



UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026 IN THE ALAN DEAN SUITE, UTTOXETER TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7.00PM AND THERE WERE PRESENT:

Chair and Town Mayor - Councillor B Houlihan

Councillors: T Ashby, D Boot, J Glandfield, R Hawkins, D Holland, A Johnstone, P Krupski, Z Krupski, C Lancaster, A Mansfield (Deputy Mayor), A Noyes, C Sylvester, L Sylvester, C Wain
Officers in attendance – T Jeffery, Town Clerk/RFO and M McGinley, Officer Manager
It was noted that 6 members of the public were in attendance in the meeting.

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and he provided a welcome to the Meeting and a brief on the provisions of the Filming of Meetings as in accordance with "The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014", a reminder that the Council had Signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, on the use of mobile phones during the meeting and the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire. Council is advised that the Clerk and Councillors Ashby and Boot were the Council's trained Evac Chair Operators.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- (a) The Clerk reported receipt of approved apologies for absence from Town Councillor S Page and apologies from County Councillor Allen.

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved for Town Councillor Page.

- (b) To minute the names of Councillors who are absent and apologies have not been received.
None.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Standing Order 3(e-h), the meeting be adjourned for up to 15 minutes to allow for public participation where members of the public may make representations, ask or answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they were entitled to attend in respect of the business on the Agenda. The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting as in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed (3) minutes unless directed by the Chair of the meeting. It was noted that Members of the public may not take part in the Council meeting itself.

The Chair welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. It was noted that a member of the public wished to address Council with respect to Item No. 15(c). *'The member of the public expressed her thanks on behalf of Picknall Valley Preservation Group for permitting her to address Council on Item No. 15(c) the Proposed Stafford Road Development P/2026/00098 and she reported that:*

- *She Urged the Council to join Picknalls Valley Preservation Group, our County Councillor, and hundreds of local people already signing the online petition, in strongly opposing this development.*
- *We have 3 main grounds for opposition – ESBC's Planning Context, Infrastructure Issues and Biodiversity as below:*
 - *ESBC's Planning Context as follows:*
 - *The crucial document in regard to housing development is the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which identifies land with potential for residential development. It is used to identify strategic sites for the Local Plan.*
 - *In the 2021 SHLAA Blounts Green Farm is listed as being not achievable, deliverable, suitable or developable. And in the most recent March 2025 SHLAA it is not mentioned at all. What's more, this document confirms that that identified deliverable sites across the Borough already more than cover estimated housing needs figure.*

- *Of particular significance is that the farm is outside of Settlement boundary in the Local Plan. There are a number of circumstances in which development outside a Settlement Boundary will be permitted, but none of these apply here.*
- *Infrastructure Issues as follows:*
 - *ESBC has a Sustainable Development Strategy which states that developments should ensure an efficient and safe sustainable local transport network. The proposed access to this estate would be neither efficient nor safe given that it opens directly into a busy main road. The A518 is a link road from the A50 to the M6 and carries large amounts of commuting and heavy goods traffic. To have cars, delivery vans and the like turning in and out of a large estate directly onto the A 518 would create traffic chaos far worse than that already present.*
 - *For pedestrians and cyclists there is no cycle path on this stretch of Stafford Road and inadequate pavements for the extra foot traffic which would need to use it.*
 - *Other town infrastructure like doctors' surgeries, schools and dentists are already struggling and would also be further overstretched by this development.*
- *Biodiversity issues as follows:*
 - *Biodiversity issues link with both ESBC's Local Plan and UTC's Neighbourhood Plan.*
 - *The Local Plan has a strategic objective 'To protect, conserve and enhance the local countryside, character, distinctiveness and quality of the landscape and the diversity of wildlife and habitats'. The Picknall Valley has long been recognised as a major natural asset by the residents of Uttoxeter, and this development would do nothing to protect and enhance it.*
 - *I am sure that as Town Councillors you are well aware that this proposal is counter to your own Neighbourhood Plan, particularly Policies E1 and E2.*
 - *Policy E1 talks of retaining and enhancing the Green Infrastructure, which this development would fail to do. It would cause substantial loss of connected habitat for local wildlife, including bats, birds, and small mammals, and would not enhance the natural environment.*
 - *Policy E2 specifically states that 'new development should protect and where appropriate enhance the landscape setting of the town, and with a particular emphasis on the Picknall, Tean and Dove valleys. Planning applications that would result in the loss or fragmentation of this setting will not be supported', in the words of Planners..*
 - *The Picknall Valley forms the spine of the wildlife corridor through town. Development in one area would damage biodiversity in this whole valley . This proposal would lead to the loss and fragmentation of the Picknall Valley landscape and have serious consequences for wildlife already impacted by the major housing developments nearby.*
 - *For all these reasons we ask you to object strongly to these proposals and help to save Uttoxeter's beautiful and loved Picknall Valley. Thank you.'*

The Chair expressed his thanks to the member of the public for their address to Council which would be further considered under Item No. 15(c) later in the meeting.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting, and which is not included in the register of interests. Members were reminded that they were required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

It was noted that Councillors R Hawkins, C Sylvester and A Mansfield would leave the Chamber for Item No. 33 given they were Members of the Personnel Appeals Committee. It was noted that the Clerk would leave the Chamber for Item No. 33.

5. **DISPENSATION PROCEDURE**

To consider and approve dispensation requests as in accordance with Standing Order 13(d), that all Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the Dispensation is required. Council will decide whether to grant the dispensation at the relevant meeting. Unless Council grant the relevant delegated power to Committee, it was Council that decided whether to grant the dispensation. None received.

6. MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
- (b) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2026.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2026, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix A.

- (c) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2026, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix B.

7. ACCOUNTS

- (a) Council gave consideration to the list of accounts submitted for payment in the sum of £43,586.13 which included BACS/cheque payments made since the date of the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts as above be accepted and approved, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign it.

- (b) Council gave consideration to the monthly summaries of the Council's income for January 2026.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

8. BANK BALANCES

At 10 February 2026 the bank balances stood at:

RBS Current Account	£ 10,294.54
RBS Special Interest Account	£ 121,949.80
RBS General Reserve Fund Account	£ 0.00 (As RES UTC 13/01/26)
RBS Town Mayors' Account	£ 471.50
RBS Deposit Account 32 Carter Street	£ 623.85
RBS 19A High Street Deposit Account	£ 338.06
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account	£ 85,000.00

9. UTTOXETER TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR EVENTS ATTENDED REPORT

- (a) The Clerk reported that the Mayor had attended the following event since the last meeting:
12.02.26 Painsley Catholic College's Performance of The Wizard of Oz
- (b) The Clerk reported that the Deputy Mayor had attended the following events since the last meeting:
24.01.26 Burns Night (SMDC Chairman's Event)
07.02.26 Dove Valley Swimming Club Swimming Gala

10. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL

None received.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

- (a) The Clerk reported receipt of a County Councillor Report on SCC matters arising since the date of the last meeting which included the following:
- High Street Bollard
 - *I wish to formally record my disappointment that Uttoxeter Town Council did not feel able to participate in the re-introduction and operation of the High Street bollard, particularly given the significant level of public funding that has already been invested to make the system reliable and fit for purpose.*

