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Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 14 May 2026 at Woodseaves Village Hall

Attendees: P. Haslop (Chair) Councillors: E. Halls; P.Mason; D.Turpin; M.Smith
Stafford Borough Councillor – M Winnington

Chair Haslop opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and gave a reminder of the Public Open Forum / addressing the Council rules.

Public Open Forum.

Members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue over which it has power, for up to 5 minutes each. The period of time designated for public participation at the meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders shall not exceed ten (10) minutes, unless otherwise directed by the Chair of the meeting.

A resident attended for agenda item 26/049, relating to planning application 26/42162/PIP, and requested historical information regarding a previous associated application that had been refused. Information was relayed.

A resident attended for agenda item 26/050(d), Road Safety on High Offley Road, and stated that in their view vehicle speeds are no worse than they were 40 years ago—the length of time they have lived on the road—and that the projected costs for a traffic study appear excessively high

26/043: To Elect a Chair for the Forthcoming Civic Year and to Receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Haslop was nominated as the Chair of Council and there were no other nominations. Councillors were unanimously in favour of Councillor Haslop being the Chair of Council for the new civic year and Councillor Haslop signed the Acceptance of Office, that was witnessed and countersigned by the Clerk.

26/044: To Elect a Vice Chair for the Forthcoming Civic Year and to Receive the Vice Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Smith volunteered to be Vice Chair of Council and there were no other

nominations. Councillors were unanimously in favour of Councillor Smith being the Vice Chair of Council for the new civic year. Councillor Smith signed the Acceptance of Office, that was witnessed

and countersigned by the Clerk.

26/045: To Receive - Apologies and Record any Absences

Councillors Pert, Turvey, Hockenhull

26/046: To Receive and Consider - Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 9 April 2026

Councillors unanimously agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

26/047: To Note - Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Mason for planning application 26/42162/PIP and Chair Haslop, Councillor Smith for 26/052 e – donation to the Village Hall as they are Committee members.

26/048: To Discuss - Old Hall Farm

During the scheduled visit on 2 April, John Langdown met the farmer, who explained that the rubble and hardcore stored near the barns originated from demolished agricultural buildings and material removed from the farmhouse. He confirmed that no external material had been imported and no commercial dumping was taking place. The quantity of material was considered proportionate and intended for use in repairing farm tracks. It was therefore concluded that no breach had occurred, as the activity appeared reasonable and related to normal agricultural operations. The ongoing planning application (24/39713/FUL) remains pending, and the case has been escalated for prioritised determination.

Discussion took place regarding the update. Councillor Winnington recommended seeking confirmation as to whether the applicant holds a Waste Exemption Licence for the disposal of concrete, the blocked Public Right of Way continues to remain unusable and in relation to the caravan, there is currently insufficient evidence to indicate that it is being used.

Action: Clerk to write to John Langdown requesting a further update arising from the above discussion.

26/049: To Discuss - Planning Applications

26/42162/PIP - Land Rear Of Lillingstone House Newport

Councillor Spencer left the meeting at 7:26pm so the item could be discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the application in depth, including the planning history and its relationship to both the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, some of which is available on Stafford Borough Council's website. Concerns were raised regarding highway safety, particularly the risks associated with traffic entering and exiting the proposed site onto the A519, and the inability to provide sufficient visibility splays. These concerns are further compounded by the site's proximity to the B5405 junction and the potential for associated traffic conflicts.

The difference between a Permission in Principle (PiP) and an Outline Planning Application was explained – A PiP establishes only whether a site is suitable in principle for housing-led development, whereas an Outline Planning Application establishes the principle and requires more supporting information, with detailed matters to follow later

Councillors agreed to defer making a decision at the meeting in order to allow those not present the opportunity to submit their views.

26/050: To Discuss - Highway Issues

a) *Bus Service from Woodseaves to Newport – Update*

Chair Haslop reported the Gnosall Voluntary Car Scheme has been advertised on social media but has not generated any new volunteers.

Action: Chair Haslop to notify Gnosall Voluntary Car Scheme of the current position.

b) *Dog Fouling – Lodge Lane – Update*

Councillors considered the Keep Britain Tidy dog-fouling campaign but agreed not to pursue it. Instead, approval was given to purchase dog-fouling stickers and posters from Amazon for display around the village.

