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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**High Offley Parish Council  
Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 19:30 hours on  
Thursday 13 February 2025, at Woodseaves Village Hall.**

**Councillors Present.**

Cllrs E. Halls (Chair); P. Haslop; R. Hockenhull; R. Smith; D. Turpin; M. Turvey, together with the Clerk.

Cllr Scott Spencer, Stafford Borough Council and Cllrs Mark Winnington and Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council

**Public Open Forum.**

Chair Halls opened the meeting at 19:30 hours and welcomed all in attendance.

Councillors were in agreement to move agenda item 24/140 to after 24/136.

A resident raised the issue of the bus service 432 and a new timetable that is coming into force on Monday 17 February 2025. Travelling to Eccleshall is fine but the return journey goes through Stafford and takes over an hour. The resident has contacted both the County Council and Chaserider but has been unsuccessful in obtaining a response. Cllr Spencer has also been trying for a response.

**Action:** Cllr Pert agreed to investigate further, seek a possible solution and report back directly to the resident and the Parish Council.

A resident reported that despite declaring on numerous occasions, the roads in the area continue to be in a state of disrepair. To pursue a pothole claim, he reported, that it needs to be done on individual insurance and therefore will incur personal costs. Cllr Pert stated that at today's Full Council meeting, an additional £15m has been allocated for roads, £2.4m for flooding and an amount for potholes. Cllr Pert recommended reporting again any previously declared incidences. A new report it tool is now in operation: [Staffordshire highways – Staffordshire County Council](#)

Diane Firkins has advised that reported roads will be subject to annual review in April 2025.

**Action:** Cllr Pert agreed to look into the individual reports further - incident numbers to be forwarded to him.

Cllr Smith reported that no action/response has yet been taken to replace the 30mph repeater signs on Oldershaws lane in Shebdon which he reported last year. He raised the issue with the County Council and subsequently needed to make a complaint as an officer had incorrectly stated that there are no limits and that 60 mph applies. Cllr Smith did find two of the four signs without the brackets.

A resident reported numerous large and unfortunately placed potholes on the road around Lawnhead. This is not High Offley Parish Council jurisdiction and the recommendation was to report via the Report It app.

### **24/133: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences**

Cllr P Mason

### **24/134: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 12 December 2024**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **24/135: To Note any Declarations of Interest.**

Chair Halls declared an interest in 24/140 as she is a Governor at Woodseaves Primary School.

### **24/136: To Discuss Old Hall Farm**

High Offley Parish Council have not to date seen any further planning applications. Mark Danforth has now left Stafford Borough Council and Leon Carroll has been assisting with his caseload. Jayne Ackroyd has advised that our request for all applications submitted to date that relate to Old Hall Farm including PAGR/NAGR has been noted. She also advised: *'Details of any publicly visible applications relating to Old Hall Farm can be found on the council's Public Access and, for completeness, you are advised to search for these on public access.*

*Please note that not all application types and/or information are publicly available and therefore their details will not be publicly available on public access, or elsewhere.*

*In particular, NAGR applications are not viewable as a public submission (and fall outside of the consultation process), although some of the information may subsequently become viewable under the PAGR process.*

*Enforcement matters are confidential and not available for public view. For these reasons, any queries about enforcement should to be directed to the Enforcement Team.*

*If not already done so, it is possible for the Parish Council set an account up on public access to create an alert for certain criteria, eg a postcode/area, in order to receive emails regarding new applications, amendments to existing applications etc/changes to applications etc., within the search criteria.*

*The council seeks to make decisions on planning applications by the statutory due date (or any agreed extension of time to the due date).*

*It is not possible to keep an application open where, for example, the Parish Council has been formally consulted, or re-consulted, but has not responded within the statutory*

*consultation period. Requests for late responses can be accepted, providing this can be reasonably accommodated within any statutory decision due dates.*

*Comments made on applications that do not require a consultation cannot generally be taken into account and would also not be considered a reason to delay a decision’.*

Chair Halls explained NAGR/PAGR processes.

The Clerk has written to the Enforcement Officer, A Mahmood and has had no response to date.

Cllr Pert reported that currently Stafford Borough Council have no Enforcement Officers and are using temporary agency staff to fulfil the posts and suggested escalating the issues to Bradley Gammond, Head of Enforcement asking for an update on what is being done regarding the case.

**Action:** Clerk to email Bradley Gammond for an update, CC Cllr Winnington

### **24/140: To Discuss Strategic Land Group Housing Development / Traffic Monitoring Devices**

Cllr Winnington has contacted Mark Keeling who has advised that he is not aware of any traffic monitoring device requests in the area but acknowledges that anyone is able to conduct a survey including private firms. The device was fitted to High Offley Parish Council’s SID and no permission was sought for its attachment. It has now been removed.

A discussion took place around the reports that Strategic Land Group has secured a 12 acre site in Woodseaves. Chair Halls clarified that that Group does not own the land but intended to work with the owners to promote it for new housing development in Staffordshire’s emerging local plan. The local plan, housing targets and infrastructure for the proposed development were raised. It was noted the local plan has not yet been reviewed and the timescales for consultation are not as yet known. Once the local plan is out for consultation, it will be publicised locally, in the parish magazine and on social media.

Chair Halls read a statement from the Headteacher of Woodseaves Primary School.

Cllr Spencer read a statement Cllr Ant Reid, Stafford Borough Council.

