

HATHERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HATHERTON PARISH COUNCIL held at Hatherton Parish Rooms, Four Crosses, Hatherton on Thursday 15th May, 2025 at 6.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr. R. W. Perkins, Cllr. Mrs. S. Tomlinson and Cllr. L. J. Ashley.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr. Mrs. M. Willetts was unable to be present on this occasion as she was presently undergoing treatment. However, she has asked me to wish the Parish Council all the best with the future and assure all that she is looking forward to returning later in the year.

In conclusion, Cllr. Mrs. Willetts has also requested that I voice her proposal that Cllr. R. W. Perkins be elected Chairman of Hatherton Parish Council for the forthcoming Municipal year. This was noted by Members.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

The Vice-Chairman called for nominations for the election of Chairman of Hatherton Parish Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The outgoing Chairman's proposal was fully supported by all present and Cllr. R. W. Perkins was duly elected Chairman of the Parish Council. It was carried.

Cllr. R. W. Perkins declared that he was prepared to accept the office of Chairman and proceeded to deal with the business to be transacted by the Parish Council.

CO-OPTION PARISH COUNCILLORS

CO-OPTION OF CLLR. EMMA-JAYNE SMITH

The Chairman reminded Members that three vacancies still existed on Hatherton Parish Council and invited Members to give their support to the co-option of two new Members of the Parish Council who were present at the meeting.

Cllr. Perkins introduced Emma-Jayne Smith who was already a Parish Councillor at the neighbouring Parish Council of Saredon and advised all that he felt that Emma-Jayne would be a much valued asset to Hatherton Parish Council. All Members agreed that the co-option of Cllr. Emma-Jayne Smith would be an excellent step forward.

Cllr. Smith agreed to be co-opted onto Hatherton Parish Council and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct expected of Councillors of Hatherton Parish Council in the presence of the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs. S. McGlue.

Cllr. Smith then took her place at the table and the business of the meeting continued.

CO-OPTION OF MR. ANTHONY JAMES MCGLUE

Cllr. Perkins then went on to introduce Mr. Anthony McGlue, and advised all present that Mr. McGlue had been of great assistance to Hatherton Parish Council on a number of occasions in the past, specifically relating to Planning matters. Cllr. Perkins went on to explain that Mr. McGlue's profession brought him into association with Hatherton Parish on a regular basis which accorded with the eligibility for this role and requested the support of the Parish Council to Co-opt Mr. McGlue to one of the casual vacancies. Cllr. Perkins' proposal was fully supported and accordingly, Mr. McGlue took his place on the Parish Council and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct expected of Councillors of Hatherton Parish Council in the presence of the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs. S. McGlue.

Cllr. McGlue then took his place at the table and the business of the meeting continued.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present on this occasion.

1.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. M. Willetts and Cllr. P. Hammonds.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. S. Tomlinson and seconded by Cllr. R. W. Perkins that the minutes of the meeting held on 20TH March, 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman. It was carried.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion. Cllr. McGlue advised the meeting that he would need to declare an interest in any planning application with which he was associated located within the Parish of Hatherton. This interest would be declared as a permanent interest and also individually recorded when necessary.

6.0 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNS

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had now received information from Staffordshire County Council relating to the installation of the new Village Gateway Signs.

Mr. M. Keeling had provided google images of the locations that have been selected for the Village Gateway Signs.

Mr. Keeling had advised the Parish Council that In Calf Heath there were District boundary signs already in place and he presumed that the additional signage was to be located roughly at the point shown on the photograph below.

Mr. Keeling felt that The Hatherton sign near Church Farm maybe tight and Highways would need to look at the highway boundary line to ensure there was available space. However, for site 2 there was more room and it was felt that this should not be an issue.

Mr. Keeling advised the Parish Council that once the locations were confirmed the Parish Council's contractors would need to apply for a permit to dig as any utilities searches would need to be undertaken as part of the permit process.

Mr. Keeling had advised the Parish Council that once the information was available it would be useful if the Clerk would provide copies of the design proposals prior to commitment to the project.

A copy of the photographs of the selected locations is attached to the minutes at **Appendix A** for Members' information.

