**Endon with Stanley Parish Council**
Unit 1B Station Site, Station Buildings, Station Road, Endon, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST9 9DR
www.endonwithstanley-pc.gov.uk | clerk@endonwithstanley-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr. Suzanne Sillitoe | Vice Chairman: Cllr. Phil Taylor

# Endon with Stanley Parish Council

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

## Held on Tuesday 14th July 2026, 7pm at Endon Methodist Church

Chairman: Cllr. Suzanne Sillitoe
Vice Chairman: Cllr. Phil Taylor

**Present:** (Chairman) Cllr S. Sillitoe, (Vice Chairman) Cllr Taylor, Cllr Adams, Cllr Brown, Cllr Houston-Smith, (District) Cllr Jebb, Cllr McCann, Cllr Pugh, (District) Cllr Porter, Cllr Richards, Clerk: Laura Frost

**In attendance:** (District) Cllr Flunder, (County) Cllr Egginton and 4 members of the public.

Meeting began at 7pm

**1. Apologies for Absence** (with reasons, e.g. personal, work, holiday, illness)

- Cllr Clulow – work commitments
- Cllr Cowles – holiday
- Cllr J. Sillitoe – family commitments
- Cllr Spooner – holiday
- Cllr Walker – family commitments

*(All accepted)*

**2. Chairman's Remarks**
The Chairman reported a series of anti-social behaviour incidents involving abuse and threatening behaviour towards the Lengthsman at Station Road Memorial Park. Incidents occurred on 6th, 7th and 13th July, involving groups of young people directing abusive and obscene language towards the Lengthsman, with the Lengthsman stating that he had feared for his safety. It was noted that six young people later apologised, and that the police had attended following the latter incident, identified those involved and were dealing with the matter. The Chairman advised that both she and the Lengthsman had submitted formal reports to the police.

PCSO Carter arrived at 7:06pm.

**3. Public Forum** (15-minute time limit)
PSCO Carter advised that the incidents were being dealt with as anti-social behaviour rather than criminal offences. Community Protection Warnings and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts would be used where appropriate, with parents becoming involved where necessary. PSCO Carter also reported incidents of young people entering the water at Stanley Pool and the Caldon Canal raising safety concerns. Councillors discussed CCTV coverage, noting that while existing footage showed the incidents taking place, image quality was insufficient to identify individuals. The possibility of a body-worn camera for the Lengthsman was considered with Cllr Brown to look into possible options. PSCO Carter advised that any body-worn camera would need to comply with data protection requirements and could potentially escalate confrontations. A resident reported incidents of trespass and abusive behaviour affecting neighbouring properties of Station Road Memorial Park. Councillors also discussed earlier park closing times as a means of reducing anti-social behaviour and the Chairman advised that, following police advice, the park should be locked when necessary to prevent further incidents and protect the park from vandalism.
**Resolved:** That Station Road Memorial Park close at 6pm until further notice and that the Lengthsman be given discretion to close the park when anti-social behaviour occurs.
*All in favour.*

**4. Declaration of interests in items on the forthcoming agenda**
None.

**5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th June 2026**
**Resolved:** That the minutes be approved and signed.

**6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29th June 2026**
**Resolved:** That the minutes be approved and signed.

**7. Matters arising from the meeting held on 9th June 2026 not on the agenda**
None.

**8. Matters arising from the meeting held on 29th June 2026 not on the agenda**
None.

PSCO Carter left the meeting at 7:40pm.

**9. Lawn Cemetery Extension Update**
**a.** The Chairman reported that Cllr Clulow would be meeting with the contractor on 16th July to review the project requirements for the Lawn Cemetery extension. It was noted that Phase 1 works were due to commence on 20th July.

**10. Best Kept Village Update**
**a.** The Chairman reported that the parish had been selected as a finalist in the Best Kept Village Competition. Councillors were advised that the awards ceremony and results would take place at the end of September and that no further in-person judging visits were expected. It was also noted that the artwork from the competition had been returned to the schools and the displays by the veterinary practice would be removed in due course. The Chairman thanked a local resident for his work weeding around Alder House and the Co-op and noted that he would also be cutting the section of Footpath 73 bordering his land during August, following the cutting back of the footpath by Network Rail on 10th July.

**11. Rural Regeneration Project Ideas**
**a.** The Chairman invited Councillors to consider potential projects for submission to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Rural Regeneration Fund. Ideas discussed included improvements to the Garden of Remembrance, including the designated area used for the scattering of ashes, and potential improvements at Hillswood Park. Councillors were asked to submit any further project ideas to the Clerk for consideration and inclusion in a future funding application.

