.Key

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. He also explained that the co-opt process would include asking the applicants to give a brief introduction to themselves, but the selection process would take place at the end of meeting in private.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 4th March 2025 were proposed for approval by Councillor A.Lloyd, seconded by Councillor D.Massie. 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 of the public mentioned extensive road markings that have taken place and asked if we knew why. They also mentioned these markings were not across the whole Parish and were notably missing on the road near Little Onn which has a number of issues. A discussion followed, and revisited under the highways agenda item.

**CASUAL VACANCY UPDATE:**The two applicants, Mr. Barry Sharratt and Mr. Paul Berry, both gave a short speech, introducing themselves and explaining why they wished to join the parish council. They answered some questions from the existing Parish Council.

**C.E.V. PLAYGROUND:** Councillor D.Massie had undertaken the weekly inspections for March and reported that the grass had been cut. He also reported one instance of graffiti. There were no new items of concern as such.

The annual playpark inspection appears to have taken place, although unusually without a councillor being in attendance. Three items had been cordoned off, two of which we were already aware of, and the third we are unsure as to the issue. The report has not yet been received and Councillor A.Lloyd was to contact Sportsafe.

Of the two known issues, The Chairman was to undertake the concreting that was required as soon as he had opportunity, to address one of the issues. The second was the replacement of a swing seat which had been replaced before at a cost of £155. It was agreed that we would await the Sportsafe report before committing to any further expenditure.

**PLANNING:** There were no new applications. It was noted that The Caravan Club site at High Onn (Application Ref: 25/40172/LDC) – had been granted their 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 site in Goosemoor that was refused planning permission has now had the fences removed and is in danger of becoming a dumping ground. This is one of the matters already raised with Dean Piper.

The Chair had not received an update from Mr Dean Piper, Head of Economic Development and Planning at Stafford Borough Council on the various concerns previously raised. The Chair will follow-up around 28 days after conformation of receipt was received.

**HIGHWAYS:** The recent weather has been exceptionally dry so the success of the various measures to help with flooding have not been tested. A formal decision on the primary access route is still to be confirmed, but there has been much ditch digging alongside various roads including the road from Church Eaton to Haughton, which is also the route buses take and is typically gritted in freezing conditions.

The water levels in the floodplain have continued to fall and the two pools in the field nearest Church Eaton had all but dried out as hoped. The ditches carrying water from Church Eaton to the floodplain and brook are now starting to become more defined as the water level falls. Residents in Smithy Croft, an area where the road has frequently flooded, have reported the water in the gulleys has dropped approx. 30 cm and are now at the expected levels, this is assumed to be a reflection of the lower water level in the field behind.

Severn Trent have now completed the commissioning of a new and larger pump to take sewage away from Church Eaton. This should also reinforce the ability to cope during high periods of rainfall. Overall, the changes are looking promising.

The FAIR team have been in contact and said they were commissioning an extensive audit of the drainage system within Church Eaton village with the view to establishing any bottle necks or interventions required. We suspect much of the road markings that have appeared relate to this work. It was noted that there were also extensive road markings in the roads around Church Eaton which are probably unrelated to this work.

The Chair would contact Highways for an update on the activities and reiterate the suggestion they keep us informed so that we can help communicate the progress.

There was also a discussion about some of the challenges, such as collapsed drains across private roadways which then caused the water to flow into the road and thereby damaging the road surface.

The subject of potholes was discussed and concerns over the performance with respect to addressing them was debated. One suggestion previously debated was revisited, and that was the approach taken in Devon/Cornwall where the local community are provided with materials to make emergency repairs. Some concern was expressed that this could result in a lack of investment from the County Highways team as any emergency repairs would be assumed to be performed by the community. The Chair would try to contact the regions where such a scheme has been run to see what lessons were learnt and the practicalities of such an approach.

**FINANCE:** The quarterly invoice for the use of the village hall has been received for £66. It was proposed for payment Councillor A.Lloyd, seconded by the Councillor D.Massie. All were in favour.

The Clerk reports she has commenced preparation for the annual audit process.

It was requested that a summary of the annual expenditure was shared when available. This will be an update to the report shared when the precept was discussed and set in January.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Details of the upcoming County Council elections had been received and duly publicised.

The replacement Bridleway gate request has been chased.

The mobile telephone mast installation company had been contacted and the last update stated that there is still some final commissioning work required but this is yet to be scheduled.

**COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION:** The candidates and public left the meeting and this item was conducted in private. Both candidates were discussed and had favourable, albeit very different, attributes to bring to the Parish Council. On a vote, Barry Sharratt was selected, although an expression of thanks would be extended to both candidates.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. This will include the Annual Parish Meeting. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.