**SALT & ENSON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 3rd September 2025**

**at Salt Village Hall, Salt at 7.30 pm**

The meeting began at 7.30 p.m.

**Public Open Forum** – No members of the public were present.

1. **Attendees and Apologies**

Attendees: Chair Councillor Barbara Clancy

Councillors J Starr,

R Walls,

I Wimshurst,

C Beardmore,

JD Scott,

N Tonks

Stafford County Councillor Andrew Mynors

Clerk DW Croxford

Apologies – Stafford Borough Councillor Karine Aspin

The meeting was quorate.

1. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on the agenda**

None declared.

1. **Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd July 2025**

These were agreed as a true and correct record by all present.

**4. Matters arising from those minutes**

None arisen, albeit is noted that a decision from Stafford Borough Council Planning Office still remains to be made on the application 24/38837/LDC Brick Kiln Lane. *(Lawful Development Certificate)* An extension of time to 31 January 2025 was previously granted. *Stafford Borough Councillor Karine Aspin monitoring the situation.*

**5 .Planning**

No applications received at date of publication of Agenda

**6. Reports**

* Report from County Councillor

The new incumbent, Staffordshire County Councillor Andrew Mynors was warmly welcomed to his first meeting with us.

Councillor Mynors outlined a large number of current areas of focus for himself within his new role, not least of which being the Local Government Reorganisation (Devolution) project.

He also highlighted, amongst the many other issues before him, a rise in thefts of vintage village post boxes from villages around the County, and his support for Sandon and Burston Parish Council with the likely traffic problems at the bridge at the foot of Sandon Bank.

**17/25**

Councillor Mynors also advised of the existence of a Community Grant Fund available from SCC offering small grants of up to £250 for suitable community projects.

Councillor Mynors was thanked for his attendance and will receive invitations to all future Parish Council meetings. The Clerk has put his contact details on the Parish Council website.

* Report from Borough Councillor Karine Aspin

Apologies were received from Councillor Aspin.

* Report from Village Hall Management Committee

Following suggestions from the VHMC, Councillor Clancy sought, and obtained unanimously from the meeting, permission to

i) Obtain a quote from a handyman to paint the exterior and internal floor, of the village telephone box owned by the PC

ii) Obtain a quote from a suitably experienced arborist to prune the two trees owned by the PC at the entrance to the Holly Bush car park

iii) Arrange for a volunteer to jet wash the communal seats owned by the PC on the Casey

Councillor Clancy to report back at November PC meeting.

**7. To receive Financial Statement and Clerks report**

i) To approve financial payments, receipts and transfers.

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| **Accounts for approval** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Paid prior to the meeting** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Paid To** | **Details** | **Amt** | **VAT** | **Total to pay** |  |
|   |   |   |   | 0.00 |  |
|   |   |   |   | 0.00 |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** |  |  | 0.00 |  |
| **To be Paid** |  |  |  |  |
| Clerk |  **Gross** Pay 1 July to 30 Sept | £1,008.48  |   | 1,008.48 |  |
| HMRC | PAYE Re Clerk Pay 1 July to 30 Sept |   |   | 0.00 |  |
| Clerk | Clerks Expenses 1 July to 30 Sept | £84.60  |   | 84.60 |  |
| Salt VHMC | Room Hire May, July, Sept | £90.00  |   | 90.00 |  |
| SLCC | Clerk annual membership | £105.00  |   | 105.00 |  |
|   |   |   |   | 0.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1,288.08 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL** |  |  | 1,288.08 |  |

These were approved by all present.

 **18/25**

ii) The clerk had circulated the **financial statement** and **bank reconciliation** reports and both were approved by all present.

iii) **National Salary Award for Clerks 2025-26**

The Council takes note of the NJC National Salary Award and authorises its implementation. The Council authorises the element of back pay from the date of implementation of the award. SCP12 £14.82 ph applies until 31 March 2026 then review.

iv) To consider Auditors advice to move to **a .gov.uk** domain

At the last meeting The Clerk had explained the rationale for this switch and the potential risks for Parish Councillors if the change does not take place. The Clerk outlined the costs for arranging the change from the Parish Council’s current website and e mail providers.

The Parish Council Auditor has now confirmed to the Clerk ,and note circulated to all Councillors, that this advice is NOT a compulsory action at present.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-02-24/hl5113#:~:text=The%20Government%20has%20advocated%20for,legal%20obligation%20to%20do%20so>

The Parish Council considers that the risks to Salt Parish Councillors are extremely low, and noting with the financial cost of achieving it, has decided not to make the switch at this time.

v) Purchase of new Lap Top for Clerk.

Minutes of 5th March Refer. Agreement given to replace present failing 10 year old lap top with a new one costing up to £500 ex VAT.

Clerk has located one from Currys PC World at £499 ex VAT.

The meeting confirmed again he may proceed.

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**8. To discuss Highways issues and note any requiring reporting**

**SBC Response to Sandon and Burston re land off Sandon Road and MOD site 4 Beaconside** – e mail correspondence between SBC Planning and Sandon and Burston PC had been circulated to Salt Councillors on 28th and 29th July and 19th August keeping them abreast of matters.

The large **pothole in the middle of the carriageway on Willowmore Banks** junction with Weston Bank, opposite Weston Hall remains unrepaired, albeit it was reported to SCC Highways via their on line portal and acknowledged by them, their reference 4445998.

It was advised a **road sign on Weston Bank**, signposting Salt Village was accidentally damaged and has been removed. *Clerk to investigate and report.*

**9. To review correspondence received and consider items of business for the next meeting.**

Next Skip 25th October at The Holly Bush Inn car park

* All other items of note had been circulated to all prior to the meeting.

**19/25**

**10. To inform attendees of dates of future meetings**

Dates of future meetings at Salt Village Hall during **2025** as follows: Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

 5 Nov

**11. Meeting closed at 20.15 hrs**

Signed .......................................... .........................................

Chair Cncllr B Clancy Clerk DWCroxford

Date...................................

**20/25**