### **24/137: To Discuss Planning Applications**

24/40063/HOU Pool House Farm

This application had a respond to date of the 12 February 2025, therefore Councillors considered their response prior to the meeting and unanimously agreed that there are no objections.

### **24/138: To Discuss Highway Issues**

a) Speeding on High Offley Road – Update

Mark Keeling, Community Highway Manager has requested further evidence from us before considering changing or extending the current speed limit – specifically where the issues are located. The Road Safety Team have a speed compliance tool that could be used.

Cllr Turvey reported the pot holes and has obtained incident numbers and stated that there are a high number of people that walk along the road who are affected along with residents. There are no pavements.

**Action:** Clerk to send Mark Keeling’s response to Cllr Winnington.

b) Shebdon Verges

An anonymous letter was received about the verges Shebdon and their destruction by through traffic. Chair Halls suggested that if the writer of the letter is identified, they report via the Report It tool and High Offley Parish Council can report to the Highways Department.

**Action:** Clerk to write to the Highways Department about the issues.

c) Hedges on High Offley Road to Woodseaves

All but one remaining section has been cut – the deadline for this is the end of February.

d) County-wide SID Scheme

Abbots Bromley Parish Council are investigating if there is any weight in developing a county-wide SID scheme. The Speed Indicator Device's would be purchased in bulk which would mean reduced device, implementation and licence costs for each Parish Council. There is no obligation at this point to proceed.

**Action:** Clerk to respond in the interim expressing an interest – location is needed.

e) Bus Service – Woodseaves to Newport

The Leader of Staffordshire County Council, Alan White has responded to our request to review this bus provision however is unable to help further as the demand has not increased since pre-pandemic levels and therefore is not financially viable to reinstate services. He states; 'It is with regret that Staffordshire County Council is not able to consider supporting a bus service covering areas of High Offley to Newport, however if additional funding becomes available, a new review will take place.

### **24/139: To Receive Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

a) Councillor Scott Spencer – including public transport update

Stafford Borough Council are drafting an official response regarding Solar Farms. Two applications have been received – 1 has been approved and 1 has been rejected. An appeal has been submitted for Drointon and was heard on 11 January – decision likely in 6 weeks. Cllr Pert reported that an application has also been received for Cash Lane. There are currently 12 planning applications for solar farms across the borough, many of which do not have access agreements to the grid.

b) Councillor Mark Winnington

Stafford Borough Council held a budget meeting on Tuesday 11 February – there will be 2.99% tax increase from the Borough and a 4.99% overall council tax increase. The Police portion of the council tax was increased to 5.12% and Fire up by 5.8%.

Central government devolution plans for Staffordshire will remove district and borough's and potentially this will mean an increase in responsibilities for Parish Council's. Further information will be circulated when known.

Cllr Pert reported that initial proposals are there will be 3 unitary authorities across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. Timescales are that interim arrangements will be in place for April 2027 and then fully in situ by April 2028.

Cllr Pert suggested we consider if there are any assets / buildings in the area that we would want to be transferred to the Parish Council.

**24/140: To Consider the Civic Amenity Visits 2025 Risk Assessment**

Confirmed dates for 2025 are 19 April and 1 November 2025.

**Action:** Clerk to return paperwork to Stafford Borough Council.

**24/141: To Discuss Remembrance Poppies**

Chair Halls read a statement from the Headteacher at Woodseaves Primary School.

Fundraising was agreed to run across different sources – parish magazine, notice board, Church Fete Committee and social media. Cllr Turvey personally pledged £100 donation. There is Youtube video that can be used to help produce the poppies from bottle tops and chicken wire.

**Action:** Chair Halls to clarify arrangements with the school with the suggestion that they fundraise for the soldier silhouette.

**24/142: To Discuss NALC's Correspondence to Chief Executive's Bulletin – 21.11.24**

No response received from email sent in January.

**24/143: To Discuss Stafford Borough Council's Local Plan Consultation – Update**

Discussed above.

**24/144: To Discuss English Devolution Plans**

Discussed above.

**24/145: To Consider Finance Matters.**

a) Payments made since the last meeting.

PAID: Council administration costs including PAYE = £106.00 (December) and £68.99 (January).

PAID: Cllr Smith, stamp reimbursement = £8.10.

PAID: Staffordshire County Council website hosting fee £107.95

PAID: Stafford Borough Council Civic Amenity Visits 2025 = £236.00

*Payment terms were 20 days therefore Councillors unanimously agreed to pay so deadline was not missed.*

b) To agree the payments of Q3 village hall costs = £66.00 / Q3 PAYE £101.20

**Resolved:** Payments were unanimously approved.

c) To consider the Woodseaves Baby & Toddler Grant 25/26 request

**Resolved:** Payment of £190 was unanimously approved.

d) To consider 2025-26 Budget and Approve 2025-26 Precept.

Clerk presented budget which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

e) **Resolved:** Councillors agreed for precept to be requested for £5,206.00 a 1.7% increase.

**24/146: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.**

It was requested that all unresolved items feature on the agenda for the next meeting in March.

**24/147: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.**  
19:30 – 13 March 2025

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 21:30hrs.

Date for diary: In memorial of Harold Simcox, a Whist Drive has been arranged for 25 March 2025 at Woodseaves Village Hall. All proceeds go to charity.

*D Cox*

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council. Thursday 27 February 2025