

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH** meeting of Staverton Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 6.30 pm at Staverton Village Hall.

CHAIR Nick Woodall READ OUT THE EMERGENCY FIRE DRILL

The meeting started at 6.30 pm.

82. PRESENT: Chair Nick Woodall, Vice Chair Jeff Gibson, Cllr Richard Blueitt, Cllr Claire Braham, Cllr Mark Frati, Cllr Kevin Lamb, Cllr Jon Miller and Parish Clerk June Jones

Attending: Wiltshire Cllr Trevor Carbin, Resident: Les Bingham

83. APOLOGIES: None

84. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 19th May 2025. This was held to be a true record.

85. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Trevor Carbin

Wiltshire Council

This time last year we were going through the election process which produced a 'hung' council – of the 98 seats there were 43 Lib Dems, 37 Conservatives, 10 Reform, 7 Independents and 1 Labour. Since then one Independent has joined the Conservatives. The administration (Lib Dems, Independents and Labour) has the narrowest possible majority so there are some close votes at times!

The budget of £567m was though agreed. The area putting the biggest pressure on council finances continues to be the cost of providing care, which has increased considerably in the last five years. According to the National Audit Office there's been a 10% increase in demand across the country, but a 96% increase in the cost.

Wiltshire Plan

The council has now had to effectively kill off the plan before going to Public Enquiry, because the inspectors given the job of considering it decided it wasn't fit for purpose. Unfortunately WC planners have been put in an impossible position by central government. They'll start work on a new one, but in the meantime the county continues to be vulnerable to all sorts of speculative developments on sites which in normal times would be seen as unsuitable.

New Lottery / Area Board grants

The 'Wiltshire Community Lottery' will give local clubs, groups, charities and organisations which benefit Wiltshire residents a way to raise money through an online weekly draw. Lottery tickets will go on sale soon, with the first weekly prize draw taking place early summer. Tickets cost £1 each, with a chance to win prizes of up to £25,000.

Meanwhile grants are still available through the Area Board. Funding is available for community projects, with separate budgets for youth, and health & wellbeing schemes.

Topping tipping tables

Wiltshire Council is the best in the West when it comes to busting fly-tippers. For all types of enforcement the number of actions was 254 in the 2025/6 financial year, which is 6.3 per thousand residents. BaNES in comparison scored just 1.3. Actions include 12 completed prosecutions and 74 fixed penalty notices.

Speed Limits

The council is reviewing its speed limit policy, with a view to making it simpler to implement 20mph limits in residential areas. WC Highways are though adamant that it shouldn't apply to main roads through villages and towns even where those might also be seen as 'residential'.

On local matters:

Judging for the first round of the Best Kept Village is underway. There's more competition this year – Staverton is up against Hilperton, Holt, Box and Bratton.

Planning officers refused the retrospective application for the 3m fence at Emmaus School, due to harm to the setting of the Victorian school building and to the wider Streetscene. The school has the option of reducing the fence or going to appeal. Officers also pointed out that the school has apparently ignored a condition on their previous application requiring biodiversity net gain, and enforcement have been asked to investigate.

Slipway trees – three new ones have gone in to replace some of those which died.

86. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT – Cllr Nick Woodall

Another year of ups and downs. We've managed to modernise the village hall by getting it connected to broadband, enabling better use of the CCTV and Hive systems. Thank you to Jeff and Rich for the ongoing battle with BT to get this done.

Unfortunately two rounds of vandalism to the hard-court area has meant it has been out of action for a long period. This has been an annoyance to residents and councillors who have spent free time trying to rectify it without costing too much.

We have continued to oppose WC over local housing plans which are ongoing. And new plans for School Lane are still being discussed.

Cereal Partners expansion hopefully has bought closer ties between the company and the community.

Finally, I would like to thank all the councillors for their continued efforts in all matters, it is appreciated. I would also like to thank June for her enormous contribution to the council, we really can't do it without you.

87. CLERK'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – June Jones

A year ago we said a sad goodbye to Cllr Amy Meigh and long serving Councillor, Ray Symonds. However we were delighted to welcome our new Councillor Jon Miller who has already rolled up his sleeves and pitched in to help other councillors carry out repairs to the repeatedly vandalised tennis court fencing. We were also sad to receive the resignation of our excellent volunteer editor of the Newsletter Simon Withers who has done us proud for 3 years. We hope to be able to fill this position very soon.

It has been a busy year for repairs and renewals. The wooden fence bordering the playing field and Cygnet Way was rotten in places and the parish council instructed JJO Fencing and Gardening to replace the whole run of fencing at a cost of £2,500. WIFI was laid on to the village hall via a trench across the car park at a cost of approx. £1,000. Getting BT to quote for this took our brave Vice Chair Jeff Gibson nearly to the brink and took months to get work done. The distressed door glass of a noticeboard was replaced at a cost of £222. Work will start in the summer on resurfacing the car park next to the village hall. Unfortunately the bus stop at the end of Elm Close was damaged by a vehicle and insurers have been called in to start repair work soon. We are delighted to report that income for hall hires rose from £3,217 last year to £5,520.98 this year. Overheads totalled £4,468.

Year End Accounts showed an income of £47,410 and running costs of £48,505 which produced a loss of £1,095. Total reserves at year end were £92,950 which included £65,000 invested and ring fenced for the maintenance of the playing field.

Our Chair Nick Woodall was heavily involved in planning and civil matters this year with the School Lane residents in revolt against the Government led Schools trial scheme. We are still waiting for a decision. There were delays and resubmitted plans for Staverton House as neighbouring residents were concerned, they would be overlooked by top floor windows.

However Wiltshire Councillor Trevor Carbin kindly entered us in the CPRE competition and Staverton once more won a prize for Best Kept Village.

88. COUNCILLORS AND RESIDENTS FORUM

School Lane Trial Scheme: Chair Nick Woodall said that there have been no further developments on this scheme other than he was asked to attend a meeting.

89. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.45 PM.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7 pm at the village hall.