



WALL PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Wall village and the hamlets of: Chesterfield, Hilton and Pipe Hill.
Clerk: Pam Salter- 07738 053590 clerk@wallparishcouncil.gov.uk

Approved Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th September 2025 7.30pm at Wall Village Hall.

34 Register of attendance

Present: Cllrs Paul Sampson (Chair), Conrad Rubisch, Richard Barker, Gary Hutton, Robert Saxton, Ross Harwood. Clerk, Pam Salter. Cllr David Salter (Shenstone) two residents
Apologies: Cllr Andrew Ryman, County Cllr Alex Farrell, District Cllr Janice Silvester-Hall

35 There were no declarations of interest.

36 To accept and confirm Minutes of Full council on July 2025. The Minutes were duly approved and signed.

37 Public participation

PCSO Passmore was unable to be present. Any report he sends will be forwarded to Councillors.
A resident raised the issue of a public order incident at the bus stop area. This has been reported to the police and appears to have been resolved but she will make contact with the resident concerned to reassure that this has been noted and actioned.

38 County & District Cllr reports.

District Councillor Alex Farrell had two items to be passed on:

Potholes on Watling Street: he has chased again about these and is told that the fix has been scheduled for the New Year. He does not personally think this is good enough, so would encourage all parish councillors (and residents) to report it again to try and push it up the queue as he has already done.

Local Government Reorganisation: Reform UK at Staffordshire County Council want to team up with Stoke in the new unitary. He would encourage Wall Parish Council to express their opinions about this.

District Councillor Janice Silvester-Hall sent two messages 1) Link to planning services updates:
<https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/news/article/1097/planning-service-trials-deliver-faster-decisions-for-lichfield-district-residents>

2.A press release is due on Biodiversity Gain Sites being delivered through LDC's Ecology Brokerage service. It's announcing the first private BGS registration with Natural England for LDC and is only the second of its type in Staffordshire. As soon as it is released she will forward the link.

As the County and District Councillors had sent their apologies District Councillor Salter (Shenstone) gave an update on 3 current issues 1) the LGR identify the 3 options currently put forward as referred to by Cllr Farrell. 2) the proposed speed changes on the stretch of the A5127 between Wall Island and Travis Perkins. (see Appendix for map) He suggested a comment from the Council may be appropriate. 3) Meeting arrangements. Following updates at higher tiers, hybrid meetings may be extended to Parishes.

Parish Councillors:

Cllr Saxton reported that the verges have finally been cut around the lanes. The hedges on Boat Lane are now starting to close in across the carriageway.

He had been asked by Cllr Ryman to bring up the subject of instances of flooding which needs to be actioned before the weather deteriorates. Raikes Lane is filling with water again and previous promises from relative representatives have not come to fruition. The drains are not functioning and Cllr Barker is unable to locate one of the 3 drains in the Chesterfield Lodge and Farm area.

Action: Chair and Clerk to discuss and contact the appropriate people. Report back at next meeting.

Cllr Barker reported a car parking in Pouk Lane at the junction of Pouk Lane and Cranebrook Lane. in a dangerous position when there is plenty of available off-road parking. Action: Cllr Sampson advised that photographs are taken and passed to PCSO Passmore to follow up.

Cllr Sampson informed Council that he had attended a leaving event for PCSO Horsnall and had presented her with a card and gift on behalf of the Parish Council.

