

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026
AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE

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

The Chairman Councillor S.Moore welcomed all those present, and opened the meeting at 7.30pm. The Chairman also explained how the meeting worked and when members of the public had opportunity to participate, particularly during the Open Forum section.

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies required.

MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 7th July 2026 were deemed as a true record and proposed for approval by the Vice Chairman Councillor J.Gibbs and seconded by Councillor, B.Sharratt. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING: The vacancy created by the passing of Councillor Sheila Dodd was discussed. The Clerk reported that the elections office at the Borough Council had emailed her to state that an election would not be required and that the Parish Council could go ahead and co-opt a new member. It was agreed that any interested parties should be asked to send an expression of interest to the Clerk with a few words about why they wish to be a Councillor. The deadline for this was set for the end of October with any suitable candidates invited to the November meeting to introduce themselves more formally. A notice about the co-option process would be posted on the Notice Board and Parish website. The Clerk had also arranged a notice to be included in the forthcoming Parish magazine. The Clerk also reported that she had already received interest in the vacancy from two individual parishioners.

The Clerk reported that Mr Tim Edwards from the Church Eaton Grammar School Educational Foundation had emailed the Parish Council with a suggested nomination of Mr Chris Lees to fill the trustee vacancy which had arisen following the passing of Mrs Sheila Dodd. This was proposed by Councillor D.Massie and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor J.Gibbs, the rest of the Parish Council were unanimous in confirming this endorsement. The Clerk was to notify Mr Edwards of this decision.

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

OPEN FORUM: The Parish Council were thanked by a member of the public for responding to the planning application for 38 new dwellings at Malthouse Lane.

Mr David Woodward enquired whether there were any updates on the resurfacing of the Church Eaton to Gnosall Road. There were no updates and Borough and County Councillor J.Rose had no updates either and reported that he was extremely frustrated with the lack of any progress. The Parish Council were to continue pressing for this matter to be dealt with as soon as possible.

C.E.V. PLAYGROUND: Councillor A.Brown had undertaken the inspections in July and had noted that there was a missing handle grip which had now been replaced and that he had also picked up some litter. He had also reported that a post on the balancing trail was showing early signs of breaking up.

In August, the Vice Chairman had undertaken the weekly inspections, and Streetscene had been involved in providing a new litter bin which would be sited outside the playground as the current playground bin was increasingly being filled with dog waste. Grass cutting had been carried out over the past two months but fewer cuts had been required during the heat wave.

Councillor A.Lloyd was to conduct the playground inspections for the forthcoming month.

PLANNING: One new planning application was discussed (application reference 26/42156/FUL) for Red House Farm, Little Onn Road, for the erection of an agricultural building to cover a feeding/loafing area for part of the dairy herd. There were no objections raised by the Parish Council.

The recent amendments made to (planning application reference 26/41735/OUT) for land at Malthouse Lane proposing the development of 38 new dwellings was discussed and the Chairman and Vice Chairman were to prepare a response, which would be sent to the Borough Council subject to the approval of members. Councillors B.Sharratt and D.Massie declared an interest in this matter. It was also confirmed in the meeting, that no Councillor had been engaged with the Bradford Estates, even in an informal conversation, over the use of playground land for a proposed footpath to the site.

HIGHWAYS: Councillor A Lloyd reported that the sink hole in the High Street had finally been filled in despite months of wrangling over whose responsibility this was. It was also confirmed that the foul water pipes had now been correctly connected.

FLOODING: The Chairman reported that the proposed works on the south of the village to improve the route of water along with work around Smithy Croft were scheduled to begin on the 14th September 2026.

STANDING ORDERS REVISIONS: The Chairman had now finished his review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders and following the receipt of more feedback from fellow Councillors had created a final version for adoption. This was proposed by Councillor A.Lloyd, seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour. A copy was to be posted on the Parish Council web site.

THE SHEILA DODD MEMORIAL HANGING BASKETS AND TUBS

COMPETITION: The overall winner of this year's completion was The Brambles No. 1 St. Edith's Court with the joint runners up being Oak Cottage, Wood Eaton Road and Church Farm, High Street.

Special mentions were made for the following properties:

- No. 7 Parker's Close
- 28 High Street/Oak Close
- Birchcroft, High Street
- Cherry Tree Cottage, High Street
- Royal Oak Pub

The judge Mrs Jayne Woodward from Sheffield also remarked on how good the planting displays were underneath the village signs. The Winner and two runners up will each receive a national gardening voucher.

FINANCE: The Clerk reported that she had paid the last grass cutting invoice of £110 for July. The insurance renewal from Zurich had been thoroughly looked through by the Chairman and he suggested that despite a small increase from last year which resulted in a premium of £774.41, the Parish Council remain with Zurich for the time being. The Clerk was asked to pay this following a proposal from Councillor A.Lloyd seconded by the Vice Chairman and all in favour.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk had received an email from two local residents about the poor state of the footpath between Goosemoor and Brookhouse farm especially where the path goes over the canal bridge where the ramps up to the bridge are becoming impassable. The Chairman had emailed the residents back with some contact information for the Footpaths Office and agreed that the canal bridge was probably under the jurisdiction of the Canal and River Trust. The situation was to be monitored.

The Clerk had forwarded other correspondence to all Councillors including invitations to the Mayor's Charity Appeal, Stafford Borough Council's Ladies Luncheon and information about poppy wreath ordering.

The Clerk had completed a short survey on playground facilities from Stafford Borough Council.

A thank you letter for the Council's recent donation had been received from the Gnosall and District First Responders.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.20pm.