



Endon with Stanley Parish Council

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Held on Tuesday 8th September 2026, 7pm at Endon Methodist Church

Present: (Chairman) Cllr S. Sillitoe, (Vice Chairman) Cllr Taylor, Cllr Adams, Cllr Brown, Cllr Clulow, Cllr Cowles, Cllr Houston-Smith, (District) Cllr Jebb, Cllr Pugh, (District) Cllr Porter, Cllr Richards, Cllr J. Sillitoe, Cllr Spooner, Clerk

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

Meeting began at 7pm

1. Apologies for Absence

- Cllr McCann – family commitments
- Cllr Walker – family emergency

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman noted that the Red Ensign flag had been raised on 3rd September and thanked Keith Jervis and Rev. Denise Williamson who led the accompanying prayer. Thanks were also extended to Alan Williamson for providing historical context regarding Endon's connections. An Archives Working Group meeting would be arranged as soon as possible, although this had been difficult to organise due to several members being on holiday. It was emphasised that the Archives and Amenities groups are separate bodies. The Archives group comprises key residents and some councillors, and, as the Archives belong to the community, it was felt that this provided an appropriate balance of representation. The Chairman further advised that, once the new locations for the defibrillators have been confirmed, a new map should be designed showing their locations along with other community features, such as the telephone box. The map could then be displayed in the noticeboards where the defibrillators are located.

3. Public Forum

(County) Cllr Egginton provided an update on the following:

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** An announcement was made by the Government on 7th September confirming that LGR is currently paused. Further information is awaited.
- **Endon Village Hall:** Cllr Egginton confirmed that he had donated prizes for the Table Top Sale Fun Day held on 6th September.
- **Community Fund:** Cllr Egginton confirmed that the application for funding towards the reinstatement of the Telephone Box had been approved through his Councillor Community Fund.
- **Flooding at Endon Sign:** Despite works to clear two gullies and replace chambers, flooding remains an issue. Staffordshire County Council Highways is investigating the matter. Further grids have been cleaned and photographs provided to Highways. Cllr Egginton confirmed that he would continue to pursue the matter until a satisfactory resolution is achieved.
- **Endon Brook:** Work to address issues with the brook and culvert, following Cllr McCann's efforts, remains ongoing with the National Flood Forum/ Environmental Agencies.
- **Clay Lake Junction:** An update was provided on the proposed works and surveys. It was suggested that other local councils and the wider community, including representatives from Bagnall and Brown Edge, should be involved in discussions due to the wider impact of the proposed scheme. It was suggested that a public meeting be arranged and relevant representatives invited.
- **Hillside Avenue/Church Lane:** An update was provided on proposed improvements to the junction of the Hillside Avenue and Church Lane. The scheme, funded through the Integrated Transport Capital Scheme which was put forward by previous County Councillor Flunder, includes improved illuminated No Entry signage and road hatching to assist vehicles exiting Church Lane.
- **St Luke's CE Academy School Crossing:** Capital funding is available to pursue the crossing at St Luke's CE Academy School and further information is awaited from the engineers. A further meeting with the school is



to be arranged, with representatives from Highways, Bagnall and Brown Edge, County Councillors and other relevant parties invited.

- **Gully Maintenance:** Cllr Egginton reported that a significant number of gully grids on the A53 had been inspected and cleaned, with further ongoing work and repairs required.
- **Platts Avenue/St George's Avenue:** It was noted that clearance of the area may assist with water flow further downstream. Discussions will take place with Severn Trent, who have indicated that a team of workers and engineers maybe able to attend and assist.
- **Footpath 20 (Behind Endon High School):** Highways has attended and sprayed trees in preparation for removal. Endon High School will also need to address their overhanging trees.

Cllr Egginton left the meeting at 7:19pm.

4. Declaration of interests in items on the forthcoming agenda

Item not considered.

5. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th August 2026

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed.