39 Follow up from previous meetings

- **Village gates** – Cllr Sampson presented the written response from Beth Tranter, Community Highway Support Officer, following her site visit to view the mock up gates. She has confirmed the whole of the verge on the right-hand side is Highway Maintained at Public Expense (HMPE). She is happy with the entire design of the gates and sees no problems with them. In terms of next steps, she will check what specifications LDC have for gateways and if these always have to be screwed in the ground. She will also check what licence will be required – typically they would advise a section 50 to install external apparatus in the highway but she is unsure how this will work if the gateways are not planted in the ground. She will pick this up with the Projects and Traffic and Network teams and will come back to the PC as soon as possible.
Whilst she was there the opportunity was taken to consider other concerns on site
- Pothole and drainage concerns on Watling Street, especially under the railway bridge – SCC are aware of the concerns here and Jodie, one of the support officers, has asked their roaming inspector to attend site and assess the potholes to see if these have deteriorated. It is currently scheduled for surface dressing in 2026/7. They will also raise the drainage concerns at their drainage meetings with operational colleagues so this can continue to be monitored.
- Ownership of The Butts – Beth confirmed that there is no record of ownership of a small part of The Butts so this is still not resolved. It is showing as private on the mapping but she can see on Land Registry that it is split and some of the carriageway is not registered. (see appendix) She is aware that Garry Brownlow and Mary Lee previously looked into this so asked that this was left with her and she will do some further investigation and will come back to us. It is necessary to identify ownership because of possible pothole damage to vehicles.
- Pothole on junction of Birmingham Road/Watling Street – Beth can confirm that a job has been raised for the defect on the junction of Birmingham Road and Watling Street. This is currently held for preventative delivery for the 2026/27 surface dressing programme. In the meantime, SCC will continue to monitor the defect through their routine inspection regime in case more urgent works are required.
Action: inform and involve Cllr Farrell
- Kerb on car park entrance – tarmac has been infilled into this by persons unknown creating a very poor repair. A surveyor from Staffordshire will need to review this. There is no report of a recent job for the kerbing repair to the car park entrance, however sometimes if a job was completed over eighteen months ago it does not show on the mapping. She will check the maintenance history for Watling Street further to see if she can see when the repair was carried out, but if there are concerns about the quality of the repair the Parish Council are encouraged to report this to SCC via www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit. Once reported, she asked to be informed and the reference numbers forwarded to her so it can be highlighted to the inspection team.
- **Website**- the planned changes to format and content are almost complete. The Clerk would welcome feedback from residents and Councillors with suggestions for new content or links
- **BKVC**- Wall Village has been shortlisted in the Best Kept Village & Community small villages South section and Ryman Family Farm has been shortlisted or placed in the CPRE Made in Rural Staffordshire section. Paul Sampson and Wendy Hanlon have kindly agreed to attend to represent both Wall Village and Ryman Family Farm.
- **Grass cutting**- Cllrs Barker and Sampson have created a new map with a reduced area from the previous one. This is more appropriate to current needs and funding than the previous one. The aim is to concentrate on the smaller area with the option to include other areas as and when the need arises. An

agreement has been signed for the amount of £1,850 for this financial year. Action: Cllr Barker to create a new contract for next year the next financial year.

40 Interim Internal Audit Report . Friday 12th September 10-12

40.1 The Clerk gave feedback on the interim audit report and noted actions arising:

All accounts are in order. Cashbook documents and invoices to be checked and initialled and signed by Cllr Harwood. The only slight amendment to procedure needed is to the Bank reconciliation Action: Clerk to seek help from SCRIBE for correct format

Website: Actions required: Statutory publication scheme to be added to the website. AGAR Annual Government documents to be moved to annual accounts section. Clerk to Action

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Asset purchase. With the possibility that the PC may be offered the option of purchasing the car park the auditor advised that the PC could apply for a Public Works Loan through the SPCA. The Precept could then be adjusted to pay off the interest on the loan.

Grant awarding. The auditor calculated that with the amount per elector allowed for grants as £11.10 multiplied by the number of electorate the total figure the PC can award in grants would have a top limit not exceeding £4000. A grant to Historic England for a disabled access The clock is covered by a different legislation & cost code.

Budgeting- draft budget proposals look to be on track. Recommendation: add £1,000 to ear marked election reserves this year and next year. There is uncertainty over elections because of LGR. When District, County and General elections are held Parish Councils benefit by having most of their costs covered. Cllr Sampson asked for research into the actual cost of an election Action: Clerk to contact the Electoral Office

Contract of Employment- the draft was checked by Kim Squires. Following suggested amendments this can be presented to council in November after the contracted hours have been decided. Notes from the June audit to be considered for these. Action: agenda item for November to approve

Year end audit: Friday 17th April 2026 10-12 Shenstone Parish Office.

