Endon with Stanley Parish Council
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Chairman: Cllr Suzanne Sillitoe | Vice Chairman: Cllr Phil Taylor

Endon with Stanley Parish Council
Ordinary Meeting Minutes
Held on Tuesday 13th October 2026, 7pm at Endon Methodist Church

Present: (Chairman) Cllr S. Sillitoe, (Vice Chairman) Cllr Taylor, Cllr Adams, Cllr Brown, Cllr Houston-Smith, (District) Cllr Jebb, Cllr McCann, Cllr Pugh, Cllr Richards, Cllr J. Sillitoe, Cllr Walker, Clerk

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

Meeting began at 7:02pm

1. Apologies for Absence (with reasons, e.g. personal, work, holiday, illness)
- Cllr Cowles (family commitments) - accepted
- Cllr Clulow (family commitments) - accepted
- (District) Cllr Porter (no reason given) - accepted
- Cllr Spooner (illness) - accepted

2. Chairman's Remarks
The Chair provided updates on the following:
- **Office Water Quality** - Severn Trent have confirmed that the office water is safe for consumption. However, as the water supply is not used regularly, taps should be run for a few minutes each week to flush through the pipes and clear any stagnant water.
- **Office Railings** - The office railings have been repainted. The Chairman thanked the contractor for completing the work to a good standard.
- **Training and Development** - The Chair and Clerk will attend a free SPCA webinar on budget setting. Further training opportunities, including training in artificial intelligence (AI), are also being considered.
- **Garden of Remembrance, Lawn Cemetery** - The Garden of Remembrance at the Lawn Cemetery is being refurbished, as the area has become somewhat neglected. Some difficulties have arisen regarding requests from families to accommodate additional ashes in burial plots that are already full. While this might not ordinarily present a problem, existing Lawn Cemetery rules and regulations restrict what can be permitted. The Chair referred to a recent funeral arrangement for a former resident, although a funeral had already taken place in London, there was also a wish for their ashes to be placed in Endon. The Chair emphasised the importance of maintaining the Garden of Remembrance going forward and ensuring that ashes are scattered in a reverent and fitting manner. A photograph of the refurbished area will be provided once the work is complete.
- **Defibrillators** - The associated map remains on hold until the new locations of the defibrillators have been confirmed, and the new devices are in place.

3. Guest Speaker – Jamie Richards from AED Donate
Jamie Richards, CEO and Founder of AED Donate, thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to the meeting. He explained that approximately three years ago, SMDC established a defibrillator fund, providing fully funded health checks, replacement pads and batteries at no cost to participating communities. Any community can join the scheme, provided the defibrillator is publicly accessible 24 hours a day. Jamie advised that he had met with Cllr Porter approximately two months ago to discuss using Brown Edge & Endon 1st Responders (BEE) funding for a solar-powered defibrillator at Hillswood Jubilee Park and another proposed unit on Houston Avenue, which would require an electricity connection to a nearby property. Cllr Adams asked about the reliability of solar-powered units. Jamie confirmed that they worked well and explained that the cabinets were approximately the size of a pillar box. Cllr Houston-Smith asked for further clarification regarding the quotation for Houston Avenue and the associated electricity costs. Jamie explained that the quotation included approximately 20 metres of cabling, with the estimated electricity cost to the homeowner being £10–£15 per year. Cllr Houston-Smith asked whether a solar-powered

alternative could be installed on the pavement if a suitable homeowner could not be found to accommodate the equipment on Houston Avenue. Jamie explained that this would require permission from the Highways Authority and that the solar cabinet would need to be positioned in a location with sufficient sunlight, which may not be feasible at the proposed site. Although Highways authorities were generally supportive of such installations, additional costs could be incurred. Cllr Egginton asked whether a bleed-control kit could be installed in the same cabinet as a defibrillator. Jamie confirmed this was possible, although the kits operate on a separate registration system and link manually to Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), rather than being live monitored. The Chair recalled Jamie's previous update on the parish's defibrillators approximately 12 months earlier. Jamie explained that the units were checked periodically, but all existing defibrillators were now out of warranty and ageing. Indicative replacement costs were £465 for a cabinet and £649 for a defibrillator, with discounts potentially available through SMDC defibrillator fund. Jamie identified the defibrillator next to the Well Dressing field as the most urgent unit requiring attention and potential replacement due to water ingress. The Chair thanked Jamie for attending and providing an informative update on defibrillator provision, funding and maintenance.