- *Following previous reliability issues, substantial improvements have been implemented to address those concerns. The Town Council itself had requested the re-introduction of the bollard, yet at the final stage the proposal failed when the only requirement placed upon the Town Council was the monitoring of the bollard between 10.00am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.*
- *In good faith, Staffordshire County Council offered the Town Council full operational control of access to the High Street during these hours. This was considered a far more robust and accountable solution than the use of remote control centres, which we do not regard as an acceptable or secure long-term arrangement.*
- *In my view, the decision not to engage in this arrangement was unnecessarily narrow in scope and does not reflect the wider interests of residents, businesses, and the effective management of the town centre. As a consequence of this decision, there is now no viable alternative but to leave the bollard in the down position. The High Street will therefore remain a 30mph access-only street.*
- *The suggestion that the High Street should instead become a pedestrianised area managed by a physical barrier raises further concerns, particularly in terms of supervision and enforcement, as it is not possible to oversee such arrangements remotely.*
- *Finally, I must be clear that meaningful change to the High Street will not be achieved while East Staffordshire Borough Council continues to delay the Maltings regeneration. I am not prepared to commit further taxpayers' money to temporary measures when the core regeneration infrastructure has yet to be delivered.*
- *Planning Application P/2026/00098*
 - *I would also like to express my position on the Hallam planning application on Picknall Valley. In my view, the Hallam development at Picknall Valley should be refused because it would create unsafe access and increased congestion on Stafford Road, which conflicts with Local Plan policies SP1, SP35 and DP7 requiring safe and sustainable transport impacts; it would also worsen existing flooding around the cemetery and recreation ground, contrary to SP27 and DP2, which require development not to increase flood risk; and it would permanently remove important green space, harming local character and conflicting with SP30 and DP1, as well as the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan's design and environment policies, which protect green infrastructure and local distinctiveness.*
- *Land Identified for Potential Sports Provision*
 - *The parcel of land that has been referenced in relation to possible future sports provision remains the subject of preliminary discussions. At the present time, no decisions have been reached, and there is no further information to provide regarding its potential use. Further updates will be issued as and when substantive progress is made.*
- *Meadow Way Resurfacing Update*
 - *The resurfacing works scheduled for Meadow Way remain on track for delivery in May. However, the programme may be brought forward or, if required, moved slightly later into the summer, depending on operational considerations.*
 - *We are also working to coordinate with utility providers so that any necessary works can be carried out concurrently. This will ensure that full use is made of the traffic management arrangements and will help to minimise future disruption to residents. Further details will be provided once the timetable is confirmed.*
- *Salt and Grit Bins Across the Area*
 - *I would like to inform you that all strategic salt and grit bins across the area have now been refilled as part of our winter maintenance preparations. This ensures readiness in the event of any further icy conditions over the coming days.*
 - *If any councillors or residents identify bins that appear low or require attention, please let me know so we can arrange prompt follow-up.*
- *Gulley Cleaning in Uttoxeter in 2026*
 - *Based on the county-wide maintenance regime:*
 - *Residents can expect:*
 - *Annual gulley cleaning on all A and B roads in and around Uttoxeter.*

- *Biennial or triennial cleaning on C-class and unclassified roads, depending on whether the road is in a rural or urban section.*
- *Additional targeted gulley cleaning where flooding risk or community reports justify priority action.*
- *Here ends my report. Should you have any questions or wish to raise any issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will endeavour to assist wherever possible.*

Councillor Z Krupski reported that he was disappointed with the context included within County Councillor Allen's Report regarding the High Street Bollard. The Chair reported that a separate Agenda Item No. 21 had been included relating the High Street Bollard specifically.

Councillor P Krupski expressed her concern that the Report stated '*meaningful change to the High Street will not be achieved while East Staffordshire Borough Council continues to delay the Maltings regeneration*' which implied that ESBC had delayed the Maltings Refurbishment. She stated that this was not the case, due procedure was being followed.

It was noted that Members welcomed County Councillor Allen's support in objecting to the proposed development within Stafford Road.

It was noted that Council supported its ESBC Colleagues in the works carried out to date for the refurbishment for the Maltings, noting its disappointed in the pace, however it was reassuring that the Borough Councillors for the Town remained in contact with ESBC Officers who were progressing the redevelopment with due urgency.

- (b) The Clerk reported receipt of a combined Borough Councillor Report on ESBC matters arising since the date of the last meeting which included the following:

Borough Councillor P Krupski reports she had:

- Attended several Teams meetings for "Scrutiny Value for Money".
- Attended a Teams Leaders Advisory Group meeting.
- Attended an ESBC Group Meeting where I raised questions regarding the progress and funding of the Maltings project.
- Been in communications with ESBC regarding the refurbishment of the Bradley Street toilets and the plans for the demolition of the Maltings.
- Been in communication with officers regarding the state of the Coach and Horses building in Carter Street.
- Approached Officers at ESBC regarding the possibility of parking permits for the Town Council staff, however this has been denied.
- Attended and assisted with delivering a three course thankyou meal to the volunteers at the Uttoxeter Heath community Centre.
- Assisted residents with queries about the renewal of the Brown Bin subscription.

Borough Councillor Z Krupski reports he had:

- Chaired several Teams meetings for Scrutiny Value for Money throughout the month.
- Attended a Leaders Advisory Group meeting and raised several questions in relation to the 2026/27 budget & funding arrangements for the Malting regeneration project.
- Attended the Councillor Surgery at the Uttoxeter Library both as an ESBC and a Town Councillor.
- Provided information and assistance to local residents in relation to the demolition of the Wheatsheaf Public house.
- Attended and assisted in serving meal as a thank you to the Heath Community Centre volunteers who had a thoroughly enjoyable and well deserved afternoon.
- Presented the completed Scrutiny Value for Money Report on the ESBC Burton Town Hall Civic Function Suite at a pre Cabinet meeting.
- Provided a local resident with information regarding blocked drains.

Borough Councillor R Hawkins reports he had:

- 7th January - Attended a Value for Money Scrutiny Group meeting to consider the ESBC Leisure Services contract and other general matters.

- 12th January - Attended a Climate Change Scrutiny Group meeting that considered grounds maintenance, as well as further items for discussion. These included the 'Warmer Homes Initiative' and the 'Impact of Enforcement on Communities'. The discussion included how LGR will impact on any planned projects.
- 14th January - Chaired the Uttoxeter Nature Group meeting and we discussed its future direction and key areas for future action. We were also reminded at the opportunity to collect free [native species] trees at Stapenhill Cemetery, Burton on 16th February.
- 19th January- Had a telephone meeting with a representative of the Staffordshire Moorlands Climate Action Group to discuss how they have impacted on the environment and climate change.
- 20th January - Attended a meeting of the Redferns Museum Committee, to consider finances and general matters, as well as locally advertise the excellence of the unique facility that Uttoxeter has.
- 22nd January - Attended the Leader's Advisory Group to consider progress towards [and the consultation process planned for] the 2026/27 ESBC Budget; as well as Uttoxeter Town Centre and how the basic developments could be safeguarded throughout Local Government Reorganisation [LGR].
- 27th January - Took part in a Value for Money Scrutiny Group discussion which considered future topics for examination. These included 'Car Parking Charges'.
- 28th January - Hosted a meeting of u3a members to hear about ESBC's proposed 'Citizens Jury' on the use of glyphosates in east Staffordshire. I then attended a meeting of the Development Committee to review future housing needs and the revised National Planning Policy Network [NPPF].
- In addition, spoke to or emailed a range of ESBC residents about the High Street, housing and sports facilities. The latter included a forthcoming ESBC grant, of £50,000 to develop pitches in Bramshall Park.

