

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 3RD FEBRUARY 2026
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

APOLOGIES: There were apologies from Parish Councillors Mrs S.Dodd, and Mr A.Lloyd.

The Chairman, Councillor S.Moore welcomed all those present, and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

MINUTES: Following a couple of minor tweaks, the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 6th January 2026 were proposed for approval by Councillor B.Sharratt and seconded by the Vice Chairman J.Gibbs. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

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

OPEN FORUM: There were many concerns raised by several residents about the deteriorating condition of potholes and road surfaces within the parish especially following the continuous and severe wet weather. Road traffic cones had been placed in some of the more dangerous potholes. Both the Chairman and Staffordshire County and Borough Councillor Jack Rose encouraged residents with concerns to report them to the relevant bodies and to contact Councillor Rose if there were no responses.

With the seemingly endless wet weather, flooding issues had also escalated. The Chairman reported he had contacted the County Flood Team (FAIR) about the recent wet weather and the effect this was having on the village, especially on the flood plain behind Smithy Croft which was now waterlogged. This has not been helped by water coming from a breach in the bank of the stream that runs from the canal. The FAIR Team had been in touch with a local landowner to discuss the commencement of ditching works to help alleviate some of the flooding on land behind the village, however it was decided that it was too wet to allow any heavy machinery on the ground. The Chairman was to follow this matter up, along with other flooding concerns, with the FAIR Team.

A local resident queried the progress being made with the Parish Plan. The Vice Chairman confirmed that the draft Parish Plan document was in good shape with so far a good number of responses to the questionnaire being received.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor A.Brown reported on the latest weekly inspections and noted that there was a missing grip on a piece of the gym equipment. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were to look at replacing this.

The Chairman proposed purchasing a replacement swing seat as the current one was showing signs of wear. He had obtained quotations with the best being around £80.00 plus VAT. This was proposed for purchase by Councillor B.Sharratt and seconded by Councillor D. Massie. All were in favour.

HIGHWAYS: Following the earlier discussion on Highways matters, the Chairman had reported more concerns over potholes to County Highways. Nick Shaw from the office of

Leigh Ingham MP had contacted the Parish Council to request feedback on any highways concerns including road safety matters etc. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were to draft a suitable reply.

PLANNING: Several planning applications had been received since the last meeting namely:

- 25/41325/FUL at Manor Farm, Marston - variation of condition 2 (on 24/39219/FUL).
- 25/41470/HOU – 6 Malt House Lane – 2 storey side extension

There were no objections made to these proposals.

A third planning application had been received but right before the meeting so the Clerk was asked to request an extension of time for members to be able to consider the application more fully. The application was for the demolition of an existing lean-to porch to be replaced with a single storey front porch at The Lodge, Cowley Lane (application reference number 25/41604/HOU).

There had also been a notification of a planning appeal against refusal for an outbuilding at New House, High Street (25/40604/HOU).

PARISH PLAN: The Vice Chairman reported that the survey had gone out and a third had been completed. Where responses had been limited a flier had been put through the door. A few paper copies had been received and a couple of members of the Parish Council and SBC Jack Rose requested a paper copy. There had also been an advert highlighting the survey put on Whatsapp. The Vice Chairman Councillor Gibbs was currently collating this information and would update the Parish Council at the next meeting.

FLOODING: This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

FINANCE: The Clerk had received an invoice for hire of the hall and the annual Christmas Tree donation from the Village Institute amounting in total to £96.00. This was proposed for payment by the Vice Chairman Councillor Gibbs, seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour.

The Clerk had received confirmation of the Parish Council's precept request for 2026 - 2027 from James Bellingham the Borough Council's financial planning accountant dealing with this matter.

The Clerk also confirmed that the unpresented cheque to Gnosall and District First Responders had now been presented at the bank after the Chairman had taken this matter up with one of their representatives.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an invitation for members to attend the Lower Reule Bioenergy, Brookfields Farm Liaison Committee meeting on the 10th February 2026. The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the email invitation to Councillors A.Brown and D. Massie who were interested in attending.

An invitation had been received from the Borough Council for the Mayoral Charity Lunch on 11th March 2026.

Matthew Burslem from the Cricket Club had emailed the Parish Council with a request for funding towards a replacement electronic score board which had been damaged by a storm in 2025. He was hoping to attend the meeting in person or send a representative to explain the request for funding more fully.

All other correspondence had been forwarded to members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.