

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Present; Councillors: Cllr Jeans, Cllr Bull, Cllr Page, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Reader, Cllr Thompstone, Cllr Tomlinson

Also present C Holmes; Borough Cllr Lock; Borough Cllr Smedley, 6 Parishioners

## 1. Apologies for Absence

None

## 2. Declarations of Interest

None

## 3. Welcome from the chair

The chair offered a welcome to all those who have attended. Explaining this is a big turnout and an introduction was given by all the councillors and the parishioners present.

## 4. Public Forum

A parishioner raised ongoing safety concerns regarding traffic on the straight section of Hopley Road. They explained that vehicles parked near the end of the road are causing others to accelerate past and, when encountering further parked vehicles midway down the road, are forced to brake suddenly resulting in skidding and hazardous situations. It was noted that the situation may worsen once the Acorn Junction traffic lights are installed. The need for effective traffic calming measures on this stretch was discussed. Cllr Jeans agreed, stating that while the recent road resurfacing has improved road conditions, it has unintentionally exacerbated speeding issues.

Another parishioner supported these concerns, saying they often feel unsafe when walking their dog or crossing the road due to speeding vehicles. Concerns were also raised about HGVs continuing to use the road, despite existing weight restrictions. Instances of large vehicles partially mounting the pavement were reported, pushing pedestrians dangerously close to the edge. Cllr Jeans confirmed that appropriate signage is in place but highlighted the challenges around enforcement, which requires an officer to witness any infringement. He also noted that HGVs making deliveries within the village are still legally permitted. It was explained that the original Section 106 funding allocated for local traffic measures has been significantly reduced over time due to inflation. However, £15,000 was spent on implementing the weight restriction signage.

Another parishioner, also a Hopley Road resident, described the road conditions as “frightening” and stated they no longer feel safe walking their dog along it. Concern was raised for children walking to school. A pedestrian crossing near the Methodist Church was

suggested, as visibility around the blind bend—made worse by overgrown hedges—is limited.

Cllr Jeans reported he had spoken to County Councillor Philip White, who was instrumental in securing earlier traffic calming measures. He explained that although the village originally had access to around £100,000, the implementation of the weight limit and inflationary pressures reduced the available funds. The existing traffic calming is estimated to have cost between £150,000–£200,000. With Staffordshire's total highways budget being £3 million, villages must compete for limited resources. Priority is often given to areas with high accident rates.

Cllr White has offered to visit the area with a highways engineer to assess the current issues and revisit previously proposed plans. While it was always intended that Hopley Road would be included in calming measures, this has been impacted by the reduction in funding. Cllr White supports slowing traffic along the entire stretch of Hopley Road but financial constraints remain a challenge. The council agreed to work with him to explore feasible, cost-effective solutions.

It was confirmed that the Acorn Junction traffic lights are scheduled for installation in Spring 2026 to avoid disruption to local businesses.

It was suggested that Cllr White's site visit be arranged during peak times so he can witness the issues first-hand. It was also noted that the solar-powered SID (Speed Indicator Device) is currently not working. Cllr Jeans will arrange for this to be repaired to allow data collection to resume.

The original proposal for Hopley Road had included a speed cushion, but financial circumstances have since changed. While no guarantees were made, it was noted that the neighbouring parish of Anslow has recently received significant funding. Next steps include Cllr White's visit, a review of earlier plans, and the implementation of lower-cost traffic-calming options following the traffic light installation. The potential for an increased parish precept to contribute towards future improvements was also discussed.

The meeting recognised the support and ongoing efforts of Cllr White and expressed appreciation for his continued involvement.

Additional suggestions included:

- Installing gateway signs at village entrances to encourage speed reduction.
- Reaching out to Staffordshire Police's speed enforcement team for increased presence on Hopley Road.
- Cutting back overgrown hedges obscuring the 30mph signs to improve visibility.
- Exploring the potential to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.
- A report was received of a recent incident where a child was nearly struck by a car mounting the pavement. A parishioner has contacted the police regarding this.

Cllr Jeans concluded by noting the impact of the school expansion and the development of three new housing estates around the village, which will place further pressure on local infrastructure and reinforce the need for continued traffic management measures.

Action: Cllr Jeans to contact Morelock regarding the broken SID; Clerk to contact Staffs police.

## 5. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

All agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

Action: Clerk to convert to upload to website

## 6. Matters arising from those minutes.

Item 6 – Awaiting SID data from Cllr Jeans

Action: Cllr Jeans to organise repair.