Borough Councillor A Mansfield reports he had:

- Early January - Liaised between Bramshall Meadows First School and the Planning Department at ESBC around issues relating to the 'link road' on the Bramshall Meadows estate. In late December, the developer building on the north side of the estate opened up a 'connection' between the two sites. This means that cars (and people of course) can move from one side to the other. The position of the developer is that this now meets the planning requirement. The School are concerned about road safety implications for children and are looking for support in securing speed limit signs and similar measures. I am working with the school and Planning to identify who is responsible for this currently and what can be potentially done in partnership with the developer.
- 19th January - Attended a briefing from the team coordinating the Family Hub provision across the County. These are excellent facilities providing wrap-around support to families from birth. The East Staffordshire Hub is based on Waterloo Street in Burton, but the Hubs also operate on a peripatetic basis and do drop-in sessions in settings across the Borough, including schools. The team were very keen for Councillor support in promoting the hubs, both to families and to organisations who may be willing to host sessions/drop-ins in Uttoxeter.
- 19th January - Attended a meeting of the ESBC Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. We discussed potential scrutiny topics for the upcoming year and agreed to focus on a number of issues including domestic violence and waiting lists for primary and acute care in the Borough.
- 22nd January - Attended the Leader's Advisory Group meeting at ESBC. This included questions on the progress of the planning applications for the demolition of the Maltings, as well on the welcomed decision to provide £50,000 in funding to support the redevelopment of the rugby/football pitch at Bramshall Park.
- 26th January - Attended a meeting of the Staffordshire County Council Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Overview Committee. We heard presentations from the Public Health team on their childhood obesity strategy, which includes support for parents (such as free fruit and cooking lessons being available through Family Hubs) and schools, as well as linking with Borough Council Planning departments to look at issues such as the possibility of fast food/takeaway outlets opening near to schools. We also were given a presentation by the primary care team, who provided an update on primary care access to services

such as GPs, community pharmacies and social prescribers. It was highlighted that in the last year, GP appointments have increased by 3% across the County and pharmacy consultations by 28%. All those presenting were very clear though that it's impossible to expect the number of appointments to increase indefinitely, and the long-term solution is to focus on prevention and stopping people from getting ill.

- As ever, I have been working with residents on a number of individual issues, including housing and funding applications.

Councillor C Sylvester sought clarity on Borough Councillor Hawkins Report on the review of the Leisure Centre review. Borough Councillor Hawkins reported that the Review was referring to the Leisure Services Contract Quarterly Review and was not for the Leisure Centre.

The Chair expressed his thanks for the informative Combined Borough Councillor Report.

12. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that since the date of the last meeting and in conjunction with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, she had received/responded/issued/actioned a number of matters including the following:

- (a) Various SPCA E-Bulletins/Correspondence received Re: Explore Chairmanship Course: Tuesday 3rd February 7pm – 9pm dated 26 January 2026, Best Kept Village & Community Awards 2026 Briefings dated 28 January 2026, SPCA January 2026 Bulletin dated 29 January 2026, Estates with unadopted amenities - request for examples dated 30 January 2026, Health and Wellbeing How-to Training - 12th or 26th March dated 3 February 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (b) NALC Correspondence - NALC events dated 13 January 2026, S137 limit for 26-27 dated 15 January 2026, CEO Bulletin dated 15 January 2026, Woodland Trust's free Community Tree Packs dated 16 January 2026, NALC Events dated 20 January 2026, CEO's Bulletin dated 22 January 2026, CEO Bulletin dated 29 January 2026, Jobs newsletter dated 2 February 2026, We've published a new online resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution dated 2 February 2026, NALC Events Newsletter dated 3 February 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (c) SLCC Correspondence – SLCC Weekly News Digest dated 12 January 2026, Financial update FCSC & Procurement Detail dated 13 January 2026, SLCC Weekly News Digest – 19 January 2026, News Bulletin dated 22 January 2026 (plus issued to Council's Office Manager), SLCC Weekly News Digest dated 26 January 2026, SLCC Weekly News Digest - 02/02/2026 (plus issued to Council's Office Manager), as forwarded to Members.
- (d) SCC PTTRO Temporary or Emergency Road Closure Orders – various PTTRO's for Uttoxeter (4469192 - Holly Road received 2 February 2026, 4469442 - Hodge Lane, Scounslow Green received 3 February 2026, 4470575 – Road From Gorsty Hill To Highwood, Marchington Woodlands received 4 February 2026, 4469454 – Hobb Lane, Scounslow Green received 4 February 2026, 4469461 – Quee Lane, Willslock and Scounslow Green Road, Scounslow Green received 4 February 2026), as forwarded to Members and Staff.
- (e) Staffordshire Means Back to Business/SCC Newsletter dated 23 January 2026, as forwarded to Members and Staff.
- (f) The Defibrillator Check was carried out on 12 January 2026 and The Circuit duly updated.
- (g) Received an email dated 8 January 2026 from a member of the public Re: Is the Government's New Road Safety Strategy based on creditable evidence, or unknown complicit corruption, as forwarded to Members.
- (h) Received and responded to an email from a local resident on 13 January 2026 regarding queries on street signage and white lining. Council was advised that the local resident was encouraged to contact SCC directly.
- (i) Quarterly Pest Control carried out throughout the Town Hall on 12 January 2026.
- (j) Received email 14 January 2026 from Groundwork Re: Newsletter: January 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (k) Received and responded to an email on 15 January 2026 from a local Clerk seeking advice on their Council hosting a Mayoral Charity Dinner and seeking experiences from UTC.
- (l) 16 January 2026 - ARC Plumbing and Electrical carried out the annual services to the Town Hall and Adam Peaty Suite boilers and incorporated replacement valves where possible, funded by the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance budget allocation. Council was advised that all radiators within the Town Hall were in full working order.

- (m) Email dated 16 January 2026 from SCC Re: 'Staffy' unveiled as new visitor mascot, as forwarded to Members.
- (n) Received Email on 20 January 2026 from Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board Re: Revised: ICB Board meeting registration - January 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (o) 21 January 2026 PC Paynes Electrical carried out annual CCTV Service on the Council's CCTV cameras.
- (p) Meeting with the Mayor, Chair and Secretary of the local Branch of RBL regarding the restoration of the Town War Memorial and Reports and Martyn's Law for the Parade.
- (q) ES Business News - Issue 26 and ES News – Issue 47 dated 22 January 2026, as forwarded to Members and Staff.
- (r) Received and responded to emails between 21-23 January 2026 from a local business seeking information on the ownership of an area in Church Street. Council was advised that the local business had been encouraged to make contact with SCC direct.
- (s) Zurich carried out the Annual Inspections Under Insurance Contract on 22 January 2026 for the Electrically Heated Hot Water Supply Boiler (Santon), Hot Water Heating Boiler (Vaillant EcoTEC Plus), Hot Water Heating Boiler (Vaillant EcoTEC Plus), Diaphragm Type Pressurisation Vessel (150 Litres), Two off Safety Valve in connection with heating boilers and pressurisation unit (ES004), Hot Water Heating Boiler (Ideal Logic+ S24), Hot Water Heating Boiler (Joule 150L) and Diaphragm Type Pressurisation Vessel (12 Litres). Council was advised that all 'OK'.
- (t) Email dated 26 January 2026 from The National Allotment Association Re: West Midlands AOF - 6th March, as forwarded to Members.
- (u) Council was advised that Blithfield Construction completed the hedge planting project within the Cemetery and Cemetery extension on 31 January 2026.
- (v) Reported receipt of an email on 26 January 2026 from ESBC's Conservation Officer advising the Council that the replacement of existing 12 no. engraved plaques with 12 no. black granite plaques on the Millennium Monument including updating of one plaque with 'Gordon & Angela Stubbs - Town Poppy Appeal' and cleaning of the 4 no. bronze plaques would not require planning permission. Council was advised that during the Restoration Project, the Millennium Monument would have a thermatech clean, as agreed with ESBC's Conservation Officer. Council was reminded that funding for this project was Precept 2026-27 plus the Earmarked Reserve of £3,635, to be carried out by The Stonemasons of Worcester.
- (w) Council was reminded that during the works to the Millennium Monument, the Jubilee Stone Bench would be cleaned and repointed, in the sum of £250, funded by the 2026-27 Precept.
- (x) Received email from MMA on 27 January 2026 providing Council with the Listed Building Consent and Planning Consent for the side alley works and roof works to the Town Hall, as forwarded to Members.
- (y) Received and responded to a number of calls from local residents regarding trees blown over during the winds on 27 January 2026 along the B5013. Council was advised that this was reported to SCC and the necessary action was taken by SCC Highways Team to rectify. Council was advised that the Clerk issued County Councillor Allen with an email of thanks for SCC's Highways Team prompt action in the removal of the tree partially blocking the highway.
- (z) Received and responded to an email on 27 January 2026 from a local Group regarding submission of an additional S137 Sundry Grant towards their project.
- (aa) Received The Rural Bulletin dated 27 January 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (bb) Staffordshire Libraries in February on 29 January 2026, as forwarded to Members and Staff.
- (cc) Email on 29 January 2026 from The National Allotments Association (NAS) Re: West Midlands NAS Quarterly Meeting, as forwarded to Members.
- (dd) Site Meeting at the Cemetery on 29 January 2026 Re: hedge planting project.
- (ee) Email from SCC on 30 January 2026 Re: Artist and business call out to benefit from Staffy Trail and national showcase, as forwarded to Members and Staff.
- (ff) Reported that the Tree Planting and Hedge Planting Project was completed on 31 January 2026. Council is advised that, as discussed and agreed with Council's Cemetery Manager, the new pathway into/out of the extension remains closed off for the foreseeable future to not permit access into the extension.
- (gg) Council was advised that the Cemetery Manager will liaise with Croppers Grounds Maintenance regarding the incorporation of grass seed, where required within the extension

