QUARNFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the Parish Council held at Flash Village Hall on Weds 26th August 2026 at 7.00pm
Present:

Chair: Mr Andy Thorogood (AT)
Parish Councillors: Mr Chris Candy (CC) Mrs E Chester (EC), Mrs Tracey Robinson (TR) Mrs J McCulloch (JM), Mr G Tunnicliffe (GT), Mr D Brockley
7 members of the public present
Cllr Charlotte and Cllr Callum
Clerk – Mrs C Withington (CW)

1.	**To receive apologies –** None.	
2.	**To approve and sign the minutes of the last meeting on 20th May 2026 – as attached** **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were signed as true and accurate record by the Chair at the meeting.	
3.	**Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda** *(Note member should notify Monitoring officer within 28 days if not already. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships)* *EC for topping field.* *CC for materials for playing field.*	
4.	**Public Participation:** A number of residents attended to relay the issues regarding the parking issues in Knotbury and the proposed solutions. Double yellow lines will not be possible across the whole area, Knotbury however will be considered for these and £5k to be used via Cllr Kelly's Divisional Highway Programme funding, as confirmed by Cllr Kelly. Cllr Kelly noted that this is subject to informal and formal consultation by Highways officers. A resident stated that they have asked every resident and they are in support within Knotbury. There was some also concern around the support given to Knotbury residents by the Parish Council in the past. The Chair noted that there has been no correspondence received regarding this issue directly with the Parish Council. It was also noted that an open meeting was held in June 2023 to discuss parking issues overall. At the time it was considered that double yellow lines would have pushed the problem elsewhere and other options such as parking bays were looked at, but only where the road can take 2 vehicles. The residents have been monitoring the situation for over the last 3 months and have now requested action is taken.	
5.	**Traffic issues – due to parking and road closures – Knotbury and other areas** **RESOLVED** to bring the item forward onto the agenda for further consideration. It was agreed that Knotbury is not suitable for parking on this scale – but other impacts within the Parish need to be considered eg some holiday lets have limited or no parking. Flash is not suitable for double yellow lines as it would stop residents and their visitors from parking on the road. Comments were submitted on a recent planning application regarding lack of parking for large holiday lets, which was not taken on board. Existing TROs are in place already but signs are missing. Cllr Kelly is looking into this.	**Cllr Kelly**

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	RESOLVED to support the motion to back a proposed scheme in Knotbury to address the problem in principle at this stage, with the caveat that in 18 months the effects of this will be looked at. Also that the consultation takes place informally and then formally. The Chair noted that Peak Park are also looking at car park provision currently. A request to move the Google pins has also been made by the residents for the pins to be corrected and moved to formal car parks. AT to send the map to Peak Parks Authority regarding suggested areas for new car parks and to copy to Cllr Kelly. Other parking alternatives should be publicised such as Wildboarclough car park. It was suggested that signs are put out to say when the car parks are full and to go to Wildboarclough. Cllr Kelly is also requested to ask for the white lines to be reinstated. Reports for other roads to be made to Cllr Kelly. It was noted that all emails to Cllr Kelly on the matter to also be copied to Karen Bradley MP. The current closure of the A54 out of Buxton to the junction with Cat and Fiddle road is causing issues to improve safety. Diversions are taking people through the villages and are using the Flash to Allgreave road as a cut through instead of the official diversion. It was noted that a possible cut through located well before Flash has also been closed to prevent it being used. This should be open to non HGV traffic as it already has a 7.5T limit. Although the signs have been removed. Roadwork will be taking place until the end of October. Also Dane Valley way is closed temporarily. There is a 'No through route' for HGVs and also clear diversion signs on Staffordshire side. Cllr Kelly to follow this up. AT has suggested to Highways that a reduced speed limit is put forward during road works. It was noted that Cllr Kelly can obtain average speed using GPS information. EC to send the report regarding the damaged 30mph sign to Cllr Kelly. Other issues to be forwarded to the Karen Bradley MP regarding police input required for speeding vehicles. Ros from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust was in attendance and noted that if necessary gates can be installed on SWT access land (off the BOAT) if it becomes an issue. Contact details were passed across.	**AT** **Cllr Kelly** **All** **EC** **Cllr Kelly**
6.	**Planning applications (Peak District National Park planning portal)** 1) None as yet To agree Delegated authority to Chair and Clerk to submit comments for any applications received between the meetings – **RESOLVED** to agree.	
7.	**Review of policies- see Appendix A1, A2, A3** • Biodiversity Policy • Complaint policy • H&S Policy **RESOLVED** to note and approve.	
8.	**Inspection of Parish Assets** AT has inspected the noticeboards. The boards will need to be locked with a bolt to be put on the outside to ensure they stay shut. Staffordshire Moorland Defib (AED Donate maintained) – Noted that this is checked by First Responders. Playing Field – Inspection to be carried out, TR attends regularly and has completed visual inspections. Report to be sent to the Clerk by TR.	**AT** **TR**
9.	**Playing Field** 1) Fencing work and step improvements - update on funding bids and PCC request EC has applied for grant app (16 week turnaround) for National Lottery funding.	

