

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council
held on Tuesday 08 July 2025 at 7:00pm at The Sambrook Centre, Stirchley**

Present: Cllrs T Wood (Chair), J Anderson, A England, Z Mandela, M A Salifu, G Sinclair, T Skidmore, S Vaughan-Hodkinson, A Watkin

In Attendance: C Maclean (Locum Clerk/RFO)

Borough Councillor: N Page

Members of Public: 4

FC/25/066 WELCOME

Cllr T Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr T Wood noted two new Cllrs to the Council and welcomed Cllr Z Mandela for Brookside and Cllr J Anderson for Stirchley.

FC/25/067 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and noted from Cllrs C Addison, C Lloyd and Borough Cllr C Chikandamina.

FC/25/068 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs noted the Locum Clerk's email issued following a request from Cllr C Lloyd seeking approval to take a leave of absence from Council duties for an initial period of three months.

Cllrs noted the previous few months had been particularly challenging for Cllr C Lloyd and agreed there was a duty of care to all Cllrs to consider their wellbeing.

Proposed by Cllr A England, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was unanimously resolved that the Council grant the initial three month leave of absence to Cllr C Lloyd.

FC/25/069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A England noted with Cllrs his membership of Telford & Wrekin Council Planning Committee and would refrain from commenting on any planning related discussions at this meeting.

No other interests declared.

FC/25/070 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident shared with Cllrs her awareness of the Telford & Wrekin Community Governance Review. The resident advised her views that she was totally against the proposal to merge the Parish Council with Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council on the basis that under the proposal there would be too few Cllrs representing a parish with such a large population and that residents would receive less of a personal service.

The resident shared concerns over the uncertainty being caused in not understanding the impact of such a proposal and that there was a risk over finances resulting in reduction of services to the community.

The resident also expressed concerns that with an enlarged parish community events may be a challenge to attend due to the distances between the respective areas and the challenge of travelling across the area.

In concluding, the resident expressed the view why try to fix what is not broken.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson thanked the resident for the views expressed and advised her understanding there was a genuine lack of knowledge of the impact of the proposal. Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson advised the resident that Telford & Wrekin Council had stated that monetary consideration was not meant to be in scope of the review.

Cllr T Wood noted the deadline for responses to the second consultation was 14 July and that everybody should express their views.

The Council's Environmental Services Officer advised Cllrs of concerns relating to anti-social behaviour in the Brindleyford area of Brookside. He advised Cllrs he had removed from the car park at Brindleyford a canister of nitrous oxide and an empty bottle of promethazine syrup, amongst other detritus.

Cllrs considered the levels of anti-social behaviour and levels of frustration to residents in Brookside, some of which had been reported to Telford & Wrekin Council; others to the Police.

Cllr T Wood expressed her desire that these frustrations be documented and referred to Telford & Wrekin Council by letter. The Locum Clerk noted the desire and would consider how this would be achieved.

Cllrs noted that the play areas were being used by older youths for purposes other than recreational. Cllr A England questioned what was being done in terms of engagement with the youths and suggested looking at an interventionist approach.

Cllr T Skidmore noted elements of the fly tipping issues within Brookside related to privately owned properties.

A resident left the meeting at 7:10pm.

FC/25/071 POLICE REPORT

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that he had expected representation from a member of the Nedge SNT team but no attendance was seen.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that representatives from the Brookside SNT team were expected but an email had been received just prior to the meeting with a brief update. Cllrs noted that a further drugs warrant had been undertaken and that further serving of warrants was expected. Cllrs also noted that an upcoming operation was scheduled to deal with untaxed vehicles. Cllrs further noted the Police were seeking to gather intelligence on individuals and addresses that have off road bikes.

Cllr T Wood expressed appreciation for the update provided by PSCO D Ramsden.

FC/25/072 MINUTES

To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 10 June 2025

Proposed by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Cllr G Sinclair and it was unanimously resolved by all those present at that meeting that the Minutes be adopted and the Chairman sign these as a true record.

FC/25/073 MATTERS ARISING

None raised.

FC/25/074 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

a. To note the uncontested election of Mr J Anderson as a Councillor for the Stirchley ward

Cllr T Wood noted the result and congratulated Cllr J Anderson on his election to serve the Stirchley ward.

b. To note the uncontested election of Mr Z Mandela as a Councillor for the Brookside ward

Cllr T Wood noted the result and congratulated Cllr Z Mandela on his election to serve the Brookside ward.

c. To consider interest in being co-opted as a Councillor for the Brookside ward

Cllrs noted that applications had been received from two interested parties. Cllr T Wood suggested to Cllrs that serious consideration should be given to naming the preferred candidate or deciding that neither candidate was considered suitable or even whether Cllrs wished to abstain.

Following the temporary withdrawal from the meeting by Mrs J Pinnington Cllrs welcomed Mr J Malcolm to the meeting and invited him to state his reasons for interest in being a Cllr.

Mr J Malcolm advised Cllrs of his skills and experiences in seeking to improve communities, working with the Police, churches, events and educating youths on health, wellbeing and substance misuse.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson enquired of Mr J Malcolm how he would improve communications. Mr J Malcolm advised he would target sectors of communities seeking to enhance engagement with the Parish Council. He also stated that he saw the use of churches to help spread the message as a good tool.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson enquired of Mr J Malcolm how he perceived the Council and the parish. Mr J Malcolm noted there was a strong young population, greater ownership of the area and believed there had been improvements since 2018.

