

# Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council

## MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Barbridge Inn, Stoke, on

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors Christine Bowen (Chair), Leigh Bowen, Russell Harper, Iain Menzies and Paul Presland.

**In attendance:** M Clay (Clerk to the Council) and one member of the public.

1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllrs Presland and Harper had submitted apologies and the reasons were approved.
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations</b> There were no declarations.
3.	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b> The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a true record.
4.	<b>Unitary Authority Ward Councillor Report</b> Ward Cllr Posnett reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Cheshire East Council (CEC) had set their budget for the coming administrative year. They had originally applied the the Government for permission to increase Council Tax by 9.99% but this had been refused and an increase of 4.99% had been set.</li><li>◆ The potential proposal for a new town at Addlington had been placed much lower down the Government's priority list and so would be unlikely to happen, although other kinds of development plan may come forward.</li><li>◆ The Cheshire and Warrington Mayoral Strategic Authority had come into being although elections for the Mayor would not take place until May 2027, to coincide with the existing cycle of local elections.</li><li>◆ The completion of the new section of the A51 from the Reaseheath roundabout had again been delayed; completion is due in June 2026.</li><li>◆ A consultation about Public Rights of Way had been launched with the aim of ensuring that places are well connected for people on foot.</li><li>◆ There is currently a 3.8 year housing land supply, as opposed to the 5 year supply necessary to ensure that the normal balance of material planning applications to be given due weight.</li><li>◆ Plans for a CO<sup>2</sup> pipeline from Derbyshire are in a consultation phase. The proposed route does not come near Stoke or Hurlestone (but will pass by Church Minshull and Alpraham). There is a strong possibility that the project will not ome to fruition.</li></ul> In response to a question, B Cllr Posnett responded that all developments of more than 9 houses must have 40% affordable housing but that permissions for new developments do not impose obligations to provide housing for any particular category of future resident.
5.	<b>Public Forum</b> A member of the public reported that United Utilities had been asked to consider mains drainage for the village. It was noted that while new developments must have sewage treatment plants if they are not connected to the mains, older properties have septic tanks which, in some cases, were causing pollution problems when rain is heavy. United Utilities will be asked if they have any plans to extend the mains sewer to Barbridge.
6.	<b>Council Membership and Co-Options</b> The Council resolved to co-opt Louise Horton, who will join the Council at the next meeting.

7.	<p><b>Councillor Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Cllr Menzies reported that the bus stop for passengers from Barbridge for the Chester direction has been decommissioned, without any notice or consultation to the Council. A heightened kerb had only been installed for the Nantwich facing stop. The matter had been taken up with Mr Neil Roberts, accessibility officer, who had suggested that the next stop along would serve passengers from Barbridge but it was pointed out that this involved walking along the road which would be risky for ambulant residents and impossible for wheelchair users. Cllr Menzies will email the details of correspondence relating to the matter to B Cllr Posnett who agreed to then take the matter up with CEC and the bus company.</li> <li>◆ Cllr Chris Bowen will be running a training workshop on use of the defibrillator.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>a. Planning Consultations</b> There were no new consultations for consideration.</p> <p><b>b. Updates on Planning Applications considered at previous meetings</b> - There were no updates; application 25/2647/FUL that had considered at the last but one meeting had still not been determined by the Planning Authority. It was noted that CEC's planning department is dealing with an exceptionally large number of applications at present.</p>
9.	<p><b>Canal Bridge (No 100)</b></p> <p>The bridge had been damaged again. After lengthy discussion it was resolved to ask CEC Highways for 'No HGVs or PSVs' signage 60 to 100 metres ahead of the bridge and bollards to be placed in advance of the bridge and at the same width as it. B Cllr Posnett will take this forward as she is already in discussion with the Highways team about the problem. The Clerk will inform the Canals and Rivers Trust about the latest damage and refer to B Cllr Posnett's existing open case with them.</p>
10.	<p><b>Traffic Calming on the A51</b></p> <p>Various possibilities were discussed and it was concluded that matrix speed signs would be the most viable option. This could be discussed in situ because B Cllr Posnett had put in a request to CEC Highways for an officer to attend at the village and meet the Council to discuss what measures could be implemented, using S106 funds. A response is awaited.</p> <p>In the meantime, following agreement by Bunbury Parish Council to lend their speed gun to the Council, it was agreed that the Chair would co-ordinate dates for speed gun training by the PCSO and the Clerk would then make arrangements with Bunbury.</p>
11.	<p><b>Correspondence and Clerk's Report</b></p> <p>There were no matters that had not been covered in other parts of the agenda.</p>
12.	<p><b>Finance &amp; Governance</b></p> <p><b>a. Receipts and Payments</b> - The schedule of receipts and payments was noted and the payments were approved.</p>
12.	<p><b>Items for Future Agendas</b></p> <p>No items were raised.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed as accurate on the authority of the Council:

(Chair) 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Note**

Due to the disproportionate cost of the only meeting space available in the parish, meetings are held at the Barbridge Inn.