4. Public Forum (15-minute time limit)

- A resident asked whether there were any updates regarding Station Road Memorial Park. The Chair advised that there were no significant updates at present, although an application had been submitted to the SMDC Rural Regeneration Fund for grant funding to level the ground on the football playing fields. The outcome of the application was not yet known. The proposed mini-soccer area for children under 12 remained on hold due to the costs involved. The Council has significant additional costs associated with the Lawn Cemetery extension and needs to ensure that available funds are managed responsibly.

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

- **Highways Schemes** – The scheme for Church Lane and Hillside Avenue was expected to commence in October. A plan had been provided by the County Council to the Clerk, identifying the areas where residents would be consulted and the proposed measures, which had already been circulated to councillors. These included three illuminated no-entry signs, three keep-left signs and the repainting of road markings. The scheme relating to Station Road and Clay Lake was expected to progress in the New Year, with a meeting to be arranged with local residents. The third scheme concerned St Luke's Academy school crossing and would involve a further consultation with residents and the school. The Chair noted that this scheme had previously been discussed at a meeting held by previous County Councillor Flunder, where maps of the proposals had been outlined.
- **Grit Bins** – Funding for additional grit bins was being sought through the Divisional Highway Programme fund (DHP), with eight bins proposed across the parishes of Bagnall, Brown Edge and Endon. Requests had been previously raised for additional grit bins at the top of Hillswood Drive and on Platts Avenue/ St George's Avenue. The Chair strongly supported the need for a grit bin at the top of Hillswood Drive, noting that the road was particularly steep and frequently used as an alternative exit when traffic became congested on Hillside Avenue.
- **Community Safety and Police Presence** - Concerns were raised about shops selling counterfeit goods, and it was noted that additional funding was being sought for Trading Standards at County level to strengthen enforcement. Cllr Egginton also discussed reports of attacks on women in the surrounding area, including incidents in Knypersley and Leek. Cllr Egginton had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner seeking clarification on police attendance at community meetings and how the current level of police presence could be explained to parish councillors. The Chair acknowledged that police shift patterns and resource allocation could result in inconsistent local coverage by PCSO's. In the meantime, residents, schools and the wider community were encouraged to remain vigilant, particularly regarding the safety of young people and older women.
- **Police Recruitment -** Cllr Egginton advised that information regarding opportunities for younger people interested in pursuing a career in the police had been sent to the Clerk as part of efforts to encourage recruitment. The Clerk would circulate the information.

- **Digital Support for Rural Communities -** Councillors were informed of a pilot scheme in the Staffordshire Moorlands aimed at supporting rural residents who experienced difficulties accessing services requiring smartphones, QR codes or other online processes. The scheme was intended to assist people who lacked the necessary digital skills or equipment. It was noted that Cllr Egginton would provide a leaflet about the scheme, which would be made available to residents through the public forum.

5. Declaration of interests in items on the forthcoming agenda

- Cllr Jebb – Moorlands Partnership Board, Armed Forces Covenant, Climate Change and Tourism Partnership Board
- Cllr Houston-Smith – Endon Village Hall

6. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2026

Minute 10(a): The Chair reported that she had attended a Support Staffordshire event in Biddulph, where Severn Trent delivered a presentation. She was advised that sports funding was unfortunately not available through Severn Trent's current funding schemes.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed.

7. Matters arising from the meeting held on 8th September 2026 not on the agenda

- Cllr McCann reported that progress on the brook clearance at Platts Avenue/St George's Avenue had stalled. Cllr McCann asked Cllr Egginton to investigate the matter further and noted that Cllr Porter had a contact at Severn Trent. The National Flood Forum advised Cllr McCann that a risk assessment and specialist expertise would be required, and that further clarification was needed before Severn Trent's Community Flood Team should undertake work during their volunteering scheme.