- in due course and that she will be meeting with Council's Grave Digger to produce grave plots within the extension, as in accordance with Guidelines and Planning Consent.
- (hh) Received an email on 2 February 2026 from ESBC Electoral Services Re: February Monthly Update, as issued to the Admin Team for their action.
- (ii) Welcome to Heart Month News dated 2 February 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (jj) Received an email on 2 February 2026 from a local resident, as issued to ESBC, as copied to the Town Council Re: Planning Application P/2026/00098, as forwarded to Members.
- (kk) Received and responded to an email from a member of the public regarding an overflowing manhole located off the pathway within Bramshall Park. Council is advised that the member of the public has been advised to liaise with ESBC's Open Spaces Team directly.
- (ll) Received and responded to an email on 2 February 2026 on behalf of Picknall Valley Preservation Group advising Council of the submission of Planning Application No. P/2026/00098 for 295 houses on land off Stafford Road. Council was advised that Representatives from Picknall Valley Preservation Group would be in attendance on 10 February 2026 to address Council on this Item.
- (mm) Received The Rural Bulletin dated 3 February 2026, as forwarded to Members.
- (nn) Email on 4 February 2026 from Bowcock & Pursall Re: Completed Lease for 32 Carter Street including provision of their closing file letter which they were required to provide the Council. Council was advised that the Lease had been placed in their strongroom for safekeeping together with a copy filed within the 32 Carter Street file within the Clerk's fireproof cabinet.
- (oo) Email from RSN Rural Funding Digest - February 2026 Edition on 4 February 2026, as forwarded to Members.

RESOLVED that with respect to 12(a)-(oo), the same be accepted and approved.

13. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

None received.

14. **POLICE UPDATE**

- (a) Council was reminded that information on Police Reports for Uttoxeter is available via <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/area/your-area/staffordshire/east-staffordshire/uttoxeter-town/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>
- (b) The following Police Drop In sessions would take place within the Town in February:
- 2nd - Library drop in 14:00-15:30
 - 3rd - Heath Community Centre 09:30-11:00
 - 4th - St Mary's Church cafe 10:30-12:00
 - 6th - Costa Coffee on the Retail Park 17:30-18:30
 - 12th - Saddlers Yard Cafe 11:00-12:30
 - 13th - Globe Eco Centre 10:30-12:00 (place of welcome)
 - 21st - Van at the Dovefields Retail Park 13:00-15:00
 - 23rd - Leek Building Society 10:00-12:00
 - 24th - Heath Community Centre 09:30-11:00
 - 25th - St Mary's Church Cafe 10:30-12:00
 - 27th - Globe Eco Centre 10:30-12:00 (place of welcome)
- Other Drop-in Sessions may be added throughout the month. Councillors attendance would be welcomed at any of the above Police Drop In sessions.

RESOLVED that with respect to 14(a)-(b) as above, the same be noted.

15. **ESBC - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Council was asked to make its comments on the undermentioned Planning Applications as received from ESBC:

- (a) P/2024/01375 - Reserved Matters application pursuant to outline approval (with details of access) under ref: P/2017/01307 to provide for the proposed erection of 90 No. dwellings (including associated garaging/parking), formation of town park and re-naturalisation of Picknall Brook and alteration of existing vehicular access off Hockley Road and Pinfold Street including details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (REVISED SCHEME) at Bamford Works, Pinfold Street, ST14 8BT.

- (b) P/2024/01376 - Erection of 27 No. dwellings with new vehicular access off Pinfold Street, associated garaging and parking, demolition of existing walls on Balance Street and Pinfold Street, erection of electricity sub-station, provision of public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure/enabling works (including re-naturalisation of bank to Picknall Brook) (REVISED SCHEME) at Bamford Works, Pinfold Street, ST14 8JB.
- (c) P/2026/00098 - Outline planning application for the erection of up to 295 dwellings (Class C3), with access, landscaping, sustainable drainage features and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for vehicular access from Stafford Road at Land At Stafford Road.

The Chair reminded Council of the address from member of the public under Item No. 3 Public Participation relating to 15(c). Following lengthy debate, it was

RESOLVED that with respect to Planning Application No.:

(i) P/2024/01375, Council:

- (a) Request that this application be included for consideration by the Borough Council's Planning Committee at its next available meeting.
- (b) Was unable to determine the total number of dwellings in the application and seeks clarification from ESBC's Planners on the exact number of separate dwellings and number of apartments within the application.
- (c) Wishes to express its concerns to ESBC's Planners with respect to:
 - The proposed access to/from Pinfold Street and Balance Street remains unsuitable for a development of this scale due to the extremely narrow carriageway, existing on-street parking and restricted visibility near the junction with Balance Street. These constraints are not sufficiently assessed or mitigated in the submitted Transport Assessment. There is no swept-path analysis provided to demonstrate how refuse, emergency or delivery vehicles will safely enter and exit the site without causing obstruction or conflict with other road users.
 - The increased traffic movements generated by the development, especially at peak times, will place additional pressure on an already constrained local road network. The Transport Assessment relies on generic modelling which does not reflect the real-world limitations of Pinfold Street, nor does it propose any traffic calming, waiting restrictions or pedestrian safety enhancements which will be at greater risk due to the narrowed footways and increased vehicle movements. The Assessment provided does not address how these risks will be mitigated.
 - The future management of the water ingress for the site given the site which is prone to flooding must be satisfied by ESBC prior to consent being granted.
 - The loss of the pocket park as included within the previous application which appears to have been replaced with a brick wall.
 - To the lack of parking provisions for residents and visitors within the site, in particular for the apartments.
 - The proposed access arrangements represent a risk to both highway safety and pedestrian wellbeing. The Transport Assessment underrepresents the severity of these issues and the development should not be approved unless an alternative, safe access arrangement is secured.
 - Inadequate Footpath provisions have been incorporated. Council request that, if this application is permitted, suitable appropriate Footpaths be incorporated into/from and throughout the development.
 - Council reiterates its previous comments, that it feels that the best way to protect the public open space for the future, is to request that ESBC formally adopt the public open space with a committed sum from the Developers for its future maintenance.

