

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 1st JULY 2025
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor A. Brown and Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr J. Rose.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 3rd June 2025 were proposed for approval by the Vice Chairman, seconded by Councillor B. Sharratt. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising but Councillor Sharratt enquired about any progress extending the 30 mph road sign to a more effective place by the playground. This matter was ongoing.

The Clerk had received a query about the defibrillator at the Royal Oak which was showing a drop in its battery life. The Chairman had immediately been out to inspect the defibrillator and reported that the batteries were ok for immediate use and could deliver enough shocks for fifteen uses but would need replacing in the future. Thanks were expressed though to the resident who had reported this.

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

OPEN FORUM: Mrs Diane Brain informed the Parish Council that she was concerned about the disrepair of her son's Wayne memorial plaque located by the tree planted in his memory at Parker's Croft. The Chairman stated that he would go and have a look at this and would discuss this at the next meeting. Mrs Brain also expressed concerns over parking and speeding motorists on the High Street. The Clerk was asked to highlight this in the next report for the Parish Magazine.

Mr Steve Caplan said a few words about the sad passing of long time Church Eaton resident Mr Jeremy Bach. Members of the Parish Council also expressed their condolences. Mr Caplan expressed thanks for the recent road maintenance works although had some concerns about the Gnosall Road. Mr Caplan also mentioned the new telephone mast located by Woollaston Lane and queried when it would become operational. The Chairman replied to say that he was continuing to chase this matter.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor A. Brown had carried out the weekly inspections. The Vice Chairman was next on the rota to undertake the inspections. The Chairman was to replace the worn bearing and cracked handle on the air skier.

HIGHWAYS: The Chairman reported he had still not completed his investigation into the Devon Community Road Warden scheme where Parish Councils were undertaking road maintenance in their area. The Clerk was asked to add this to next agenda.

The Chairman confirmed he had received some notifications of road works and verge cutting.

PLANNING: The Clerk had received notification of a new planning application (reference number 25/40604/HOU) - The New House, High Street, Church Eaton - for an outbuilding.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Parish Council agreed that that the proposal would have a visual impact on the adjoining public footpath and would be disproportionate for a residential property due to its overbearing size in a village location.

There were also concerns that the Heritage Statement accompanying the application was incorrect where it stated that the site does not lie within the Conservation Area. The Parish Council disagreed with this as according to the Stafford Borough Council revised boundary map of 2017, the site was located within the Conservation Area. The Parish Council requested that this be considered when determining the application. Concern was also raised that while a number of important and significant heritage assets were noted in the “Site Context and Heritage Setting” section of the Heritage Statement there was no mention of properties such as Dolphin House and Briar Cottage which are also important and significant heritage assets and are closer to the proposed site.

FLOODING: There were no updates or developments.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported that the external auditors, Mazars had acknowledged receipt of the AGAR exemption certificate and that all the relevant information as per the audit requirements had been published in the relevant places i.e. the web site and notice board. The period for the public to exercise their right to inspect the financial records and other paperwork etc had commenced on the 27th June 2025 and would run until the 8th August 2025.

A payment of £110 had been made since the last meeting for grass cutting.

The Clerk had received notification from the bank that the £5 monthly maintenance charge would be dropped from the Parish Council bank account. The Clerk was to notify the Chairman when the Zurich insurance premium renewal arrived in August.

The Chairman requested that another signatory be added to the current bank mandate to make cheque signing more efficient. He proposed the Vice Chairman Councillor Gibbs be added to the mandate. This was seconded by Councillor S. Dodd. All were in agreement. A form requesting this addition was signed by the current signatories the Chairman, the Clerk, Councillor Dodd along with the Vice Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Chairman reported that the Marston defibrillator which had been located at Manor Farm had now been moved to the phone box in Marston.

The Clerk was arranging for a judge(s) to judge the annual Hanging Baskets and Tubs competition, with a first place and two runners up each receiving a National Gardening Voucher. Judging would likely take place at the end of July or very early August.

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 2nd September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. There would be no meeting held in August unless a matter of urgency was raised. The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.