



WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Winshill Parish Council held at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre
6.30 pm on Wednesday 12th August 2026.

Present:

Councillors J Batten, S Bullock, A Lawrence, M Metcalfe, I North and K Smith (also a Borough Councillor).

Also present:

S Taylor (Clerk).

Apologies:

There were no apologies for absence.

MATTERS RAISED IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

PART I

116/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Lawrence and Smith declared an interest with regards to the Resource Centre Charity.

117/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2026 were signed as a correct record.

118/26 TO CONSIDER THE 3 CASUAL VACANCIES

Following the recent resignations of Councillors Cope, D Fletcher and M Fletcher it was agreed to go ahead and advertise the casual vacancies as clearance had been received to co-opt new Members from the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer.

119/26 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no new correspondence other than that regarding Local Government Reorganisation as reported below under Agenda Item 123/26.

120/26 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members raised no objections to the following applications:

P/2026/00790 – Demolition of existing porch and erection of larger porch at 50 Dunedin Crescent

P/2026/00806 – Felling of Failed Cedar Tree at 99 Newton Road

P/2026/00817 - Crown reduction of London Plane and Lime Tree at 1 Balmoral Road

121/26 **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

The grounds maintenance contract had been temporarily halted due to the risk of fire from a spark when mowing over stony ground.

122/26 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The County Councillor was not present.

123/26 **THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

There had been an announcement on the shape of new unitary authorities for Staffordshire, to come into effect in April 2028. The county will be made up of two new authorities – North Staffordshire comprising of the former Stoke City, Newcastle under Lyme and Staffordshire Moorlands Councils; and South Staffordshire comprising of the former Stafford Borough, Cannock, Litchfield, East Staffordshire, Tamworth and South Staffordshire Councils.

Councillor North reported on discussions that had already taken place between the Burton Parishes regarding the possible transfer of assets under the new arrangements. An asset list will be required from the Borough Council along with stock condition surveys. An obvious example for consideration would be parks and open spaces along with the cemetery. Any such transfer would have to be accounted for in any future parish precept.

The Parishes were in favour of any future joint working rather than an amalgamation of the Parishes. The next meeting was planned for November 2026.

124/26 **QUARTERLY UPDATES-THE PARISH PLAN**

Councillor Batten reported on the statistics received for April, May and June from the CAB surgeries. There had been 25 Winshill clients in this period mainly to do with benefit issues with a recorded outcome of £29,678 income gain to the clients. The Centre Manager confirmed that the arrangement was working well.

125/26 **THE ENVIRONMENT, PLANTING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

Councillor Bullock had agreed to take over the lead of Winshill Bloomers. The judging of Heart of England in Bloom had gone well and the results were to be announced on 22nd October in Malvern. It was suggested that the best time for the awards evening would be in December and could incorporate Christmas celebrations.

The Greenhouse is being rebuilt so as to become a “centre of excellence” and it may be possible that the parish can procure more plants from there in the future as it was hoped to continue with Winshill in Bloom and enter into Heart of England in Bloom subject to getting the necessary support and agreeing the budget. Also, the planting areas will need to be reassessed prior to next year and the grounds maintenance contract reviewed as part of going out to tender again.

The Parish Council was committed to debating these aspects in the October meeting.

There were various concerns raised regarding the current grounds' maintenance contractor and whilst in time other candidates will be sourced to apply for the groundworks contract the Chairman asked that any queries/amendments etc between now and March 2027 come through himself or the Clerk.

126/26 **WEBSITE/FACEBOOK**

The Facebook page had received 74 likes for an article about the canoe centre. The Website was being updated with the kind support from Roger Cope.

127/26 **APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

No new applications had been received.

128/26 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members reviewed and agreed the Final Accounts for the Period ending 12th August 2026.

129/26 **REPORT ON ACCOUNTS PAID**

		£	cheque no	minute no
Little Empire Rd.	Plants	98.70	1681	213/25
Centre Charity	Buffet for Judges etc.	341.98	1682	213/25
CAB	Annual Charge	7,500.00	1683	213/25
Information Comm.	Annual Fees	52.00	1684	213/25
S. Bullock	Printing Costs for In Bloom	62.79	1685	213/25

Resolved:

That payment of the above accounts is confirmed.

130/26 **CLERK AND MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The main room of the Centre was to be repainted by B & Q and repairs to the fire door and steps had been completed.

Mention was made to holding a remembrance service in the Peace Wood in November.

Concerns were raised regarding the safety of children riding bikes without helmets and what the Parish Council could do to improve safety in this respect.

PART II

There were no matters of a confidential nature.

131/26 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:

That the next Parish Council Meeting be brought forward to Wednesday 30th September at 7.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

Chairman