## 7. Clerk's Report: to include banking changes, finance & correspondence.

AGAR all submitted to MAZARS

Landowners with the dangerous tree on it written to but no response. **It was agreed for Cllr Thompstone to contact them and explain that the parish council will have this removed. The clerk will get a quote for tree removal. It was agreed for this spend to be no more than £1000.**

A parishioner has enquired about the telephone box by the pub, which currently has wooden dividers inside. They would like to know if they are permitted to donate books, CDs, and DVDs for others to use or take. **It was agreed to proceed with this and to look at getting it refurbished.**

A parishioner has written to provide clarification regarding the hedge overhanging the pavement on Hopley Road opposite Chapel Land. They have located the original compulsory purchase agreement from 1978, which confirms that the land on which the hedge sits is owned by Staffordshire County Council and forms part of the highway, rather than being the boundary of 106 Hopley Road (which is marked by the fence behind the hedge). The parishioner noted that they have been maintaining the hedge at their own expense for several years but would now like to discuss how it might be managed going forward, suggesting it could be included in the regular verge maintenance schedule. They have also requested that any future complaints regarding the hedge be directed to Staffordshire County Council.

A parishioner has contacted the council to request an update on any planned improvements or actions regarding Hopley Road.

A parishioner has been in touch again regarding the ongoing issue of the footpath on Hopley Road being impassable. **This has been reported to the County Council but the parish council have since had this cut to avoid any further issues.**

Correspondence regarding Public Space Protection Order and if the parish council would like to make any changes.

A parishioner has written to the parish council regarding fly tipping on Bushton Lane. **The link to the civil enforcement team was sent out but I have since reported it to ESBC.**

A resident of Hopley Road has expressed concern regarding the standard of grass cutting in the area, particularly near the field gate and noticeboard, which they feel appears untidy and poorly maintained. They have also asked whether residents can be better informed about local roadworks and closures in future.

A resident has raised concerns that recent resurfacing works on Hopley Road have led to increased speeding and more dangerous driving, with no traffic calming measures implemented alongside the improvements. They have also requested updates on previously proposed traffic management at the Henhurst Hill junction, safe crossing provisions near the old church, and actions to address ongoing speeding concerns.

Correspondence has been received from a neighbouring Parish Council urging support in opposing significant housing developments in rural villages, which they believe contravene ESBC's Local Plan. They request a united stance to encourage ESBC to uphold Strategic Policy 2 and resist further allocations pending a formal review of the Local Plan. **Although our parish is not currently listed in Tier 1 or Tier 2, it is reasonable to assume we may be considered a Tier 3 area. However, it is worth noting that we have already experienced significant development locally. Cllr Jeans expressed that the parish council should offer our support, as we may well need theirs in future. It was also explained that housing developments thus far have been outside of the village and therefore makes it more important. Clerk to confirm Anslow Parish Council's support.**

Openreach has confirmed that Hopley Road, Anslow, has been added to their Full Fibre build plans. While a delivery date is not yet available, the rollout is part of a nationwide project to reach 25 million premises. Further updates will be provided as the build progresses.

Action; Clerk to receive quotes regarding tree felling; Cllr Thompstone to contact the landowners regarding the tree; Clerk to contact parishioner regarding the telephone box & look at refurbishment; Clerk to confirm support to the neighbouring parish.

- **FINANCE**

Date	Online Payment Number	Category	Invoice Detail	Invoice Amount		
				Net	VAT	Gross
02/06/2025	OLP2025/13	Clerks Salary		-£ 440.90		-£ 440.90
17/06/2025	OLP2025/14	Bank Interest		-£ 4.25		-£ 4.25
02/07/2025	OLP2025/15	Clerks Salary		-£ 440.90		-£ 440.90
02/07/2025	OLP2025/16	Clerks Salary	HMRC	-£ 150.00		-£ 150.00
02/07/2025	OLP2025/17	Clerks Salary	HMRC	-£ 101.23		-£ 101.23

02/07/2025	OLP2025/18	Planters & Village Maintenance	Josh	-£ 575.00		-£ 575.00
02/07/2025	OLP2025/19	Room Hire		-£ 20.00		-£ 20.00
02/07/2025	OLP2025/20	Stationary	Storage	-£ 135.00		-£ 135.00
02/07/2025	OLP2025/21	ICO		-£ 52.00		-£ 52.00

