

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 3RD JUNE 2025
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Messrs A. Brown, J. Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A. Lloyd, S. Moore (Chairman), D. Massie; B. Sharratt, Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr J. Rose, three members of the public and the Clerk Mrs D. Key.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs S. Dodd.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 6th May 2025 were proposed for approval by the Vice Chairman, 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 of the public commented on the recent road improvement works specifically along the Little Onn Road by Slab Lane towards Marston.

Another member of the public expressed concerns over the overgrown hedge at the property Spring Cottage which was making the road very narrow. It was noted that this matter probably fell into Haughton Parish Council's domain but Staffordshire County Councillor and, Stafford Borough Councillor Mr J. Rose offered to look into this.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor B.Sharratt had carried out inspections of the playground for the previous month. There was a short discussion about emptying the bin and using Stafford Borough Council bin liners for rubbish which were collected by the Borough. The grass had been cut regularly by J W H Ground Maintenance.

The Chairman had replaced the cradle seat with the new one ordered from Wicksteed. The Clerk confirmed that she had paid this invoice as well as the new bearing kit invoice which the Chairman was to fit to the Air Skier. The Chairman had also located a grip handle. The Chairman thanked Councillor A. Lloyd for overseeing this year's safety inspection and obtaining the safety certificate which the Clerk had saved in the playground records.

Staffordshire County Councillor and, Stafford Borough Councillor Mr J. Rose, was continuing to look into obtaining funding for new equipment and was going to chase this matter up with a new person at the Borough Council.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman reported he had not yet completed his investigation into the Devon Community Road Warden scheme where Parish Councils could undertake road maintenance in their area.

Following positive reports concerning the recent road maintenance works which had been carried out within the parish, Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councillor Jack Rose was to attend a meeting with the Community Highways Team on Friday 6th June. At this meeting, Councillor J.Rose intended to continue highlighting problems with potholes and concerns over road flooding problems. Councillor Brown mentioned flooding matters on the Lapley Road and Cowley Lane in relation to creating a priority route in and out of the village.

A blocked drain adjacent to the property “Meadowside” on the Little Onn Road was flagged up as again requiring some attention. The Chairman informed Councillor Rose that the Highways Community Engagement Office Diane Firkins was aware of this problem.

PLANNING: The Clerk had received notification of a new planning application (reference number 25/40417/FUL) for Wheaton Aston Farm, Little Onn Road. The application was for the construction of two covered slurry stores to replace two existing open-air lagoons. The Parish Council had no objections other than to suggest that some camouflaging of the stores, either through painting or landscape screening, might be considered.

A second planning application had just been received and accordingly the Clerk was asked to request an extension of consultation time in order that the members could consider the application thoroughly. This application (reference number 25/40604/HOU) was for an outbuilding at the New House, High Street, Church Eaton.

FLOODING: There were no updates or developments, although the Chairman and Vice Chairman were continuing to walk the various water course routes.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported that Mrs Helen Bellamy had now finished the internal audit and that there were no matters arising from this. She was satisfied with the financial undertakings and arrangement for the financial year 2024 to 2025.

The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR Exemption Certificate was ready to be sent to Mazars following signature by the Chairman and agreement of the Parish Council. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor D. Massie. All were in favour. The Clerk also confirmed that the Annual Internal Audit Report; Annual Governance Statement; Accounting Statements; an analysis of variance; bank reconciliation and the notice for the period for the exercise of public right would be available to be published on the Parish website later in June.

The Clerk had received a remittance from the Borough Council for the payment, on the 3rd April, of the first half of the yearly Parish precept amounting to £3,859.91.

The following invoices were proposed for payment by Councillor A. Lloyd, seconded by Councillor D. Massie. All were in favour.

• New Bearing Kit Fresh Air Fitness	£74.53
• Helen Bellamy Internal Audit Fee	£70.00
• Chris Byford trough re-planting	£81.59
• Civic Amenity Visit May 2025	£118.00

The Chairman express thanks to Chris and Bee Byford and Fred and Jenny Annis for all their hard work in re-planting the village troughs for the summer.

The Clerk confirmed that, as agreed previously, she had paid the grass cutting invoice for March to April from JWH Ground Maintenance amounting to £165.00 and the Wicksteed invoice for the new cradle seat of £179.03.

The Clerk was to notify members when the Zurich insurance premium renewal arrived in August.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the recent Mayor Making Ceremony with Councillor, S. Dodd. The Clerk informed the members about an invitation to join the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association.

The Vice Chairman Councillor J. Gibbs reported that the recent Civic Amenity visit in May had gone well and was a service that was being well used.

The Chairman had forwarded training information to the Councillors.

There had been information received about the Shakespeare Gala performance.

It was again agreed that Church Eaton would not be taking part in this year's Best Kept Village Competition although the Parish Council would be running their annual Hanging Baskets and Tubs competition with a first place and two runners up each receiving a National Gardening Voucher. The Clerk was to arrange a judge(s).

All other correspondence had been forwarded to members of the Parish Council.

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