	Awaiting outcome on the SCC for the ownership for the other grant. Noted that £3k is also available end of August for the footpath. 2) To approve the funding bid to progress the installation of play equipment – **RESOLVED** to agree the approach. 3) Monthly visual and Quarterly written Inspections and actions to be agreed – **see Appendix B to follow -** TR to carry out inspection. Signs to be installed by CC.	**TR** **CC**
10.	**Lengths man scheme – up to £400 for reimbursement for village appearance** To consider projects – Planters, safety rails, signs etc. It was agreed that a replacement brass plaque will be installed for the goal posts. Noted that we are still awaiting funds from last year and PO for this year – The Clerk has had confirmation that the funds will be paid in next 30 days for last invoice and a new PO issued.	**EC**
11.	**Traffic issues – due to parking and road closures – Knotbury and other areas** Discussed earlier on the agenda.	
12.	**Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC)** 1) LGR update if available The merge with Stoke City Council and Newcastle Borough Council has now been accepted. Elections to take place for shadow authority May 2027 to allow it to bed in. District Councillor roles continue until March 2028. Proposed warding to be submitted on the same basis as the proposal – 2 or 3 reps per existing County division. Stoke will be one per ward. Leek Rural will be 2 cllrs, Leek South will have 3 cllrs. A boundary review will be carried out between 2028 and 2032. Parish Council term may be extended for 5 years, subject to legislation to coincide with elections. Assets to be transferred to the new authority. AT to look into it and seek advice. April 2027 is the last date for the disposals. 2) Invite to attend Town and Parish networking event taking place at Moorlands House on Friday October 9th between 1 and 4pm – Noted. 3) Locality Plans and meetings with SMDC – Noted that nothing in plan at the moment for the Parish. The survey has been completed. 4) Call for Evidence – request for practical, member-led suggestions on the policies, powers, procedures and partnership arrangements that the new unitary councils should adopt to strengthen local democracy and improve outcomes for communities. **– see Staffs Parish Council Association bulletin circ 11.08 –** Noted. 5) To consider making the following request in relation to Neighbourhood Governance model - **see Appendix C:** 1. Call on our local Member of Parliament to press the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to: a. Ensure that parish and town councils are formally recognised as key partners within the emerging neighbourhood governance framework; b. Guarantee that the forthcoming regulations and guidance clearly set out how parish and town councils will be integrated into neighbourhood governance structures; c. Provide assurance that new neighbourhood governance arrangements will not duplicate functions or undermine the democratic legitimacy of parish and town councils. 2. Write to the MP enclosing this motion and requesting active lobbying on behalf of parish and town councils during the development of regulations under the EDCE Bill. 3. Engage with our principal authority to express the Council's expectation that parish and town councils be meaningfully involved in shaping local responses to the neighbourhood governance duty. Publicly communicate this Council's position to residents, reaffirming our commitment to maintaining strong, local, democratic representation. **RESOLVED** to approve and action.	**AT** **Clerk**

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	Noted that minor planning applications after end of October will be decided by officers. Also to apply to call in for other decisions.	
13.	**Public Footpaths and Highways issues – to be reported** 1) To note the outcome of the Rights of Way Panel held on 14 March 2025 which approved the recommendation for the BOAT to be put on the definitive map https://staffordshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=17368&Ver=4 Noted that this has been reinstated as a BOAT and that a stopping up order would be required through Highways to formally extinguish the path. Cllr Kelly to be requested to consider for DHP scheme in future. Evidence to be obtained and also reported to the Police to build a case.	**Cllr Kelly**
14.	**Project Gigabit update for post codes SK17 0SU and SK17 0SS** The upgrade only relates to the areas connected to the Wincle exchange. AT has been pushing for an update but is still unable to receive confirmation as to when it will be installed. Karen Bradley MP and Baroness Lloyd have also been requesting action but there is nothing further other than it is still on plan (4 Sept 2026). When BT switch off the analogue phone system scheduled for Jan 2027, then as BT Digital Voice system will not work for very long lines, it may leave some residents without any phone connection as they also do not get a mobile signal in their house.	
15.	**Correspondence – if any** Support Staffordshire membership was discussed and currently not agreed to go ahead. Issue with brown bins to be reported to Cllr Beswick by all.	**All**
16.	**Finance (CC, AT, GT) signatories:** To approve the bank reconciliation statement up to 10th August 2026 - The Chair approved the bank reconciliation statement. To agree any other payments as notified at the meeting – **RESOLVED** to agreed the below list To authorise payments as follows by cheque – Initial stubs and authorisation sheet – Payments were approved to be made by BACS. **Chq no Bacs no Details Total** 14 Leek Signs (Paid) 132.00 15 SCC legal fees final registration play area Closed file 94.08 16 SRA field topping 96.00 17 Chris Candy materials 45.00 **Receipts:** 31-May 1.59 Bank Interest 30-Jun 1.76 Bank Interest 31-Jul 1.70 Bank Interest	
17.	**Next meeting (Nov, Feb, May, Aug)** To agree the date of the next meeting – Weds 25th November 2026 7pm	

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……Signed ……..Dated

Bank Reconciliation Statement

10/08/2026	QPC Bank Reconcillation	
Cashbook		
	Bal b/f	**4255.66**
	payments	-2394.63
	receipts	1411.28
	Bal c/f	**3272.31**
Bank accounts		
10.08.26	current	1030.13
10.08.26	reserve	2358.61
	Bal c/f	**3388.74**
Less unpresented chqs	SPCA - bacs ref 5	116.43
Plus unpresented receipts		0
Adjusted bank balance	**Bal c/f**	**3272.31**

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