(ii) P/2024/01376, Council:

- (a) Request that this application be included for consideration by the Borough Council's Planning Committee at its next available meeting.
- (b) Wishes to express its concerns to ESBC's Planners with respect to:
 - The proposed access to/from Pinfold Street remains unsuitable for a development of this scale due to the extremely narrow carriageway, existing on-street parking and restricted visibility near the junction with Balance Street. These constraints are not sufficiently assessed or mitigated in the submitted Transport Assessment. There is no swept-path analysis provided to demonstrate how refuse, emergency or delivery vehicles will safely enter and exit the site without causing obstruction or conflict with other road users.
 - The increased traffic movements generated by the development, especially at peak times, will place additional pressure on an already constrained local road network. The Transport Assessment relies on generic modelling which does not reflect the real-world limitations of Pinfold Street, nor does it propose any traffic calming, waiting restrictions or pedestrian safety enhancements which will be at greater risk due to the narrowed footways and increased vehicle movements. The Assessment provided does not address how these risks will be mitigated.
 - The future management of the water ingress for the site given the site which is prone to flooding must be satisfied by ESBC prior to consent being granted.
 - To the lack of adequate parking provisions for residents and visitors within the site including for the apartments.
 - The proposed access arrangements represent a risk to both highway safety and pedestrian wellbeing. The Transport Assessment underrepresents the severity of these issues and the development should not be approved unless an alternative, safe access arrangement is secured.
 - Inadequate Footpath provisions have been incorporated. Council request that, if this application is permitted, suitable appropriate Footpaths be incorporated into/from and throughout the development.
 - Council reiterates its previous comments, that it feels that the best way to protect the public open space for the future, is to request that ESBC formally adopt the public open space with a committed sum from the Developers for its future maintenance.

(iii) P/2026/00098, Council

- (a) Request that this application be included for consideration by the Borough Council's Planning Committee at its next available meeting.
- (b) Objects to Planning Application No. P/2026/00098 due to the following:
 - Principle of Development:
 - The site is not a strategic site allocation and is outside of the settlement of Uttoxeter, entirely within the open countryside. There is no reason to depart from local or neighbourhood plan policy to support isolated development of this scale within the open countryside. Clearly this would set a dangerous precedent and could pre-empt the emerging local plan process. Furthermore, the tilted balance would not come into play as ESBC have a 5-year land supply as recently evidenced in appeals during 2025.
 - The site is not a sustainable location, isolated and disconnected from the town and its services.
 - Should the development include affordable homes these would have limited access to public transport and not be within walking distance of services in the Town Centre.

- Highways:
 - The proposed site only includes one ingress and egress for all vehicular movements. As the development exceeds 200 units it would need at least 2 points of access.
 - Stafford Road is already exceptionally busy and the proposed development would have a severe impact on highway safety.
 - The development would create unsafe access and increased congestion on Stafford Road, which conflicts with Local Plan Policies SP1, SP35 and DP7 requiring safe and sustainable transport impacts.
 - The local Community Speedwatch Team have carried out a number of Speedwatch sessions within Stafford Road which currently records over 600 vehicles using Stafford Road per hour at peak times which is prior to the additional vehicles this development would generate.
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA):
 - The crucial document in regard to future housing development is the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which identifies land that has potential for residential development in the Borough. The results of the SHLAA are used to identify strategic sites capable of allocation in the Local Plan. The Council's sustainability appraisal further refines the SHLAA sites to arrive at a strategy underpinned by sites that are sustainable.
 - Though Blounts Green Farm is included in the long list of potential plots of housing land in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2021 this is no indication of it being an appropriate site, and indeed it is listed (item 56 in the SHLAA Trajectory document) as being not achievable, deliverable, suitable or developable. A timescale of at least 15 years is given for it, not least as it is not within the Settlement Boundary and would seem to require changes to both the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan before it could be developed.
 - The most recent update to the SHLAA is the ESBC Note on 5 Year Land Supply Methodology 31st March 2025. 5YLS - Mar25 (using 637 SM & Inc C2)_FINAL.pdf This confirms that the Council have been able to demonstrate that a 5 year housing land supply has been maintained since the Local Plan was adopted in October 2015, and that identified deliverable sites more than cover the estimated housing needs figure (3271 total supply/637 annual to meet the Local Housing Need requirement = 5.13 years). These do not include the Blounts Green Farm site which is not mentioned in this document.
- Flooding:
 - The development would worsen flooding around the cemetery, within adjacent land and within Bramshall Park which would be contrary to SP27 and DP2, which require developments not to increase flood risk.
 - The Town Council wishes to express its serious concerns that, as advised by its Contractor carrying out the works to the Cemetery Extension, any further development of greenfield sites in proximity to the Cemetery (and adjacent greenfield) could have a detrimental impact on the site in terms of surface water and site drainage. The submission documents have not taken this into account in respect of impact of surrounding land uses and the impact of the scheme. The drainage strategy only considers on site matters, rather than the cumulative impact in the wider area which this development would significantly have.
- Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan:
 - The Public Consultation on the plan enabled residents to have their say in relation to the environment. The outcome demonstrated that

the public were opposed to development in the Picknall Valley. Uttoxeter residents suggested that:

- Picknall Valley should provide a green link for cyclists and walkers from the town centre through the JCB site, Hockley Road to the countryside.
- It is understood that over 3,000 residents have signed a petition stating that The Picknall Valley should be protected from inappropriate development. Access to open spaces and the countryside should be protected to allow residents of Uttoxeter to maximise their enjoyment of their rural surroundings and provide an attraction for new residents and visitors to the town. Green corridors, trees and green spaces should all be protected and where possible enhanced to protect habitats for flora and fauna and improve biodiversity.
- When asked how the Neighbourhood Plan can sustain and improve the natural environment the public wanted the Neighbourhood Plan to:
 - Help to sustain and create a network of green spaces and corridors within the town and to the surrounding countryside, and protect the landscape setting of the town, including the sensitive landscapes and valleys of the River Tean, River Dove and Picknall Brook.
- This ambition was realised in Policies E1 and E2 of the Plan itself:
 - Policy E1 – Uttoxeter's Network of Green Infrastructure:
 - The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to establish a network of green infrastructure, including existing trees, hedgerows, historic field patterns, the Strategic Green Gap and other such assets across the town linking the landscape setting with the urban area. Applications which retain and enhance such features and take the opportunity to re-introduce them into key sites, will be supported.
 - Clearly this proposed application would neither retain nor enhance these features.
 - The proposed development would cause substantial loss of habitat for local wildlife, including bats, swifts, swallows, house martins, badgers and other small mammals, and would not enhance the natural environment. The Picknall Valley is a major biodiversity resource as a whole, and development in one area damages biodiversity in the whole valley which forms the spine of the wildlife corridor through the town. There would be a severe impact on the decades old trees and hedges which, even where retained, would no longer form a joined-up habitat for wildlife.
 - This development would not maintain or enhance the biodiversity of the Picknall Valley and it would not leave the area in a measurably better state. Overall, the proposed development contributes little to the benefit of the countryside, and any suggested or implied benefits to the countryside are greatly outweighed by the disbenefits.
 - Policy E2 – Landscape and Setting:
 - New development should protect and where appropriate enhance the landscape setting of the town, and with a particular emphasis on the Picknall, Tean and Dove valleys. Planning applications that would result in the loss or fragmentation of this setting will not be supported. [...] All planning applications should demonstrate the extent to which they have respected and reinforced historic landscapes in general, and field patterns in particular.
 - This proposal would clearly lead to the loss and fragmentation of the Picknall Valley landscape. It cannot demonstrate how it would respect and reinforce the historic landscape.

- The proposed development would permanently remove important green space, harming local character and conflicting with SP30 and DP1, as well as the Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Plan's Design and Environment Policies, which are in place to protect green infrastructure and local distinctiveness.
- The proposed development includes Uttoxeter Town Footpath No. 20 which is well used by local residents and local Walking Groups.

It was noted that Borough Councillor P Krupski reported that she would contact ESBC's Planning Team to 'call in' Applications P/2024/01375, P/2024/01376 and P/2026/00098 to request that they be considered by ESBC's Planning Committee accordingly.

16. TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS – UP TO AND INCLUDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Council gave consideration to the Town Council Accounts up to and including 31 December 2025 as prepared by the RFO and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that the Accounts for up to and including 31 December 2025, be accepted and approved.

17. PRECEPT REQUIREMENT FOR 2026-27

The Clerk reported that:

- (a) As Resolved by Council on 13 January 2026, the Confirmed Precept Requirement for 2026-27 had been incorporated within the Council's website.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

- (b) The Mayor and the Clerk had produced the leaflet to the populus providing an update on the increase and where the additional requirement was being spent, as circulated to Members for comment.

RESOLVED that Members make contact with Councillor Houlihan or the Clerk by 13 February 2026 with any comments.

- (c) She had a conversation with ESBC's Principal Accountant on 3 February 2026 to confirm the increased Precept Requirement for 2026-27. She reported that the reduction in the Tax Base for the town was due to the reduction in empty properties. She reported that ESBC had introduced a premium at a higher rate in 2025-26.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

- (d) She had completed ESBC's Council Tax breakdown information for the Borough Council Tax leaflet for the Precept for Uttoxeter for 2026-27 which had been returned it to ESBC's Principal Accountant accordingly.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

18. CLOSURE OF GREGGS WITHIN THE HIGH STREET

Councillor Houlihan requested that this item be included in the Agenda and he requested Council consider contacting Greggs Head Office and the Landlord to express the Council's and residents disappointment at the closure of Greggs on 7 March 2026 which was a valuable asset to the Town's High Street. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to:

- (i) The Landlord and to Greggs to express Council's concern at the potential loss of Greggs within the High Street, a valuable asset to the Town centre, and to request that, as a matter of some urgency, they find a compromise on the lease/rent to retain Greggs within the High Street.
- (ii) Jacob Collier MP to express the Council's concern on the impact that absent landlords have on the Town centre and the High Street and seek his support in taking this matter to The House for due debate.

19. WAR MEMORIAL – RESTORATION PROJECT

As Recommended by the Policy and Planning Committee on 27 January 2026, to adhere to a potential completion date of 31 October 2026, Council gave consideration to revised quotations received via Council's Architect for the War Memorial Restoration Project (Phases I & II) including repairs and ThermaTech clean in the sum £13,014 plus vat plus Scaffolding Hire up to £3,000, plus Architect Fees of £1,800, Total Restoration Project in the sum of up to £17,814 plus vat. Council's instruction was sought.

Council was advised that the condition of the stone under/behind the planters cannot be assessed until the planters had been permanently removed (as Recommended in the Condition Report received from The Stonemasons of Worcester) and as agreed with the RBL.

- Council was reminded that £16,370 had been included within the Precept in addition to the current EMReserve 336 of £8,629.88 for the Restoration Project.
- Council was advised that Council's Architect had confirmed that any railings structure to be incorporated around the War Memorial would be subject to a separate Planning Application.
- Council was advised that the Clerk continues to liaise with various Partners regarding the design and installation of suitable railings. Council's instruction was sought.
- Council was advised that costings for suitable railings was not available at this stage.
- It was noted that the Town Council had previously contributed to ESBC towards the replacement of planters in 2024-25.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The quotations received via Council's Architect for the War Memorial Restoration Project (Phases I & II) including repairs and ThermaTech clean by The Stonemasons of Worcester in the sum £13,014 plus vat plus Scaffolding Hire from Southcroft Ltd of up to £3,000 plus Architect Fees of £1,800, in the sum of up to £17,814 plus vat, funded by the War Memorial budget allocation and the War Memorial EMR (not including any additional stone repairs/works required following removal of the wooden planters).
- (ii) The Clerk liaise with ESBC to progress conversations on the removal of the wooden planters and possible relocation within the town.
- (iii) The Clerk continue to liaise with the various Partners regarding the draft design (as agreed by the Policy and Planning Committee and Council) and the installation of suitable railings around the perimeter of the War Memorial, to be utilised to incorporate the Remembrance Wreaths during the Annual Parade and Service.
- (iv) The Clerk continue to provide Council with updates accordingly.

20. THE FORMER COACH AND HORSES IN CARTER STREET

Councillor P Krupski requested that this matter be included within the Agenda and she provided Council with an update from ESBC's Conservation Officer, as circulated to Members, regarding the progression of works at the former Coach and Horses in Carter Street as follows:

- *The Conservation Officer has been in communication with the owner and tenant of The White Hart and Coach and Horses in this matter for over a year.*
- *With regards to the scaffolding to the front and the Heras fencing to the side of the building, these are measures which have been enforced by ESBC's Building Control Team as a means of preventing further movement or collapse as well as protecting people and property from the same. This is an interim measure put in place whilst the owners of the building put together the planning and listed building applications to resolve the deterioration of the building.*
- *There have been some change of ownership whilst this has been going on which has delayed matters but recently ESBC have responded to a pre-application enquiry from the owner of the Coach and Horses via their Planning Agents.*
- *The Officers have since attended and appraised the scaffolding design which has been commissioned and the structural survey has also been commissioned but as yet we have seen neither of these reports.*

Councillor P Krupski provided Council with an update on the response from ESBC with regard to the pre-application enquiry received. Council's instruction was sought.

Council noted the importance of concerns being raised at the earliest opportunity about the appearance and condition of Listed Buildings within the Town to enable liaison with ESBC's Conservation Officer and Planning Team to take place prior to buildings becoming in such poor conditions as such as the former Coach and Horses and the former Wheatsheaf. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with ESBC's Conservation Officer to:

- (i) Seek an update on the receipt of the Structural Survey, its findings and a way forward.
- (ii) Express the Council's concerns that the building is in an unsafe and potentially dangerous condition and advise that the scaffolding incorporated is obstructing the pavement.

21. HIGH STREET BOLLARD UPDATE

The Clerk reminded Council of its Resolution from its meeting on 13 January 2026 and she reported receipt of an email dated 29 January 2026 from SCC's Community Highways Manager advising Council that *'Thank you for your email of the 16 January 2026 to Cllr Allen and myself. I have discussed this matter with Cllr Allen and we remain very disappointed with the Town Councils response on this matter, given the initial feasibility reports and the recommissioning of the bollard were in response to Town council requests for the High Street to be managed. I am discussing the way forward in respect to the rising bollard with colleagues in the County and as such the bollard will remain in the down position. As part of this discussion, we need to consider how the High Street will operate moving forward and this will include a review of the activities that currently take place in the High Street in line with the current traffic regulation orders.'* Council was reminded that County Councillor Allen had provided an update within his County Councillor Report. Council's instruction was sought.

The Clerk reported receipt of an email on 6 February 2026 from County Councillor Allen asking for the Town Council to provide him with *'a list of all events that use High Street, and details of the permissions or orders relied upon to authorise any road closures or access restrictions. As High Street is a public highway which the town council have pointed out on many occasions, it's important we understand the basis for these arrangements. Thank you for your assistance.'*

The Chair sought Council's comments. Councillor Z Krupski reported that as included within County Councillor Allen's Report under Item No. 11(a), it stated that *'In good faith, SCC offered the Town Council full operational control of access to the High Street during these hours. This was considered a far more robust and accountable solution than the use of remote control centres, which we do not regard as an acceptable or secure long-term arrangement.'* He reported that SCC should have consulted with the Town Council prior to the bollard being replaced regarding the monitoring of the bollard which the Town Council were not aware of until the request was received from SCC on 19 December 2025. He reported that the solution for monitoring the high Street bollard was via a 'remote control centre' or by SCC itself.

He reiterated Councillor P Krupski's comment earlier in the meeting that the comment about 'meaningful change to the High Street will not be achieved while East Staffordshire Borough Council continues to delay the Maltings regeneration' was factually incorrect, ESBC had not delayed the refurbishment of the Maltings which was progressing.