8. Best Kept Village Competition – Endon Wins Best Large Village North Award

- **a.** The Chair reported that Endon had won the Best Large Village North Award at the awards evening held on 22nd September 2026. She acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by Cllr Cowles in preparing the entry and praised the community spirit, the efforts to maintain and improve the village and the wide range of organisations and activities within the parish. The £500 prize money was discussed, with the Chair suggesting that it be used for a lasting and meaningful purpose to commemorate the achievement. Councillors were invited to submit suggestions to the Clerk. Cllr McCann acknowledged the work undertaken by the Lengthsman, and suggested that a gesture of appreciation be considered. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to the use of the prize money at a future meeting when Cllr Cowles could be present. It was also suggested that the achievement be included in the next SMDC's *In Touch* newsletter. The Chair noted the congratulations received from Cllr Swindlehurst, Mayor of Leek and Deputy Mayor of SMDC, and praised the sportsmanship shown by the representatives of Haregate. Copies of the winning certificate would be displayed on the respective noticeboards, and the trophy would be placed in the Parish Office for display. It was agreed that the original certificate would be best displayed at Endon Village Hall, given the footfall and the contribution of local community groups to the success. The Chair of Endon Village Hall accepted the certificate for display at the hall.

9. Lawn Cemetery - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- **a.** An email from Cllr Clulow regarding Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements had been circulated to councillors. Cllr Clulow had advised that, following discussions with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT), the proposed Endon BNG site was not operational and there was no planned date for it to become available. SWT currently had only one available site, in South Staffordshire, for which a quotation had previously been obtained. SWT was also working with SMDC to develop potential sites at Onecote and Biddulph. The Biddulph site was progressing through legal discussions but was still expected to be several months away from becoming available. Cllr Clulow considered that, although the Parish Council was committed to meeting its BNG obligations, it was currently unable to do so through no fault of its own. The Council should

therefore continue progressing the new Lawn Cemetery while working with SWT to identify suitable provision within the Moorlands. Councillors discussed the availability of suitable sites for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), emphasising the need to continue exploring opportunities within the parish and wider Moorlands area before considering alternatives further afield. It was agreed that the Council should continue progressing the new Lawn Cemetery while working with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to identify suitable provision, with no need to rush into an alternative arrangement while local options remained under consideration.
Resolved: That further local opportunities be explored and that a holding letter be sent to confirm the Parish Council's position.
Proposed Cllr Houston-Smith, Seconded Cllr McCann, all in favour.

10. John Emery Land – Interpretation Board

- **a.** The Chair reported that the interpretation board had deteriorated, with damage to the surface and the growth of moss and algae within the grooves. The original artwork had been located, and work undertaken to investigate the possibility of restoring the artwork using specialist software. Councillors discussed the potential relocation of the board to reduce the risk of further damage from trees, sap and vandalism. Suggestions included a location near the boat club and bridge, or at the entrance to John Emery Land, where visitors could access the information while remaining close to the archaeological site, original excavation and associated railway features. Concerns were raised regarding repeated vandalism and damage at the John Emery Land itself, including damage to seating and other features. The removal of the picnic benches was also discussed, and it was suggested that Jim be asked to confirm what had happened to them and whether replacement seating should be considered. The Chair noted that any new installations would need to take account of the risk of further damage and the associated costs. Cllr McCann suggested that the Amenities Working Group consider the outstanding issues at the site. A resident expressed concern that further investment could be wasted given the ongoing vandalism, including the repeated removal of safety bollards into the canal. Cllr Jebb suggested that the historical information could be made available on the Parish Council website. The Chair confirmed that this could be considered alongside efforts to restore the interpretation board, with the aim of preserving and making the information accessible while ensuring that any future expenditure was appropriate.

11. Remembrance Day Event

- **a.** The Chair advised that arrangements for the Remembrance Day Event on 8th November 2026 were underway. As the event would take place before the next Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that the Media & Events Working Group should meet to discuss the arrangements further.

12. Improvements to Parish Office

- **a.** Cllr Brown's report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting on the proposed improvements to the Parish Office, which included replacing the existing electric water heaters with a single heater supplying hot water to both the kitchen sink and WC wash basin. The works would also include new pipework as required, a replacement kitchen base unit and stainless steel sink, a matching wall unit, a new kitchen mixer tap and replacement taps for the existing wash basin. One quotation of £2,700 had been received for the full specification, covering plumbing, electrical and installation works. Further quotations were to be sought; however, finding a single contractor able to undertake all aspects of the work had proved challenging. Councillors were invited to recommend suitable contractors.

13. Armed Forces Covenant

- **a.** The Chair advised that councillors could sign the Armed Forces Covenant in an individual capacity and asked councillors to confirm whether they had done so before the Parish Council considered signing the Covenant in its own right.