40.2 consider a PC savings Account The only available option is an instant access account, current 0.6% rate with expected reduction. It would: yield very little, create more work, require a change in our Financial Regulations. Only large councils tend to use a savings account but ultimately it is the Council's choice. Proposal: not to open a Parish Council savings account: Vote agreed unanimously

40.3a To ratify the risk policy amended to include risk of Councillors not using council emails (legal requirement as from next year). Vote: approved unanimously

40.3b To ratify the Standing Orders Vote: approved unanimously

40.3c To ratify the Financial Regulations Vote; approved unanimously

40.4 Proposal: to adopt Toplis associates as the auditors for next year. Vote: approved unanimously

41 Finance:

41.1 The Clerk provided the Current financial position & transactions for approval as of September 16th 2025.

Bank Resolution to August 30th: £2

Lloyds Bank Community account as of 16th September £29,687.15

Resolution: All items approved unanimously

41.2 CIL money allocation- the Clerk informed Councillors that the CIL money had been moved to the Council's Reserves as shown on the SCRIBE home page pie chart. (see Appendix). This will clarify the records when completing the required report.

41.3a Purchase of 3 accessible picnic tables. The style and costs had been previously agreed but the choice of material, either wood or recycled, had yet to be approved. Cllr Hutton noted that English Heritage had selected wood which could be treated for extended durability. Proposal: to purchase 3 tables in either wood or recycled material Vote: wood- 5 recycled -1 Resolution: Cllr Sampson to complete the purchase of the wooden tables at the quoted price.

41.3b commemorative plaques: 3 quotes had been obtained and circulated for consideration. Cllr Saxton for a recommended supplier in Chasetown who would be able to match the quotes: Resolution: Cllr Sampson to advise Cllr Saxton of the plaque size required and he will acquire quotes for suitable styles for consideration.

42 Payback Team There is currently a lack of availability of supervisors. With the Supervisors being unable to confirm the weeks they can attend without advance notice it has been agreed that the Team will be in Wall every other week for the foreseeable future. This will result in a reduction of fees payable by the PC for Village Hall hire. Also, with a directive that does not allow for the team to use anyone else’s machinery our equipment will become redundant. This may affect planned servicing. Action: When a new Supervisor is appointed Cllr Sampson and Cllr Rubisch will discuss the way forward.

43 Planning.

New applications: none to consider.

Decided applications 24/00772/FUH The School House Market Lane REFUSE

25/00941/FUL Pipe Hill House Approve removal of Condition 2

Ongoing queries

25/00094/EUD Stables on land off Boat Lane/Cranebrook Lane. Reported on 15/05/2025 Possible breach of planning raised by Wall PC. Contact from the assigned officer was promised within 4 weeks of being logged (21st May). There has still been no contact **Action:** follow up by Cllr Sampson or Clerk.

20/00873/FUL Containers at Muckley Corner resubmission Refused 24/07/2024 A neighbour reports that these are still in situ. **Action:** Clerk to follow up

44 The Chair read the following statement: “In accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 5 of the Local Authorities (executive arrangements) (meetings and access to information England) Regulations and paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of the Council’s access to information rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item:”
Communication from resident.

45 The next meeting of Full Council: confirmed as 16th November 2025, 7.30 Wall Village Hall

The meeting was closed at 9.55 pm

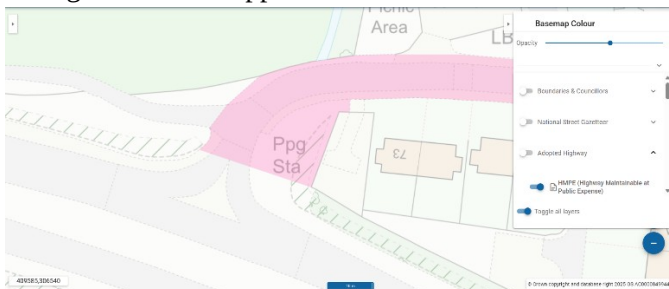
Signed:

Date:

Appendices

Item 39- Village Gates

Screenshot of the Highway Maintainable at Public Expense (HMPE) below in pink - the whole of the verge on the right-hand side appears to be HMPE.



Item 39 Ownership of The Butts