6.3 REPLACEMENT FURNITURE

Cllr. Mrs. S. Tomlinson had kindly agreed at a previous meeting to carry out additional research in this regard. Cllr. Mrs. Tomlinson advised the meeting that she had carried out a degree of research and advised all that she still felt that the cost involved in the replacement of the furniture for the Parish Rooms was still far too expensive.

Members were of the view that at the present time there was more chairs in the Parish Rooms which could ever be required at any one time. In addition discussions had also taken place regarding splitting the number of chairs into two categories i.e. chairs were easily cleanable for children to use and a number of upholstered chairs which could be utilised for meetings/seminars etc.

Cllr. Mrs. Tomlinson was to continue with her research but with a view to meeting a significantly decreased number i.e. 20 chairs rather than the 80 in existence.

Councillors also discussed the condition of the existing chairs and agreed to review the situation in terms of general condition and possibly consider steam cleaning rather than replacement. This was noted.

CLERK'S NOTE

The Clerk advised the meeting that the following agenda items were all held in abeyance at the present time awaiting a detailed report from Mr. J. Webb. Cllr. R. W. Perkins had now attended a site meeting with Mr. Webb and a report on the issues was expected in the near future. This was noted by Members.

6.4 REPLACEMENT OF KITCHEN UNITS

6.5 PLASTERING – WCs

6.6 UNPLEASANT ODOUR IN PARISH ROOMS

6.7 RESURFACING OF PARISH ROOMS CAR PARK

The items referred to above are all expected to be resolved within the coming three months.

6.8 PURCHASE OF SPEED INDICATION DEVICE

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Speed Indication Device had now been delivered to the Parish Rooms and was awaiting installation at Straight Mile in the near future. This was noted by Members.

6.9 .GOV.UK EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that this matter was presently in progress and that she felt sure she would be able to report more fully on the issue at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was noted by Members.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL – ROUND-UP

The Clerk advised the meeting that there was no new correspondence to report on this occasion other than the South Staffordshire Council Round-Up which was passed to Cllr. R. W. Perkins.

8.0 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. L. J. Ashley advised the Parish Council that Cllr. Phillip Davies had been elected Chairman of South Staffordshire Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year and that Councillor Victor Kelly had been elected Vice-Chairman for the same term of office.

Cllr. Ashley also gave the Parish Council meeting a detailed report on the situation relating to the Reorganisation of Local Government and advised all that he was awaiting additional information to report, however, this was not expected until November time.

Cllr. Ashley also gave the Parish Council a brief report on the Future of the Local Plan. The main gist of this report was the massive increase in the number of builds required to be delivered each year which had risen from 230 to 640 per year and that with the best will in the world this would have to happen.

9.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Clerk advised the meeting that it had not been possible at the present time to make contact with the new County Councillor, however, the Clerk was requested to write to his predecessor thanking him for all his good works for the Parish of Hatherton over the last twelve years.

10.0 MAINTENANCE MATTERS

There were no additional maintenance matters to be discussed on this occasion.

11.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no new planning applications to be considered on this occasion.

ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Clerk advised the Parish Council of the latest information from the Enforcement Section of South Staffordshire Council.

12.00 FINANCE

12.1 BALANCE AT BANK

The Clerk advised Members that the total funds available to the Parish Council at the present time amounted to £50,822.19p.

12.2 AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Clerk circulated a copy to all Members of the summary of the accounts for the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March, 2025.

13.00 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

SOCIAL MEDIA

Cllr. Emma-Jayne Smith kindly offered to post items of interest on social media and the Parish Council agreed that to share information via this platform would assist in keeping everyone in the loop with issues relating to the Parish.

These items to include the co-option of two new members of the Parish Council, the installation of the Speed Indication Device on Straight Mile and the, soon to be installed, Village Gateway Signs.

14.00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 17TH July, 2025. The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Cllr. Emma-Jayne Smith advised the meeting that she would be unable to attend the July meeting of the Parish Council as she would be on annual leave. This was recorded.

SIGNED.....DATE.....

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

17th July, 2025

18th September, 2025

20th November, 2025

15th January, 2026

19th March, 2026

21st May, 2026 – Annual Parish Assembly and AGM.