14. Ongoing Project Updates

- **a.** The completion of the Parish Office railings painting on 2nd October 2026 was noted.
- **b.** Photographs of the telephone box refurbishment were shown on screen. British Bits had advised that re-delivery was expected during the week commencing 19th or 26th October 2026. It was requested that no photographs be published until the refurbishment was complete, including installation of new shelving for the books. The Chair expressed a wish to arrange an official opening with Cllr Brown.

15. Planning

- **a. Applications** – None.
- **b. SMDC Local Plan** – **Partial Public Re-Consultation -** The Chair advised that the SMDC Local Plan required further discussion and review by councillors to determine a response. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged for 3rd November 2026 at the Parish Office for interested councillors to review the proposals.

16. Finance, Accounts & Expenses

- **a.** The September bank reconciliation was approved.
- **b.** The October payments list was approved.
- **c.** The NALC/NJC 3.3% staff pay increase for 2026–27 in accordance with the employment contract terms was approved.
- **d.** The half-year budget report for the period 1st April 2026 to 30th September 2026 was noted.
- **e.** The external audit report and completion notice for 2025-26 was noted.
- **f**. The purchase of a new Register of Burials book at a cost of £205.00 plus VAT was approved to ensure the Council continues to maintain the statutory burial records in accordance with the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977.
  Proposed Cllr Houston-Smith, Seconded Cllr J. Sillitoe, all in favour.

- **g.** The Chairman's honorarium receipts for £68.47 for a piano keyboard cover, music stand and bench, to be donated to Endon Village Hall, were noted. The Chair explained that she had honoured her previous pledge to contribute towards the piano tuning at Endon Village Hall. As the existing piano required restringing, with costs expected to be over £1,000, she had purchased a Yamaha 640 digital piano at a reduced price using the remaining honorarium/allowance from 2025-26. All items will be donated to Endon Village Hall once arrangements had been made for collection and installation.
  Cllr Houston-Smith declared an interest in Endon Village Hall.

17. Lengthsman's Team Maintenance

- Cllr Jebb reported overgrown vegetation at the bus stop at the bottom of Hallwater and queried whether responsibility lay with the Lengthsman's team or the landowner.

18. 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. The Chair asked whether Cllr Egginton's verbal report at the beginning of the meeting should be published on the Parish Council's website. This was agreed.

b. Councillor Reports

- **Cllr Walker** raised concerns about the overgrown weeds at Alder House, Station Road and advised that she had made enquiries to establish the new owners of the building. Cllr Walker asked whether a letter could be sent to the owners regarding the lack of maintenance. This was agreed.
- **Cllr Flunder** reported that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) remained uncertain, with further announcements anticipated. He also provided an update on planning matters, referring to discussions with planning officers regarding implementation of the Local Plan and the implications for housing development across the district. He advised that new government planning regulations were expected to be considered by

SMDC, with changes affecting the categorisation of planning applications and the circumstances in which applications could be called in to the committee. The changes will take effect from 31st October, and councillors were advised to familiarise themselves with the new arrangements. Further information was expected following the Parish Assembly Networking Event, with an awareness presentation suggested to ensure councillors understood the changes. Cllr Flunder added that Category 1 applications could still be called in to the committee meeting on 29th October and anticipated that the coming weeks would be important in understanding how the new planning arrangements would operate.

- **The Chair** reported that planning permission had been granted for The Grange, with the proposed development reduced from 22 dwellings to 5, noting that the reduction from the original proposal was a positive outcome.

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.

