



DRAFT Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for the
PARISH of WALL at Wall Village Hall, Watling St, Wall on
TUESDAY 10th May 2025 at 7.30pm

1. Welcome from Paul Sampson, Chairman of Wall Parish Council, who explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting and its difference to Parish Council meetings

2. Record of attendance. Present: Paul Sampson Chairman, Cllr Robert Saxton, Cllr Conrad Rubisch, County Councillor Alex Farrell, Paul Wright Wall PCC, PCSO Andrea Orwin, DC Hannah Berner, Pam Salter Clerk, 5 members of the public.
Apologies: Margaret Ball- Wall WI Julie Mould -Friends of Letocetum

3. Approve and sign the Minutes of last year's meeting. The minutes were available to view and duly approved and signed.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Councillor Sampson explained the work of the Parish Council which meets every two months and encouraged residents to attend to share their problems, comments and suggestions. The Council manages the Precept, which supports the expenses of maintaining and improving the community surroundings and assets.

Cllr Sampson introduced the newly elected County Councillor, Alex Farrell who introduced himself to the meeting. Cllr Farrell confirmed his commitment to residents and assured the meeting that he wanted residents to feel able to approach him to discuss any concerns they may have. His contact details are with the Clerk and will be shown on the Parish Noticeboard.

5. To receive reports from organisations and groups associated with the Parish.

St John's Church -report by Paul Wright *(This is a summary of his account. The full account can be seen on the Parish website. A hard copy is available on request.)*

Church activities:

The usual Church services continued throughout the year with the church open to visitors on Sundays and Wednesdays from 11 am to 4pm. There is now a sign by the gate indicating when the Church is open. Additional activities included Hymns & Pimms and three 'Open Church' events one of which was arranged jointly with Friends of Letocetum enabling the church to welcome visitors to the village. Proceeds from refreshments were donated to the Lichfield Foodbank.

The Knitting Group meets weekly with items sold at the back of the church raising funds for charities.

Two concerts have been scheduled over the coming months. The first one in May is free with a retiring collection in aid of St Giles Hospice.

Church maintenance and upkeep:

There were some unexpected issues from this time last year, namely failure of the organ blower, the church cleaning company ceasing trading and the retirement of the long-standing groundsman. All these have now been resolved and the new groundsman is working hard to keep the grass cut and the graveyard tidy. Comments have been made on

the number of people using the church grounds which that the church is serving the wider community.

The church is very grateful for grants from the Parish Council to help maintain the churchyard and church clock. In addition, thanks were expressed once again to the Community Payback Team and individual local residents for their help with maintaining the church grounds.

Being within the benefice of St Michael's Lichfield is a valuable arrangement for a small village church, bringing an expanded ministry team and opportunities for sharing joint activities such a walking group, a film club, and Messy Church. More information about the benefice can be found on their website <https://www.stmichaelmaryjohn.org.uk> St John's shares a Parish Office with St Michaels and anyone enquiring about baptisms weddings or funerals should contact this office in the first instance. Telephone:01543 262211 email: stmichaellichfield@gmail.com

You will be assured of a warm welcome anytime you wish to pop in, either for a service or an event or simply to enjoy the solace of the church or churchyard.

Community Payback Team- report by Paul Sampson

The Chairman gave an overview of the work completed by the Team. The team provides 7 hours community service a week throughout the year and has continued for many years. Their work is clearly appreciated by the Community. Facilities, including refreshments, are provided in the Village Hall and are funded by the Parish Council. He looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership in the future.

Wall WI The Chairman passed on the comments from the President Margaret Ball. Meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Each month there is a new speaker and a competition with a related theme. The ladies darts event had been discontinued because of the issues around dark nights but has now been reestablished. New members can join at any time and will be made very welcome.

PCSO Report

PCSO Orwin introduced DC Hannah Berner who was accompanying her to gain experience of Community policing. She had compiled an annual review document recording reported incidents for Wall. The majority of reported incidents were related to traffic and car crime and were centred on the Wall Island complex.

The 'Smart Alerts' system is proving effective. Cllr Saxton praised the system and confirmed the effectiveness.

Cllr Rubisch asked for an update on the protests in Shenstone. The last major protest in Shenstone was managed well with a high police presence. No issues were arising. Live time reports about the possible closure of the Lynn Lane related to the ongoing protest on the last Tuesday of the month, have been, and will be communicated by Staffordshire Police Smart Alerts at – www.staffordshiresmartalert.uk

Cllr Saxton raised the point of continued awareness of gatherings in Bullmore Lane and the reckless driving of the quadbike's groups. This was receiving media attention and increased numbers were attending. This was noted by PCSO Orwin who suggested there could be the option of issuing large gathering cautions.

PCSO Orwin concluded by urging residents to contact the PCSO's with any issues of concern.

Lichfield Young Farmers Group: Cllr Saxton reported that the group had been steadily growing in popularity and now had around 50 members.

The group recently featured on two Radio WM interviews the first promoting the Christmas Charity Tractor Run and the second focussing on life within the Young Farmers Group and what a great social gathering it provides.

A representative of The Friends of Letocetum was unable to attend but it was reported guided tours continued to be popular and the evening programme of events had continued over the closed season. A new picnic bench had been added to the facilities at the Roman site. This is fully user inclusive providing access for wheelchairs buggies etc.

6. To consider any other matters raised by Electors. None raised.

7. Best Kept Village Community event (BKVC) The Clerk had completed the BKVC application form on behalf of the village. A printout was available for people to review. The system has changed this year with the first part of the judging decided solely from the application form and a greater emphasis placed on Community. This would be followed by a visit from the judges on a single day in June to be advised with suitable advanced notice.

Considerable effort has already been put into presenting the village in its best light and residents were thanked for this.

As there is a big emphasis put on advertising participation, several residents offered to place posters in their windows for the duration of the judging time. Cllr Harwood is arranging meetings to organise a team approach to preparations.

The village has also signed up to 30 Days Wild, an initiative of the Wildlife Trust and there will be posters, displays and activity sheets available to support this throughout June.

8 Close of meeting. Councillor Sampson thanked everyone for their attendance declaring the meeting closed at 9.46 pm. He invited people to stay and chat if they wished and help themselves to more tea and biscuits.

Signed: This is a draft copy. To be signed at the next Annual Parish Meeting.