

Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Barbridge Inn, Stoke on
Monday 3rd September 2025 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Christine Bowen (Chair), Leigh Bowen, Iain Menzies and Russell Harper

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council),

1.	Apologies for absence Cllr Presland had submitted apologies and the reason for absence was approved.
2.	Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations There were no declarations.
3.	Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 th May 2025 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a true record.
4.	Unitary Authority Ward Councillor Report Ward Councillor Posnett reported that a major issue for Cheshire East Council (CEC) was the devolution discussions, with a forthcoming vote on the 17 th September on support for devolution and the creation of a Strategic Mayoral Authority (SMA). There is a high likelihood that the vote will support the move to an SMA. The authority would have greater funding and potential access to large scale grants, as well as control of strategic planning. The SMA would be established in May 2027 (the original plan had been for May 2026) and cover most of the ceremonial county of Cheshire, including Warrington.
5.	Public Forum No matters were raised.
6.	Council Membership and Co-Options There were no co-options to consider.
7.	Councillor Reports It was reported that the sign for south bound traffic indicating the weight limit across the canal bridge had become obscured by vegetation. Cllr L Bowen would try to clear the vegetation and let the Clerk know if this proves impossible so that he can follow up with CEC Highways.
8.	Planning a. Planning Consultations i 25/2647/FUL - Land on the East Side of Chester Road, Hurleston: <i>Proposed Dwelling of Exceptional quality and Design ((Para84e House) and landscape enhancements and associated Works.</i> It was noted that the applicants had gone to considerable expense to put forward a very comprehensive proposal. The proposal was to construct a house that would not be subject to the normal restrictions relating to construction in open countryside on the grounds that the proposed house would be of 'exceptional quality and design'. It was noted that the house was of a large scale but of a relatively uninteresting and unexceptional design that was felt not to meet the, albeit subjective, criteria for 'exceptional quality and design'. The

	<p>application had made much of the visual connection with the canal but it was noted that forthcoming planting on the land between the site and the canal would remove the connection. There had been a number of objections from nearby residents although also some support. Following lengthy discussion of all the factors the Council resolved to object to the proposal.</p>
	<p>b. Updates on Planning Applications considered at previous meetings - There were no updates.</p>
9.	<p>Damage to Bridge N° 100 The damage had been repaired and although the bridge had subsequently been hit again, no significant damage had been caused.</p>
10.	<p>Correspondence and Clerk's report - S106 Funds Clarity about the S106 funds that had been allocated jointly to the Barbridge (Stoke and Hurlleston) and Wardle was still sought. The S106 Officer had been very elusive and it remained unclear how much was still available. Some information had eventually been supplied but both the Clerk and the Ward Member found that information both confusing and conflicting. The money had been required to address issues of safety by providing matrix signs and pedestrian crossings. Subsequently CEC had stated that fixed speed cameras would not be viable but that if places for hardstanding could be identified for mobile speed monitoring those could be created. Ways of escalating the matter were discussed. B Cllr Posnett wrote to CEC's Head of Planning and a design manager (during the meeting) to seek full details and would follow up with the Chief Executive if a satisfactory response was not received within a month. It was noted that if clarity cannot be gained it would also be open to the developer to require clarification of where the funds that they had paid to CEC had been applied.</p>
11.	<p>Finance & Governance a. Audit - The Audit process was complete. b. Receipts and Payments - The schedule of receipts and payments was noted and the payments were approved.</p>
12.	<p>Items for Future Agendas Due to the disproportionate cost of the only meeting space available in the Parish, it was agreed that all future meetings be held at the Barbridge Inn.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Signed as accurate on the authority of the Council:

(Chair) 3rd December 2025

Note

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