**12. Endon Flood Action Group Report**
**a.** Cllr McCann provided an update from the Endon Flood Action Group following the meeting held on 15th June. Progress was described as slow but ongoing. It was reported that a flood warning system would be introduced in the village and that the Property Flood Resilience Plan was progressing. The installation of a non-return valve on the A53 was discussed but was not considered feasible; however, keeping the area above the affected property clear would assist. It was noted that three replacement gully grids would be installed as part of the A53 works. Dales Bridge had been cleared. St George's Avenue was discussed, and it was agreed that a wider community response was required. Cllr McCann and Cllr Porter would liaise regarding the way forward. The next meeting of the Flood Forum would take place on 23rd July. Cllr Houston-Smith raised the issue of overgrown vegetation in the channel near Footpath 72. Cllr McCann agreed to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Flood Forum.

**13. Local Government Reorganisation Update**
**a.** (District) Cllr Flunder provided an update following the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) councillor engagement session held on 1st July 2026. Mutual Ventures had led the engagement process, completing 18 meetings with parish councils, councillors, businesses, community groups and residents. Three additional face-to-

face sessions had been held at SMDC Moorlands House, attended by representatives including Cllr Adams. A further meeting had taken place with representatives from Bagnall, Brown Edge and Endon with Stanley Parish Councils.
It was reported that parish councils were asked to submit a response to the consultation questionnaire. (District) Cllr Flunder highlighted the importance of ensuring that parish priorities and existing plans were reflected in the forthcoming Locality Plan consultation. It was noted that the Locality Plan would proceed regardless, with parish input forming part of the neighbourhood governance arrangements. Councillors were advised that the preferred LGR option was expected to be announced later that week.

**14. Projects**
**a.** The completion of the replacement Gateway to the Moorlands sign was noted.
**b.** The completion of the replacement doors for Unit 2 was noted.

**15. Governance**
**a.** The fire risk assessment for the Station Platform (excluding Unit 1A and Unit 1B buildings) for Network Rail/SES Group was approved.

**16. Finance, Accounts & Expenses**
**a.** The June bank reconciliation was approved.
**b.** The July payments list was approved.
**c.** The transfer of £2,475.00 from Earmarked Reserves to the Community Account to fund the final balance invoice for the completed Unit 2 door replacement project was approved.

**17. Planning**
Cllr Clulow was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded his planning comments prior for councillors to consider as follows:

| *Application No.* | *Location* | *Proposed Development* |
|---|---|---|
| **a. SMD/2026/0284** | Dane Heights, Clay Lake, Endon | **Proposal:** Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the erection of 3 no. dwellings (resubmission of SMD/2023/0157)<br>**Comment:** Cllr Clulow advised that the site had previously received planning approval in 2008 for three dwellings, with subsequent resubmissions in 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2023, all of which expired before works commenced. The current application seeks approval for three new houses on the same basis.<br>It was noted that no direct objections had been raised by the Parish Council on previous applications, although concerns had previously been expressed regarding the cumulative impact of similar developments along Clay Lake and the changes to the streetscape. As no new issues had been identified, Cllr Clulow advised that there was no reason to alter the previous position.<br>**Resolved:** No objection. |
| **b. SMD/2026/0297** | Land North of Fair View, Ball Lane, Brown Edge | **Proposal:** Erection of shepherd's hut to provide holiday accommodation (retrospective)<br>**Comment:** It was noted that the planning documents could not be downloaded for review. It was agreed that once access to the documents had been resolved by the Planning Department at SMDC, any comments would be provided separately for discussion.<br>**Resolved:** Deferred to 11th August meeting. |
| **c. SMD/2026/0299** | The Orchard, Church Lane | **Proposal:** Proposed ground floor kitchen extension and first floor bedroom extensions and alterations<br>**Comment:** Cllr Clulow declared an interest in the application, |

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| | | advising that he had prepared and submitted the application in his professional capacity as an architect. Cllr Clulow provided an overview of the proposal for extensions and alterations at The Orchard, Church Lane, Endon. The application sought to provide an improved third bedroom, a fourth ensuite bedroom and an extended kitchen/family living space. It was noted that the proposed extensions would have a minimal increase to the building footprint, with the bedroom extensions being constructed over existing flat roof areas and incorporating pitched roofs. Cllr Clulow advised that the proposal was intended to meet the needs of a growing family while remaining sympathetic to the existing property and its location within the Conservation Area. It was noted that The Orchard was not a listed building and was not identified as a significant or valued building within the Conservation Area setting. The proposed design was considered to have limited impact on the character of the property and surrounding area, with the scale and roof design helping to reduce visual impact.<br>**Resolved:** No objection. |
| **d. SMD/2026/0321** | 6 Heather Hills, Stockton Brook | **Proposal:** Proposed garage roof extension<br>**Comment:** Cllr Clulow advised that the application was a resubmission of the previous refused application to extend the detached garage space at 6 Heather Hills, Stockton Brook. The Parish Council had previously raised no objection; however, SMDC's Local Planning Authority had refused the previous application due to the extension being considered too dominant within the Green Belt. Cllr Clulow advised that the revised proposal reduced the mass of the pitched roof extension forming the first floor in an attempt to address the previous concerns. The revised scheme was considered to have a lesser impact than the previous proposal, and given the Parish Council's previous position, it was suggested that the same view of no objection could be maintained.<br>**Resolved:** No objection. |