The Chair reported that the former County Councillor had on a number of occasions reported to Council that SCC would be replacing, maintaining and monitoring the High Street bollard. He expressed his concern that the correspondence received implied potential use of the High Street for town centre events could be used as leverage.

Councillor Boot reported that SCC had confirmed that the Town Council would have full control of the bollard which would be easily controlled by a mobile phone.

Councillor Z Krupski reiterated that 'if this could be easily carried out by the Town Council,' why were SCC not carrying this out given that Highways remained a County Council responsibility.

It was noted that further debate ensued regarding the monitoring of the High Street bollard and potential legal litigation implications to the Town Council. Councillor Boot reported that he would be looking into this matter. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The Clerk liaise with County Councillor Allen and SCC's Community Highways Manager to advise that their correspondence has been deferred for consideration by the Town Centre Forum at its next meeting.
- (ii) The Town Centre Forum consider the following at its next meeting:
 - (a) The correspondence received from SCC's Community Highways Manager dated 29 January 2026 and County Councillor Allen dated 6 February 2026.
 - (b) The Town Centre Forum be tasked with providing the information as requested by County Councillor Allen regarding '*a list of all events that use High Street, and details of the permissions or orders relied upon to authorise any road closures or access restrictions*' which would include the Annual Remembrance Parade, Christmas Lights Switch, Cracker Night, Makers Market and the Festivals which all have a significant impact on the Town.
 - (c) Liaise with local Partners regarding the historically important events which all contribute to the economic health of the town centre and encourage attendance their attendance at the Town Centre Forum meeting.

22. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE LINK ROAD/CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF THE BRAMSHALL MEADOWS ESTATE

Councillor Mansfield requested it be recorded that he was the Vice-Chair of Governors at Bramshall Meadows First School. He reported that he had requested this matter be included within the Agenda and he provided Council with an update on progress of the link road/connection between the two sides of the Bramshall Meadows estate as follows:

- There was now a 'connection' open between the two sides of the Bramshall Meadows estate.
- As a 'link road' was not secured by condition during the initial planning process, the view of the developer is that their obligations have now been met. The connection is fairly tight and winds across various streets on the north side of the estate. Officers from ESBC are working with the developer to secure requirements for the bus route that was agreed for the estate.
- Bramshall Meadows First School have had longstanding concerns in relation to road safety for whenever the link road/connection was opened and they are anecdotally seeing more traffic on the road and more cars travelling at higher speed. They would like the developer to engage with them in relation to this ahead of the County Council eventually adopting the roads on the estate.

It was noted that Members expressed their disappointment with the above mentioned update on the 'link road' and it was noted Council supports ESBC in progressing the requirements for the bus route for the estate. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillor Johnstone liaise with The Community Speedwatch Team to request that they consider including Bramshall Meadows within future Community Speedwatch sessions.
- (ii) The Clerk write to the Developer to request that they liaise with Bramshall Meadows First School and identify ways in which the risk to children safety from road traffic can be reduced.

23. LOCAL SCHOOLS 'EXHIBITION OF NATURE' AND 'YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT' – USE OF THE TOWN HALL

Councillor Hawkins requested that Council gave consideration to offering the hire of the Town Hall, free of charge, to the Uttoxeter schools in support of the Council's Commitment for Biodiversity, Nature for the Town and encouraging involvement from younger residents and visitors of the town for the following:

- (a) An Exhibition of the Nature promoting the work they have done recently. Date to be determined. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that Council permits the hire of the Town Hall, free of charge, to the Uttoxeter Schools for 'An Exhibition of the Nature', date to be determined.

- (b) A 'Youth Climate Action Summit' on 21 April 2026. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that Council permits the hire of the Town Hall, free of charge, to the Uttoxeter Schools for a 'Youth Climate Action Summit' on 21 April 2026.

24. **WE LOVE UTTOXETER COMMUNITY HUB, ST JOHN'S HALL**

The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 14 January 2026 from the Chair of The Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire advising Council that the Foundation was currently reviewing the quotations for the refurbishment works for the We Love Uttoxeter Community Hub located at St John's Hall and they were hopeful that they would commence with the refurbishment in February 2026 and that they would endeavour to keep the Council updated.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The same be noted and welcomed.
- (ii) The Clerk liaise with the Chair of The Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire to seek an update on:
 - (a) Anticipated timeframe for the refurbishment project to be completed.
 - (b) What services are going to be provided by The Foundation from the 'We Love Uttoxeter Community Hub' including its promotion for use by the community.

25. **NALC - MODEL I.T. POLICY AS RECEIVED 22 JANUARY 2026**

Council was advised that NALC issued a I.T. Policy Model on 22 January 2026 in readiness for Assertion 10, which was currently being reviewed by the Office Manager and MidMC. The Draft I.T. Policy would be included for consideration by Council at its meeting scheduled to take place on 10 March 2026.

RESOLVED that the Draft I.T. Policy be included for consideration/adoption by Council on 10 March 2026.

26. **SAFE PLACE SCHEME**

Council was advised that a Teams Meeting took place with Chief Inspector Neeson, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk and ESBC's Partnership Officer on 6 February 2026 to discuss a Safe Places Scheme within the Town.

The Chair reported that during the meeting a general discussion took place and it was noted that Uttoxeter was generally a safe place to visit and shop and at this time, there was no evidence to suggest that 'safe places' were required within the town centre and that at this time, there was no requirement under Martyn's Law to provide such safe places. He reported that ESBC's Partnership Officer would provide Council with an update should this change.

He reported that during the meeting debate had taken place on the ease of finding helpline numbers for those who made need access to a number of services. It was agreed that the Clerk produce a Poster, which had been circulated to Members, for inclusion within the town centre noticeboards, the Town Hall window, the Bus Station electronic noticeboard, library, leisure centre, GP Surgeries, Wildfred House, Heath Community Centre, We Love Uttoxeter Community Hub, Churches, Pubs, Cafes, the Cinema and Bowling Alley, Supermarkets and within the Cemetery Chapel.

RESOLVED that Members make contact with Councillor Houlihan or the Clerk by 13 February 2026 with any comments on the draft 'Helpline Contact Numbers' poster, in readiness for promotion.

27. BRADLEY STREET TOILETS – REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Councillor P Krupski reported receipt of an update from ESBC's Enterprise Team dated 19 January 2026 regarding the refurbishment of Bradley Street Toilets. She reported that the works commenced on 26th January and a full closure of the main toilets was in place during the works of between 6-8 weeks. She reported that toilet facilities were available during the works within the library or via the portable toilets provided by the contractor and/or within the existing disabled toilets. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and welcomed.

28. THE MALTINGS – UPDATE

Borough Councillor P Krupski provided Council with an update from ESBC's Planning Team and ESBC's Regeneration Team regarding the Maltings as follows:

- *Planning Team Update - Re: Demolition of the Maltings, Uttoxeter (ref: P/2025/00572):*
 - *In relation to any (former) Co-op building demolition there is no current registered application for planning permission relating to this.*
 - *With regard to the proposed demolition of the Maltings application (P/2025/00572) – there is ongoing dialogue with the agents on this case and we are awaiting their next response. There will be new/revised submissions in due course and therefore further consultations with all parties (town councillors, public and of course Cllrs etc. will take place) but the exact timing of the arrival of those documents is not known at this stage.*
- *Report from the Regeneration Office:*
 - *In relation to the Co-op Demolition application, following some comments received on the precinct application with regards to the landscaping/connection between the Maltings and the High Street, a slight amendment has been made (with discussions on it concluding earlier this month).*
 - *The amendment will be included in the precinct application but also the Co-op Demolition application.*
 - *The Co-op application should be submitted next month, having spoken with our architects on the project.*

Councillor Hawkins reported that he had liaised with ESBC's Head of Service regarding specific questions from English Heritage which had now been resolved by ESBC's Architect and that ESBC were now awaiting a response from English Heritage. He reported that cladding would be incorporated onto the High Street shops. He reported that the UK Shared Prosperity Funding had ceased and that no areas in East Staffs were benefiting from its replacement, at present.