6. Matters arising from the meeting held on 11th August 2026 not on the agenda

The Chair provided an update following the significant increase in the estimated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) quoted costs, initially reported at £18,000. The Finance Working Group had reviewed the Council's financial position and recommended reducing planned expenditure. As a result, the proposed improvements to the football pitch at Station Road Memorial Park have been deferred and remain an aspirational project, subject to future funding or grant opportunities. It was also agreed that the existing fencing would remain unchanged, with no further alterations pursued at this time. The Council will proceed with SMDC's Rural Regeneration Fund application, as re-levelling of the football pitch would be required regardless of any future development. The Lengthsman reported that previous issues involving anti-social behaviour at the park had reduced. The area is now being locked earlier, at approximately 6.00pm, and the Lengthsman will continue to monitor the situation.

7. Lawn Cemetery

a. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Cllr Clulow provided an update on the BNG requirements. The original budgeted estimated cost of £6,000–£8,000 had increased to £18,000, but following further discussions had been reduced to £12,000. A further quotation has been requested from a local provider in Endon. The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's map indicates potential BNG provision in neighbouring fields, which also may reduce the cost. Cllr Clulow and Cllr Jebb met with the biodiversity advisers and further work is ongoing. It was noted that failure to meet the BNG requirement could result in enforcement action by SMDC therefore further information on costs, payment arrangements and monitoring requirements will be obtained by Cllr Clulow.

8. Local Government Reorganisation Update

a. LGR Current Position

Cllr Flunder provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). It was reported that the LGR process has been paused and that the proposed May 2027 unitary elections will not now proceed. District elections are expected to go ahead, although the future term of office is currently unclear. The Council discussed the implications of the pause, including the potential impact on business planning and future governance arrangements. The position regarding devolution remains uncertain, although this process is expected to continue, with no timetable currently confirmed. Cllr Houston-Smith asked about the implications for the Parish Council. Cllr Flunder advised that draft neighbourhood locality plans will continue to be developed, with the extended timetable allowing further discussions with neighbouring parishes. Existing joint initiatives should continue where possible. The key outstanding



issue remains which future local authority the Parish Council will operate under. Further statements are expected, with the SPCA AGM in November potentially providing further information.

Cllr Spooner left the meeting at 7:45pm.

9. Noticeboard Keys and Parish Office Keys

a. Noticeboards

The Clerk has arranged for the required noticeboard keys to be cut, and the keys issued to the nominated councillors at the end of the meeting. It was agreed that posters displayed on the noticeboards should be A4 size.

b. Parish Office

The Council considered providing the tenant of Unit 2 with a key to the Parish Office to access toilet facilities, as the unit currently has no such facilities. This was agreed. The Council further discussed whether facilities could be provided within Unit 2 and it was agreed that this could be considered when the lease is renewed.

10. Rural Regeneration Fund

a. Funding Application – Station Road Memorial Park

The Chair reported that the Clerk had submitted an application on 4th September for £2,000 towards the £2,750 quoted cost of re-levelling the football pitch at Station Road Memorial Park. The Council's 27% contribution could potentially be met through other funding sources, including Severn Trent.

11. Governance and Finance Working Group Report

a. Parish Office Drinking Water

The Chair reported that Severn Trent attended on 7th September to test the Parish Office drinking water supply. Results are expected within 10 working days.

b. Parish Office Outdoor Bin

The Chair reported that an outdoor bin had been sourced and purchased for £25.06, rather than the previously quoted £44.99. The bin will be weighted to prevent it being moved and collection will be incorporated into the Lengthsman's existing collection route. The possibility of securing the bin more permanently was also discussed.

c. Parish Office Painting

It was agreed to defer internal painting until any required plumbing and kitchen works have been completed. Cllr Brown will inspect the office and prepare a list of works for a contractor.

d. Parish Office Exterior Step Railings

The Council considered the 3 quotations for repainting the exterior step railings.

Cllr Houston-Smith proposed Neil Finney Painting & Decorating and seconded by Cllr J. Sillitoe.