**18. Correspondence**

**a.** The request from Staffordshire County Council regarding the registration of Parish Council-owned grit bins was considered. Councillors were not aware of the Parish Council owning any grit bins. It was noted that the purchase of additional grit bins by the Parish Council had previously been discussed, but none had been purchased to date.

**19. Lengthsman's Team Maintenance**

**a.** Councillors reported maintenance issues within the parish for attention by the Lengthsman's team.

- (District) Cllr Porter raised concerns regarding overgrown hedges at several locations along the A53, including concerns raised by parents at St Luke's CE Academy Primary School. He asked for letters to be sent to landowners to request that vegetation be cut back. Discussion took place regarding hedge-cutting requests and restrictions, with the Chairman advising that hedge cutting should not normally take place before nesting bird season. (District) Cllr Flunder advised that exceptions may apply where hedges are causing an obstruction or safety hazard. The Chairman suggested that a message could be shared on Facebook to raise awareness. (District) Cllr Jebb noted that the Parish Council had previously contacted landowners regarding seasonal hedge maintenance. The Chairman advised that this was not the Clerk's responsibility and suggested that (District) Cllr Porter should raise the matter in his capacity as District Councillor.

**20. Reports**

**a. District and County Councillor Reports**

District reports from (District) Cllrs Jebb, Flunder and Porter were circulated to councillors by the Clerk prior to the meeting and uploaded to the Parish Council website.

- **(County) Cllr Egginton** reported that works to the A53 layby were progressing well. He also raised the issue of the culvert near Endon Brook and the need to seek improvements.

**b. Councillor Reports**

- **Cllr Adams** reflected on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) meeting she attended on 1st July, discussion took place regarding the potential benefits of future arrangements, including improved regional transport links.
- **Cllr Taylor** provided an update regarding correspondence received from Churnet Valley Railway in relation to the former railway route through Endon. It was noted that Churnet Valley Railway's medium-term aim is to operate passenger services along the existing railway line from Leekbrook to Stoke via Endon and they had expressed concern regarding proposals that could prevent this objective. Cllr Taylor advised that, while the proposed freight line was unlikely to proceed in the short term, the Parish Council should continue to support opportunities for improved rail connections, particularly where these could reduce traffic on the A53 and provide better links for residents travelling to work.
- **Cllr Houston-Smith** raised whether a collective response should be submitted to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation. Discussion took place regarding the benefits of a joint response to ensure the parishes priorities were recognised, including the Locality Plan, Lawn Cemetery, future income and parish assets. (District) Cllr Flunder advised that support would be available to parishes in developing their Locality Plans and ensuring key information was recognised by the new authority. Cllr Houston-Smith proposed a meeting to discuss the collective response further, to be held on Monday 27th July at 6:30pm at Endon Village Hall.
- **(District) Cllr Porter** reported that he and (District) Cllr Flunder had secured £6,400 of funding towards resurfacing the children's tennis courts at Endon Tennis Club.
- **(County) Cllr Egginton** advised that concerns had been raised regarding the filling in of the ditch/culvert along Stanley Road during utility works. Following discussions with SCC Highways and the utility company, it had been agreed that the ditch would be reinstated at the next available opportunity.

**Exclusion of the Public**

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**21. Commercial Matters**

**a.** The lease renewal for Unit 1A**,** including electricity supply arrangements, was considered. The lease had been reviewed against the original draft prepared by previous councillor, Cllr Church. Cllr Pugh provided an update on the proposed lease amendments and advised that the rent had been reviewed. It was noted that the tenant would be required to obtain independent legal advice before entering into the agreement. Discussion took place regarding electricity arrangements and it was agreed that the existing meter should be repaired to allow accurate calculation of electricity usage and reimbursement arrangements.

**Resolved:** To approve the expenditure of £85.00 for the repair of the electricity meter and defer consideration of a separate electricity supply.
*Proposed by Cllr Houston-Smith and seconded by Cllr Taylor, all in favour.*
**Resolved:** To approve the new lease for Unit 1A and the Clerk to issue the lease to the tenant.
*Proposed by Cllr Pugh and seconded by Cllr Houston-Smith, all in favour.*

Meeting ended at 8:47pm.

**Date of Next Meeting:**
Tuesday 11th August 2026, Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre at 7.00pm – Ordinary Meeting

| Chairman Name | Signature | Date of Approval |
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