

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 2ND DECEMBER 2025
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Mrs S.Dodd, Messrs A.Brown, J.Gibbs (Vice Chairman). A.Lloyd, D.Massie, S.Moore (Chairman), B.Sharratt, the Clerk Mrs D.Key and 9 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

The Chairman, Councillor S.Moore opened the meeting at 7.30pm, and welcomed all those present and explained what form the meeting would take and when there would be opportunity for public participation. Attendees were invited to stay for the duration of the meeting or just for Open Forum if they had a query.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 4th November 2025 were proposed for approval by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor A.Lloyd. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: There was mention that the Bradford Estates intended to hold a public meeting in the Village Institute on the 15th December to gauge further community responses to their plans to develop a new settlement on land to the west of Church Eaton.

LATE ITEMS AGREED BY THE CHAIR: Mr Steve Rutherford had contacted the Clerk about the forthcoming renewal of the Parish Council's trustees for both the Church Eaton Relief In Need Charity and the Barnfields Charity. Mr David Rogers, having been a trustee of the Church Eaton Relief In Need Charity for many years, was moving out of the area. Mr Rutherford suggested that Mrs Helen Bellamy would make a suitable replacement being well known to the Parish Council and having an ideal accountancy background. Mr Steve Rutherford was agreeable to continuing on as the Parish Council appointed trustee for the Barnfields Charity. These appointments were proposed by Councillor D.Massie and seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour. The Clerk was to notify Mr Rutherford of these appointments.

OPEN FORUM: The new residents of Laurel Cottage were welcomed to the meeting and their kind offer to assist where possible with any local flooding issues was accepted.

A local resident expressed concerns over the Gnosall Road where water running from the fields on the 's' bends represented a hazard especially during the winter months when it could freeze, and suggested that the road was not adequately gritted. The Chairman stated that he would report these concerns to County Highways and suggested that the resident should also do the same. Councillor A.Brown further suggested that the Flood Team should be also made aware of this matter.

There was an issue raised by a local resident relating to road flooding near to the property Meadowside on the Little Onn Road which seemed likely to be due to a blocked drain. The Chairman stated that Highways were aware of this but would chase this up with the Flood Team as well.

A query was raised concerning the disposal of dog poo bags in the playground litter bin. While dogs are not allowed in the playground there was a suggestion that as the dog poo bin was usually full in Malthouse Lane, the playground bin was being used instead. While this

meant the waste was at least being disposed of, some councillors were against the playground litter bin being used in this way. It was agreed to look at finding an alternative solution potentially the provision of another bin.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor B.Sharratt reported on his weekly inspections and had filled the stump holes in. The swing seat condition was discussed and it was agreed that this did not require immediate replacement. The Chairman was however to look at sourcing a new one.

HIGHWAYS: Flooding at Joan Eaton's Cross was raised. The Vice Chairman had inspected the area and it was thought to have been flash flooding caused by the recent deluge. Pot holes by Manor Farm, Marston were discussed and it was decided these would be monitored. The Clerk had contacted Borough and County Councillor Jack Rose about the overgrown hedge at Allimore Green which a local resident had again raised. Councillor Rose had visited the property but was unable to speak with anyone and had put a note through the door. This situation was to be monitored and if no improvement were made the County Highways Department would be contacted.

PLANNING: There had been one new planning applications received since the last meeting for Apeton Manor Farm Cottage, Apeton (Planning Application Reference 25/41353/PAF). The application was for prior approval for the change of use of agricultural buildings to a flexible commercial use, comprising Use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) and Use Class E (commercial). The Parish Council had considered the application and responded to the Planning Department stating that the Parish Council had no objections in principle to the application but given the lack of detail and no specialist knowledge of the various planning classifications for storage, were assuming that the Borough Council planning team would carry out the necessary due diligence required for the application.

The Vice Chairman who had brought up the idea of looking at developing a Neighbourhood Plan at the last meeting reported on his findings. After discussion, it was agreed that developing a Neighbourhood Plan would be prohibitively expensive and extremely time consuming. It was however agreed that a Parish Plan would be developed overseen by the Vice Chairman with a subcommittee working group comprising of Councillors D. Massie and A.Lloyd to assist with the process. The Chairman volunteered to proof read and review the document. The creation of the Parish Plan was proposed by the Councillor D.Massie and seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour

FLOODING: Following the recent wet weather it was reported that the flood plain behind Smithy Croft was full and that water coming from a breach on the canal was adding to the high water levels. The Chairman was to contact the Flood Team to ask them to come out and conduct an inspection.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported that she had paid the grass cutting invoice for the October cuts which had arrived in November amounting to £110.00.

Precept setting arrangements were discussed for the forthcoming financial year 2026 to 2027. The setting of the Precept would take place in January 2026. The Clerk reported she had notified the Borough of this. It was very disappointing that the article written by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to gauge parishioners' opinion on potentially raising the precept annually to create funds for future parish projects, which had been sent by the Clerk to the editor of Parish Magazine had not appeared in the latest edition of the magazine. In this

absence, it was agreed that notices about this were to be displayed on the notice board and web site.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: The Clerk had contacted Mr and Mrs Byford about whether they had received any new recruits to assist with the Church Eaton Community Speed Watch Group. Unfortunately they had not so, the Clerk was asked to include another request for volunteers in the next Parish Magazine.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Councillor Dodd reported that arrangements were all in hand for the Parish Council entry in to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Editha's Church. Mrs Dodd thanked Mrs Dawn Gibbs and Mrs Jayne Moore for their valuable assistance.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an email from the new PCSO Rebecca Justice and had replied notifying her of parish council meeting arrangements etc and that the Clerk would send her agendas for the meetings.

The Clerk had now received an email from the Borough Council's Assistant Contracts Manager, Becky Martin with the dates for next year's civic amenity visits. These were to take place on 23rd May and 17th October 2026 for one hour. Publicity for this will be carried out by the Clerk early next year.

The Chairman had attended the Borough Remembrance Service and wreath laying. The Vice Chairman had attended the wreath laying service at the airfield marker, Wheaton Aston.

All other correspondence had been forwarded to members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the January 6th 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.