RESOLVED that Councillor P Krupski continue to provide Council with updates on The Maltings.

29. CEMETERY EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE

The Chair reported that the Tree and Hedge Planting Project was completed on 31 January 2026 in the sum of £14,076.75 plus vat (including hedge and tree provisions), funded by the Cemetery Extension Hedge and Tree Project budget allocation. Council was advised that the surplus hedge quicks had been incorporated within the gaps within the boundary hedge off Stafford Road (Contractors entrance).

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

30. WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE – COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER (CFR) UPDATE

The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 3 February 2026 from West Midlands Ambulance Service Regional Community Response Manager advising Council that following the closing of the CFR recruitment advert, *'at least one application for Uttoxeter CFR scheme has been invited for interview so hopefully this will have a positive outcome. I will update you when I have more information.'*

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

31. THE WHEATSHEAF, FORMER PUBLIC HOUSE

The Clerk reminded Council of its Resolution from its meeting on 13 January 2026 and she reported receipt of an email on 2 February 2026 from ESBC's Conservation Officer advising that they would email the Landowner and urge them to contact the Town Council.

The Chair reported receipt of an email on 10 February 2026 from the Owner of the Wheatsheaf who would *'be happy to discuss attending a Town Council or Policy and Planning meeting to update them of our intentions at some point in the future but at this stage, a closed meeting to discuss potential ideas for this site would be more helpful which would allow all parties to discuss and allow us to prepare some proposals for the future of this site. Our Planning Consultant is happy to attend this meeting, and I am sure ESBC's Planning Manager and Conservation Officer would also wish to attend as they have followed this site closely for the last couple of years, also copied to Councillor Allen as he has shown a keen interest in improving this area of Uttoxeter. Our schedule for February is now quite full but if you have some date mid-March hopefully we will be able to secure a date that all would be available to attend and of course anyone in your office who would like to be involved'*. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that the Clerk liaise with the Owner of the Wheatsheaf Site to extend them an invitation to the Council Meeting on 10 March 2026 along with ESBC's Planning Manager and Conservation Officer, to provide Council with an update on intentions/ideas for the site, in private as requested.

It was noted that Councillor Boot abstained from the above mentioned vote.

32. ESBC - CONSULTATION ON A NEW SELECTIVE LICENSING DESIGNATION

The Clerk reported receipt of an email on 27 January 2026 from ESBC's Environmental Health advising Council that ESBC was proposing to introduce Selective Licensing to an additional 16 streets in the borough and was keen to hear your views. The consultation was available from 23 January 2026 for 10 weeks and will close on 3rd April 2026, as forwarded to Members on 27 January 2026. Council's comments were sought.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

33. SCC INFORMATION GOVERNANCE SUPPORT – JANUARY 2026 BULLETIN

The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 16 January 2026 received from Council's Data Protection Officers providing Council with a copy of the above mentioned, as issued to Members and Council's Office Manager.

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

34. PENINSULA – COUNCIL'S HR PROVIDER

The Clerk reported receipt of the following emails, as issued to Members, Council's Office Manager and Council's Payroll Provider:

- (a) First Employment Rights Act 2025 dates confirmed dated 12 January 2026.
- (b) Your monthly newsletter is here dated 16 January 2026.
- (c) Why Objections Are Not The Problem dated 20 January 2026.
- (d) BRAINBOX+ supports you with the Employment Rights Act 2025 changes dated 21/1/26.
- (e) HR Compliancy has changed. Are you ready? Dated 27 January 2026.
- (f) Your HR obligations are changing this April dated 27 January 2026.
- (g) National Sickie Day 2026: harmless or harmful? Dated 30 January 2026.
- (h) Are your contracts up to date? Dated 2 February 2026.
- (i) ACT Now: Stay compliant with our new webinar series dated 3 February 2026.
- (j) Employment Rights Act 2025: It's your chance to change the consultation phase dated 3 February 2026.
- (k) Grab your spot before it's too late! (Contracts) dated 4 February 2026.

RESOLVED that with respect to 34(a)-(k) as above, the same be accepted and approved.

35. HMRC SUPPORT

The Clerk reported receipt of the following, as forwarded to Members and Council's Payroll Provider:

- (a) Get record keeping right: essential guidance from HMRC National Minimum Wage and ACAS dated 14 January 2026.
- (b) Why reporting accurate information in real time matters dated 30 January 2026.

RESOLVED that with respect to 35(a)-(b) as above, the same be accepted and approved.

36. STAFFORDSHIRE PENSION FUND

The Clerk reported receipt of the Staffordshire Pension Fund Employer Focus dated 30 January 2026, as forwarded to Members and Council's Office Manager and Council's Payroll Provider:

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the members of the public for their attendance and participation within the meeting. It was noted that they left the meeting at this time.

37. COUNCIL IN PRIVATE – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was requested that the public and press were not present due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and were asked to withdraw.

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

It was noted that Members of the Personnel Appeals Committee and the Clerk had not been issued with the Personnel Committee Recommendations, which had been issued to Members directly by Council's Office Manager by email on 4 February 2026 and hard copy in separate sealed envelope.

It was noted that Councillors Hawkins, Mansfield and C Sylvester and the Clerk separately left the Chamber prior to Item No. 38 and Council's Office Manager was the Proper Officer in attendance for this item.

38. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Personnel Committee from its meeting held on 14 January 2026, as issued to Members via Council's Office Manager by email on 4 February 2026 and hard copy in separate sealed envelope.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 14 January 2026, be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes, filed within the Personnel Minute Book.

It was noted that Councillors Boot and Wain abstained from the above mentioned vote.

It was noted that Councillors Hawkins, Mansfield and C Sylvester and the Clerk were asked to return to the meeting at this time. The Clerk resumed as Proper Officer.

39. RBL UPDATE – ROUTE OF THE ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Council was advised that an update would be provided by the local Branch of RBL following their meeting on 17 February 2026 regarding the route of the Parade, as previously reported.

RESOLVED that upon receipt of an update, this matter be included for further consideration by Council, in private.

40. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Clerk reported receipt of an email on 26 January 2026 from The Leader Staffs Moorlands District Council 'Thanks for keeping us up to date and for the decision made at UTC, much appreciated. We are expecting the LGR consultation run by Government to commence in early February. Your council will have the opportunity to participate in that as a defined stakeholder in the process.'

The Chair reported receipt of two emails since the issue of the Agenda, as received from SPCA and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council advising Council a period of Statutory Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation had commenced until 26 March 2026 and providing information on the Options submitted which had been forwarded to Members. He reported that the correspondence received had been included for consideration by Council at its meeting on 10 March 2026.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

41. **STAFFING INCLUDING TRAINING**

- (a) The Chair reported the staff lieu time hours for up to 6 February 2026 is 23¾. Council was reminded of the previous two months lieu time hours were 21¾ (2 January) and 31¾ (30 November).

RESOLVED that the same be accepted and approved.

It was noted that Councillor Boot abstained from the above mentioned vote.

- (b) The Mayor reminded Council that the Fulltime Administrative Assistance will commence her employment on Monday, 16 February 2026, working Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm within the Town Hall.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

- (c) Events Team Update – The Chair provided Council with an update from the Events Team on events/interments since the date of the last meeting as follows:

• Ballroom Events/bookings	5
• Tea Dances	2
• Craft & Produce	1
• ADS Events/bookings	0
• Cemetery Interments	4

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

42. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None received.

The meeting was closed at 8.58 pm.