19. Correspondence

- **a. Unit 1A – The Railway Tearoom** - The Council considered the tenant's request for draught-proofing works to the front and rear doors, bathroom window and loft hatch to reduce heating costs. Cllr Brown noted that the rear door was particularly draughty, with visible gaps around the fitting, while concerns were also raised regarding the loft hatch and possible roof gaps. Concerns were further raised by the tenant during the site visit regarding the boiler, including fluctuating pressure and water escaping externally. It was agreed that the Council would obtain the electrical safety and gas safety certificates and investigate the concerns regarding the roof. Draught-proofing to the doors, window and loft hatch would be the tenant's responsibility, subject to the terms of the lease. Cllr Pugh agreed to assist the Clerk in drafting a letter to the tenant clarifying which works the Council would undertake under the terms of the lease.
- **b. Station Road Memorial Park – Resident Complaint** - The Council considered a complaint forwarded by SMDC concerning the boundary fencing, noise, privacy and alleged antisocial behaviour at Station Road Memorial Park. The Chair noted that the resident had raised concerns previously and had also contacted the police. Councillors noted that the boundary fencing had already been replaced and that any further alterations, including the installation of acoustic screening, would incur significant costs. The park's 6pm closing time was also noted, with earlier closures expected as the clocks change, further limiting the time available for children to use the park. Cllr Houston-Smith suggested that the response should acknowledge the resident's concerns while outlining the measures already taken and the limitations of any further action. Cllr Adams recognised the impact the situation was having on the resident and emphasised the importance of considering the matter from all perspectives. Cllr Pugh agreed to draft a response for the Clerk to send to the resident.
- **c. Archives Report** - The Chair referred to the Archives Report previously circulated to councillors. The preferred approach was for the Archives to become a branch of the Parish Council, with interested individuals co-opted to support the work. This would enable the group to explore funding opportunities, including grants for professional advice on cataloguing, preservation and display. The Chair highlighted the historical importance of the collection, which includes records relating to well dressing, canals, railways, agriculture and the First and Second World Wars. The current storage arrangements at Endon Village Hall were considered unsuitable for such a valuable community resource, and councillors noted that residents continued to enquire about donating further material. Cllr Houston-Smith asked what alternative arrangements were available. The Chair explained that the existing trustees had fulfilled their responsibilities and wished to see the collection protected and preserved for future generations. Cllr Adams emphasised the importance of developing a living archive that would encourage community participation and allow the collection to grow. The Chair advised that the next step would be to engage with interested members of the

community to explore how the collection could be preserved, developed and made accessible through a permanent and regularly changing public display.
Resolved: The Archives, stored at Endon Village Hall, to be a branch of the Parish Council.
Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Pugh, all in favour.

20. Further Communications

- **a.** Councillors noted the email correspondence, newsletters, briefings and other information received and circulated during the month.

○ SPCA – October HR Free Webinars ○ SPCA – Election Costs Brief ○ SPCA – Third Party Harassment Protection Changes Briefing ○ SPCA – September 2026 Bulletin ○ SPCA – Call for Evidence: Shaping the Future of Local Government ○ SPCA – Civic and Ceremonial Events for Inclusion in the SPCA Bulletin ○ SPCA – Free Wellbeing Sessions for Clerks and Councillors This Autumn ○ SPCA – AGM and Conference Invite on Monday, 23rd November 2026 ○ SPCA – LGR Paused Communication ○ SPCA – Staffordshire Council Tax Data ○ SPCA – SID Permissions Paused ○ SPCA – Councillor Introduction Course ○ SPCA – Growing Your Local Identity ○ SPCA – Clerk & Councillors Introduction to AI Course ○ SPCA – List of Council Policies Guidance ○ The Phoenix Singers Autumn Concert Invite on Saturday 10th October 2026 ○ Peak Cluster Newsletter: September 2026 ○ The Peak Cluster Report ○ Supportive Communities Partnership Networking Events ○ CALC Partner Bulletin September 2026 ○ New Cheadle Job Club at Cheadle Community Library	○ SLCC – Financial Training Seminars ○ SCC – Pot Hole Pro Reinstatements Notice ○ SCC – Record number of potholes filled in July Notice ○ SCC – Temporary Road Closure Notice: Brook Lane, Endon ○ SCC – Temporary Road Closure Notice: Park Lane, Endon ○ SCC – Temporary Road Closure Notice: Blackwood Hill Lane, Gratton ○ SCC – Temporary Road Closure Notice: Hallwater, Endon ○ SCC – Emergency Road Closure Notice: Stanley Road, Stockton Brook ○ SCC – Road Improvements: Hillside Avenue, Endon ○ SCC – Tempoary Road Closure Notice: Hillside Avenue, Endon ○ SMDC – Licensing Weekly List 31st August – 4th September ○ SMDC – Licensing Weekly List 7th September – 11th September ○ SMDC – Licensing Weekly List 14th September – 17th September ○ SMDC – Licensing Weekly List – 26th September – 2nd October ○ SMDC – Town and Parish Networking Event Invite on Friday 3rd October ○ SMDC – Local Plan Partial Review Presentation from the Parish Assembly Meeting ○ SMDC – Draft Parish Assembly Minutes ○ SMDC - In Touch Parish Newsletter (Request for Articles) ○ Support Staffordshire – Staffordshire Village Halls Network Meeting Invite

Meeting ended at 9:08pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2026, Endon Methodist Church at 7.00pm – Ordinary Meeting

Chairman Name	Signature	Date of Approval