Action: Councillor Halls to arrange purchase.

c) *Moscow Lane/Severn Trent – Update*

An update was received from John Woodward, Non-Infrastructure Team Manager (WW Recycling West – Stafford and Cannock), confirming that recent operational area changes mean the Moscow Lane site now falls under the Stoke-on-Trent area. The transition is still ongoing; John's team continues to cover the site out of hours, while the Stoke-on-Trent team manages operations during working hours. Nathan Hill and Cameron Brown are now the primary contacts for the site, although John Woodward and Peter McWilliams remain available if required. Advice was given to the resident in attendance for this agenda item to request a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures.

d) *Road Safety on High Offley Road – Update*

Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership is organising Community Speed Watch groups. Anyone interested in volunteering with the Police is invited to contact them on 01785 232702 or via email at csw@staffordshire.police.uk

e) *Shebdon Verges – Update*

Previous advice indicated that the verges are not the responsibility of the Highways Department. Councillors Pert and Smith have visited the site and taken photographs. It was decided that the issue relates primarily to the passing place and the erosion of the road surface. It was agreed that the title of this agenda item should be amended to reflect this discussion.

f) *Pavements on Stafford Road, Woodseaves – Update*

It was noted that John Langdown is the Case Officer and has confirmed that the developer has been instructed to install a pavement in accordance with the original requirement at the time the application was approved. It was further reported that the developer has since submitted a retrospective planning application.

Action: Clerk to request an update from John Langdown.

g) *A5013 Road Closure through Creswell Grove*

Councillor Pert sent an update in his absence - the planned roadworks on the A5013 Creswell Grove will not be reinstated this week due to safety concerns after drivers, including HGVs, ignored closure signage. From Monday 18 May 2026, the road closure direction will be reversed, operating from Stafford to Eccleshall instead of Eccleshall to Stafford. Traffic management will resume at 06:00 on this date.

School transport arrangements are being adjusted accordingly. Contracted routes 538 and 541 will amend their timetables from 18 May so that diversion delays affect the afternoon journey rather than the morning. Service 432, operated by Chaserider, will revert to its usual morning timetable from 18 May and will also operate a slightly later afternoon journey via the diversion route. This will restore transport options for fare-paying pupils who are not eligible for school transport. Updated timetable information will be shared with parents and the school once received.

Action: Clerk to ask for a sign to be placed at the end of the Stafford Road that says 'no access to M6 at junction 14'.

26/051: To Receive - Reports from Borough and County Councillors

- a) *Councillor Scott Spencer* – No further update other than information already given
- b) *Councillor Jeremy Pert* - No further update was available beyond the information already provided.
- c) *Councillor Mark Winnington* – Congratulations were extended to Councillor Winnington on his forthcoming appointment as Mayor of Stafford. Councillor Winnington stated that Purdah was currently being observed.

26/052: Financial and Governance Matters

- a) *To note monthly receipts and payments*

Lloyds Bank	Service Charges - April 2026	£4.25
D Cox	Internal Audit Fee	£28.99
D Cox	High Offley Parish Council - Administration Costs April 26	£224.88
HMRC	PAYE - April 26	£56.00
SPCA	Membership Fee 2026/27	£369.49
	TOTAL	683.61
HMRC	VAT Reclaim 25/26	+£124.67
Stafford Borough Council	Precept	+£2,960.50
	TOTAL	+3085.17

- b) *To note bank reconciliation figure as of 14/05/26 - £15,764.10*
- c) *To approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025-26 as follows:*
 - i. Annual bank reconciliation was received.
 - ii. Annual Internal Audit Report was received and no further action was recommended.
 - iii. Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed.
 - iv. Accounting Statement was approved and signed.
 - v. The commencement date for the exercise of public rights was agreed as being 3 June until 14 July 2026.
- d) *Purchase of a replacement Union flag*
Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the purchase of a replacement Union flag.
- e) *To consider a donation to the Village Hall Committee towards the tarmac costs for the path to the rear of the hall.*

Councillors agreed to award a donation of £500 towards the Village Hall tarmac resurfacing works. Chair Haslop and Councillor Smith abstained from voting.

26/053: To Request - Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

- Remembrance Day – Poppies

26/054: To Confirm - Time and Date of the Next Meeting.

7:00pm – 11 June 2026

D Cox

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council. Thursday 5 June 2026