

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

PRESENT: Parish Councillors, Messrs A.Brown, J.Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A.Lloyd, D.Massie, 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 S.Moore (Chairman) and Mrs S.Dodd.

The Vice Chairman Councillor J.Gibbs welcomed all those present, and opened the meeting at 7.30pm after explaining how the Open Forum section of the meeting worked.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 3rd February 2026 were deemed as a true record and proposed for approval by Councillor B.Sharratt and seconded by Councillor, D.Massie. All were in favour except Councillor Lloyd who was not present at the last meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

LATE ITEMS AGREED BY THE CHAIR: The Vice Chairman remarked on the recent passing of Mr Les Beattie who had for a long time overseen the Parish Council pay roll for the Clerk. It was noted that he would be sadly missed having been such a stalwart member of the local community. The Clerk has sent a message of condolence to Mrs Beattie on behalf of the Parish Council.

OPEN FORUM: There were many concerns raised by several residents present at the meeting about the ongoing deteriorating condition of road surfaces within the parish. The surface condition of Common Road leading into Barton Lane was deteriorating so badly that the local bus company was threatening not to use it.

Also of concern were repairs to the brook bridge on the Little Onn Road where traffic lights were not working correctly and it was hard to pass through them due to poor positioning.

There had been more drainage issues adjacent to Little Onn Hall resulting in road flooding. There were still issues of flooding on the Little Onn Road adjacent to Meadowside..

A sink hole, caused by a damaged pipe adjacent to Dolphin House in the High Street, had been at the centre of a dispute between County Highways or Severn Trent Water as to who was responsible for repairing it. It had eventually been decided that Severn Trent Water were responsible and they had now actioned this for repair although this was taking some time to get organised.

Stafford Borough and Staffs County Councillor Jack Rose who is currently involved with some of these highways matters is pressing the County Council to raise Section 56 Notices where road conditions have become critical. Councillor Rose also encouraged local residents with concerns to report them to the relevant bodies and to contact Councillor Rose if there were no responses received.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: The Vice Chairman reported on the latest weekly inspections and how, due to extreme wet weather, the playground had been closed for two weeks as it was so waterlogged. It was however, now open and the two missing grips on the equipment had been

replaced. Councillor Gibbs also noted that there was algae on some of the equipment which could probably do with washing off when the weather improved. It was also noted that the annual safety inspection was due. Councillor A.Lloyd was to look into this matter.

The Clerk noted that the Chairman had purchased a replacement swing seat as the current one was showing signs of wear.

HIGHWAYS: There had been more concerns over the use of heavy traffic through the High Street from a local resident along with other traffic issues such as obstructive parking. A discussion concerning the impact of speeding heavy traffic on buildings in the High Street ensued with concerns that potentially some of the older listed building could be at risk. Cracks were already being reported on some buildings. Limiting the speed limit to 20mph was discussed but previous investigations into this had concluded that it would be prohibitively expensive being in the thousands of pounds and beyond the Parish Council purse.

Councillor Rose reported that he was currently conducting a Speeding and Pedestrian Safety Survey and would welcome participation from Church Eaton parish residents. A link to the survey was to be posted on the Parish website and notice board and the Clerk was to publicise this in the next Parish Magazine.

Following the earlier discussion on Highways matters in Open Forum lots of pothole issues were discussed and which had been reported, notably on the Church Eaton to Haughton Road.

PLANNING: One planning application had been received since the last meeting 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 were no objections made to this application.

The Clerk had also received notification that the recent application (25/41470/HOU) for a two storey side extension at 6 Malt House Lane had been withdrawn from the planning system.

PARISH PLAN: The Vice Chairman had produced another draft which had been circulated to members for comment. A discussion followed as to whether the Plan could now be published and a copy sent to the Borough Planning Department. The majority of members present were in favour of this action. Councillor A.Brown suggested reworking the draft in line with an example of a Parish Plan he had obtained which had ultimately gone on to become a Neighbourhood Plan. He was concerned that there were some issues missing from the draft. It was proposed by Councillor A.Lloyd that the plan be published as version one and this could be reworked if necessary. This was seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt and all were in favour with the exception of Councillor A. Brown. Councillor A.Lloyd commented and thanked the Vice Chairman on all the hard work that he had undertaken on this project.

FLOODING: This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting but the Vice Chairman added that the proposed dredging works on land behind the village are to be delayed until the ground has dried out some more.

FINANCE: The Clerk submitted her expenses for the year 2025 – 2026 amounting to £157.22 which was proposed for payment by the Vice Chairman and seconded by Councillor Lloyd. All were in favour.

The Clerk had received notification from the HSBC Bank that the interest rate was to fall.

The Clerk reported she had received a request for a financial donation from Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team. Following a discussion relating to external financial requests it was generally felt that the Council would not be able to support this particular request as funds were prohibitive.

CORRESPONDENCE: Councillors A. Brown and D.Massie had attended the recent the Lower Reule Bioenergy, Brookfields Farm Liaison Committee meeting on the 10th February 2026. They both reported that it was very interesting and informative and would certainly attend again.

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence concerning the proposed development of new housing by the Bradford Estates from two individual parishioners which had been circulated. A local resident had also sent a preventative dog worrying poster.

A local resident had also contacted the Parish Council with a list of concerns in relation to highways matters. The Parish Council had also been copied into the correspondence being sent re: the escalation of complaints being made to Staffordshire County Council on these various highways matters.

Information relating to Local Government reorganisation consultation had been forwarded to members.

All other general correspondence had been forwarded to members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.