APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH OCTOBER 2025 AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: These were received from Parish Councillors Mr A.Brown and Mr A.Lloyd and Staffordshire County Councillor and Stafford Borough Councillor Mr Jack 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 2nd September 2025 were proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour. The Clerk thanked the Vice Chairman for taking the minutes of the September meeting when she was unable to attend.

MATTERS ARISING : The Chairman reported that following the last meeting, the Clerk had passed on the grass cutting contractor's contact details to Church Warden, Mrs Jacqui Hodgkinson as requested. The Clerk had recently received an email of acknowledgement and thanks from Jacqui.

LATE ITEMS AGREED BY THE CHAIR: In respect of future precept planning, the Chairman asked the Parish Council for their opinion on seeking feedback from the local community on whether they would be agreeable to an increase in the precept level. The increased funds would then be allocated towards specific projects. It was generally felt that this would be a useful exercise but would need more discussion as to the specific details. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were to liaise on this and produce an article for the Parish Magazine.

OPEN FORUM: There were several concerns raised by parishioners, both in attendance at the meeting and contacting the Clerk by email, over speeding heavy traffic along the High Street. There were also concerns raised regarding vehicles being parked across pavements causing pedestrians to walk in the road to get around them. The Clerk was asked to highlight these concerns in the forthcoming parish magazine report. Councillor Sharratt also offered to have a polite word with car owners to avoid this happening.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor Massie had undertaken the inspections and reported on the condition of the playground which was satisfactory. The grass had been cut by JWH Ground Maintenance. It was noted that there had been another incident of a dog being in the playground which is not allowed. The Clerk was asked to flag this up again in the Parish magazine report. The Chairman was next on the rota to undertake the weekly inspections.

PLANNING: There had been no new planning matters raised since the last meeting.

HIGHWAYS: There had been more extensive road repairs undertaken in the parish. Outstanding road repairs were still being monitored by the Parish Council. There were some concerns raised over overgrown hedges. The Chairman strongly advised reporting these issues to highways who could in turn request that the landowners concerned take remedial action.

FLOODING: The Chairman reported that while the FAIR (Flooding Aware and Informed Resilient) team had been active over the summer months, there were still surveys and work to be undertaken. It was however generally felt that there had been an improvement to the Parish water courses.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported that she had paid the grass cutting invoice for the August cuts which had arrived in September amounting to £110.00. The Clerk confirmed that since the last meeting she had paid the CEVI hire of hall fees of £110.00. To be paid were the following invoices:-

- Defib Pads purchased by the Chairman £63.00
- Grass Cutting for September £110.00
- The Clerk for Hanging Baskets Competition vouchers £20.00
- Gnosall First Responders replacement Defibrillator Pads (3 sets) 223.20

Approval for payment of the above was proposed by the Vice Chairman Councillor J.Gibbs seconded by Councillor D.Massie and all were in favour.

The Chairman reported that the revised bank mandate was being processed by HSBC. The Clerk reported on correspondence from the bank about lower interest rates.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: Mr Chris Byford had contacted the Chairman about Church Eaton's Community Speed Watch Group who were again looking to recruit some new volunteers. It was noted that full training would be given and that patrols took place about once a month. The Clerk was asked to include this request in the next Parish Magazine after checking with Mr Byford about contact information.

CIVIC AMENITY VISIT: The Clerk reported that the final visit for 2025 would take place on Saturday 18th October at the Royal Oak. The Vice Chairman would be available to oversee the visit. Councillor D.Massie also kindly volunteered to act as a standby.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an invitation from Stafford Borough Council for Parish Council Members to attend a two minutes silence on Remembrance Day - Monday 11th November 2025. An invitation to attend the wreath laying ceremony on the 9th November had also been received which the Chairman would try to attend.

There was to be another Christmas Tree Festival at the Church and Church Eaton Parish Council had been invited to take part. The theme was the "Spirit of Christmas", and after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would enter a tree. Councillor Dodd kindly agreed to oversee this. The Clerk was to reply to Mrs Sharon Jones to confirm the entry. More details would be forwarded in due course.

All other correspondence had been forwarded to members including the British Heart Foundation newsletter - The Circuit. On the matter of defibrillators, the Vice Chairman was thanked for completing the installation of the defibrillator which had originally been located at Manor Farm, Marston to the nearby adopted telephone kiosk.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 4th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.