All payments agreed by the council

<b>Balance at 31.06.2025</b>	
Treasurers Account - 56980463	<b>£15,725.85</b>

## 8. Review planning applications

Status	Date	Planning No:	Site Address	Description	APC Comments	Decision
Registered	20-01-2023	<u>P/2023/00064</u>	Home Farm Tutbury Road Needwood Staffordshire DE13 9PQ	Change of use of land to facilitate the formation of an outdoor equestrian arena / menage including fencing for personal use	No Objection	Conditional Approval
Registered	09/08/2023	P/2023/00846	Church Farm Tea Rooms, Hanbury Road, Anslow Gate, Staffordshire , DE13 9QT	Extension and reconfiguration of car park and retention of play equipment	No Objection	Conditional Approval
Registered	16/10/2024	P/2024/01006	The Yews, Tutbury Road, Needwood, Staffordshire , DE13 9PQ	Listed Building Consent for the erection of a detached triple garage/carport	No Objection	Withdrawn
Registered	19/03/2025	P/2025/00189	Belmont Driving Range, Belmot Road, Needwood, Staffordshire , DE13 9PH	Application under Section 73 to vary Condition 2 (Plans) and Condition 4 (Landscaping) attached to planning permission P/2024/00130 for the conversion of golf driving range building to form 2 dwellings, including single storey extension on south, east and west elevation, parking and	No comments from the parish council.	Permits

				landscaping by way of driveway changes, infilling of carports to create a games room and a garage, plant room extensions and installation of air source heat pumps		
Registered	25/03/2025	P/2024/01181	Mosley Primary School, Main Road, Anslow, Staffordshire , DE13 9QD	Formation of a designated pedestrian ramp access from the highway footpath to the school's main reception area.	Concerns raised with the ramp being directly opposite the pub car park and the corner is dangerous for crossing with no pavement. Concern raised for the further loss of car parking spaces and impact this will have on the pub. Accidents have already occurred at the spot proposed in adverse weather. Pedestrians the entrance for the school car park.	
Registered	11/04/2025	P/2025/00283	Farm View, Bushton Lane, Anslow, Staffordshire , DE13 9QL	Erection of single storey rear extension and enclosed porch to front elevation.	No comments from the parish council.	Permits
Registered	11/04/2025	P/2025/00274	15 Bushton Lane, Anslow, Staffordshire , DE13 9QL	Formation of dropped kerb and widening of existing driveway.	No comments from the parish council.	
Registered	28/04/2025	P/2025/00337	Belmot Farm, Belmont Road, Needwood, Staffordshire , DE13 9PH	Change of Use of store and workshop to form ancillary accommodation associated external alterations including the installation of roof lights.	No comments from the parish council.	Permits
New	22/05/2025	P/2025/00468	Larkhill Farm, Bell House Lane, Anslow Gate, Staffordshire , DE13 9PA	Prior Approval for the conversion of an agricultural building to form seven dwellings.	No comments from the parish council.	Given
New	26/06/2025	P/2025/00620	Barley Fields Farm, Bell	Demolition of existing building to facilitate		

			House Lane, Anslow Gate, Staffordshire , DE13 9PA	the erection of detached single storey dwellinghouse.		
P/2025/00620 - No comments from the parish council.						
Action; Clerk to add comments to EBSC Portal.						

## 9. To discuss traffic mitigation on Hopley Road

This item was discussed in the public forum.

## 10. To discuss the repair or replacement of the noticeboards in the village

It was agreed that the best course of action was to look at getting a handyman to refurbish the noticeboards and replace the lock with a catch. The budget for this would be £700 maximum.

Action; Clerk and Cllr Bull to obtain quotes.

## 11. Councillors' Reports: Parish Cllrs, SCC Cllr Phillip White, ESBC Cllr Russell Lock and ESBC Cllr Simon Gaskin

Cllr Lock reported that, since the introduction of green bin charges, concerns have been raised about residents using black bins for garden waste. This has led to issues with increased volume, as well as people placing plastics in the black bins instead of using the blue recycling bins.

Cllr Smedley explained that it is currently quiet at the borough and the Borough councillors were thanked for their attendance.

The plant pot on The Green was discussed and it was agreed that it needs replacing. The Clerk will investigate purchasing a new one and will contact the groundsman to tidy and refresh the herb garden opposite.

Cllr Thompstone discussed the overhanging tree on Main Road covering the traffic calming sign. It was agreed for the clerk to report this to Staffs CC.

Cllr Page raised on concern on loud noises from motorbikes coming through the village late at night.

Action: Clerk to report overhanging tree

**Meeting closed 19:45pm**

The next Parish Council Meeting is **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**  
Parish Council Information can be found on the internet at –  
[www.anslowparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.anslowparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Name:**

**Date:**