Resolved: Neil Finney Painting & Decorating be appointed to undertake the work.

e. Telephone Box

The Council noted the application to Cllr Egginton's County Councillor Community Fund for £400 towards the reinstatement costs of the telephone box. The Council discussed the reinstatement and future use of the telephone box as a community book exchange. It was agreed that books could be sourced through the National Literacy Trust, local schools and the community. The possibility of involving local schools in the project was supported. The Council also discussed suitable shelving and arrangements for ongoing maintenance. Members of St Luke's Church expressed an interest in assisting. The contractor's timescale for completing the current refurbishment remains uncertain.

f. External Meetings

The Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Staffordshire Branch Meeting on 15th September and the SPCA AGM on 23rd November was approved.

12. Finance, Accounts & Expenses

a. The August bank reconciliation was approved.

b. The September payments list was approved.

Cllr Houston-Smith proposed and Cllr J. Sillitoe seconded.



13. Planning

None.

14. Lengthsman's Team Maintenance

a. Councillors to report maintenance issues within the Parish for action by the Lengthsman's Team.

- **The Chair** raised the condition of the three lectern-style interpretation boards, originally made by former Councillor Geoff Perkins. The lecterns were originally dark green and were subsequently repainted light green. The Chair asked whether the Council was happy for the Lengthsman to undertake repainting and maintenance. This was agreed.
- **Cllr Houston-Smith** asked who owned and maintained the interpretation board on the John Emery Land. The Chair explained that it is situated on Parish Council land and provides historical information about the area. Cllr Jebb advised that the interpretation board had been established through the Endon Heritage and Environment Project, involving former councillors Val Harris and Henry Jebb. Archaeological work had taken place in the area, including a North Staffordshire archaeological dig. A report had subsequently been produced, and the Parish Council had commissioned the interpretation board. An open day had also been held to give a presentation to the community about the findings. Cllr Jebb agreed to obtain further details regarding the interpretation board. Concerns were raised regarding maintenance of the surrounding trees, the overall area and whether the existing location remained appropriate. Cllr Cowles suggested moving the board to the grassed area near the Boat Club, where it could potentially be seen and enjoyed by more members of the public.

15. Reports

a. District and County Councillor Reports

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

b. Councillor Reports

- **Cllr Porter** reported that the gates to the field by Park Lane had been open for approximately two weeks and asked if anyone knew the reason. It was noted that livestock are sometimes kept in the field and there may be a risk to the public, Cllr Porter will contact the landowner.
- **Cllr Cowles** reported that the wooden ramp providing access across the railway line on Footpath 72, between Leek Road and Bridge 27 (White Bridge), remained in need of repair. The Chair confirmed that the necessary works had been included on the Lengthsman's task list.

16. Correspondence

- **Railway Tearoom** - The Chair reported an incident at the Railway Tearoom, where an electrical appliance had tripped the power supply, preventing the tearoom from opening. Assistance had been provided to restore the power. The Chair had been given details of a PAT testing contact and would circulate these to the tenant. Cllr Pugh noted that the Parish Council should not undertake the PAT testing itself on behalf of the tenant.
- **War Memorial Sign, Church Lane** - The Chair reported a resident's concern that the War Memorial sign at the bottom of Church Lane was too small to be easily visible to those seeking directions. A quotation of £70 had been received from Leek Signs & Graphics for a replacement.
Cllr Houston-Smith proposed acceptance of the quotation and seconded by Cllr Cowles.
- **Station Road Memorial Park Signage** - The Chair advised that the new signage relating to the under-12 equipment at Station Road Park would be installed by the Lengthsman, with one sign positioned on the gate and the other located near the swings.
- **St Luke's Church Sign** – Cllr Porter reported that the sign at St Luke's Church is due to be renewed and asked whether details of the War Memorial should also be included on the new sign. This was agreed.

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 Village Hall** - Cllr Houston-Smith reported that the Table Top Sale Fun Day, organised by Cllr Walker, had been very successful and well attended which raised approximately £500 for the Village Hall roof repair. Further fundraising events are planned for the remainder of the year.
- **Amenities Working Group** - The Chair reported that arrangements will be made for an Amenities Working Group meeting to take place as soon as possible.

Meeting ended at 8:33pm

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 13th October 2026, Endon Methodist Church at 7.00pm – Ordinary Meeting

Chairman Name	Signature	Date of Approval