Cllr A Watkin noted that attendance at meetings of Council and events can demand time of individuals and enquired whether this may be an issue. Cllrs were advised that this was not an issue.

Cllr T Wood enquired of Mr J Malcolm a strength relating to the Parish Council and the parish. Mr J Malcolm saw resilience in the community and noted that following the recent power cut householders came outside to question and enquire of others. On being questioned on what was perceived a failure, Mr J Malcolm noted that more could be done than done to date.

Cllr Z Mandela enquired of Mr J Malcolm what his work with the Police involved. Mr J Malcolm advised he worked to ensure there was greater and common understanding of the dynamics within communities and cultures. He advised he sought to address profiling, personal behaviours and respect for the uniform. Mr J Malcolm advised his keenness to see the Parish Council better engaged with communities and groups.

Cllrs thanked Mr J Malcolm for his responses who then withdrew from the meeting to enable Mrs J Pinnington to be present.

Cllrs welcomed Mrs J Pinnington to the meeting and invited her to state her reasons for interest in being a Cllr.

Mrs J Pinnington advised Cllrs she had lived in Brookside 40 years and that she had worked with various age groups. For older members of the community Mrs J Pinnington stated she had encouraged them to come out of their homes to socialise. Mrs J Pinnington advised Cllrs of her work with the Police Community Board within the borough.

Mrs J Pinnington advised Cllrs she was no stranger to anti-social behaviour against her and would publicly stand out against this.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson enquired of Mrs J Pinnington how she would improve communications. Mrs J Pinnington advised she would seek to work between groups to bring people together.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson enquired of Mrs J Pinnington how she saw the Parish Council and parish in next few years. Mrs J Pinnington advised her desire to see greater work with the young people; respect of manners and improved behaviour.

Cllr A Watkin noted that attendance at meetings of Council and events can demand time of individuals and enquired whether this may be an issue. Cllrs were advised that this was not an issue.

Cllr Z Mandela enquired of Mrs J Pinnington of her fight against anti-social behaviour and how this may be addressed. Mrs J Pinnington expressed her view that the community needed to better understand the role of the Parish Council and that this could be addressed by knocking on doors and meeting residents and sharing views. Mrs J Pinnington advised she had strong emotions in favour of the parish.

Cllr T Wood enquired of Mrs J Pinnington a strength relating to the Parish Council and the parish. Mrs J Pinnington advised she saw that in the Council team.

Cllr M A Salifu enquired of Mrs J Pinnington her work with the Police Community Board and what this involved. Mrs J Pinnington advised this involved members of the communities getting together to strengthen engagement.

Cllrs thanked Mrs J Pinnington for her responses who then withdrew from the meeting for the vote to take place.

Following a secret ballot vote Mrs J Pinnington and Mr J Malcolm returned to the meeting.

Cllr T Wood advised that Mr J Malcolm had received more votes than Mrs J Pinnington and welcomed Mr J Malcolm to the Council. Cllr T Wood thanked Mrs J Pinnington for her interest and application.

Cllr J Malcolm signed and declared acceptance of office, which was noted by the Locum Clerk being the Proper Officer of the Council. Cllr J Malcolm took his place at Council.

d. To note current interest in the vacancy for the Stirchley ward

Cllrs noted the calling of an election for the Stirchley ward scheduled for 7 August 2025. It was noted that nomination packs need to be submitted to Telford & Wrekin Council by 4pm on 11 July 2025.

FC/25/075 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cllr T Wood enquired of Cllrs round the table of the opinions they had received from residents and neighbours on the Community Governance Review.

Cllrs noted the general consensus was one of no change to existing setup, although Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson observed that there was a lack of understanding of the process.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that of the 43 voting slips received 11 had supported the proposal whilst 32 had opposed.

Cllrs shared concerns relating to the perceived loss of identity within the parish if the merger were to be approved.

Cllr T Wood noted that the parish contained areas of deprivation and Cllrs shared concerns that addressing these would be more challenging in the event the merger was approved.

Cllrs shared concerns that the proposed number of 18 Cllrs to represent the combined Council was totally insufficient to meet the needs of the residents. It was also noted that there appeared to be no factoring in of the upcoming Hem development.

Cllrs questioned the rationale of Telford & Wrekin Council in stating one benefit of merging related to the parishes being aligned to the A442. It was considered that these were not the only parishes to do so.

Cllr J Anderson stated his concern that the Community Governance Review was community damaging.

Proposed by Cllr G Sinclair, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council respond to Telford & Wrekin Council opposing the Telford & Wrekin Community Governance Review recommendation to merge the Parish Council with Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council.

Councillors agreed that opposition to the proposal is based on the following factors:

- 1. The communities of Stirchley and Brookside have their own identities. This is especially true for Stirchley in terms of its history stretching back to the 12th century. These two communities are believed to be adequately served by the 13 Councillors on the Parish Council and the future inclusion of the Hem will be met by the current 7 Stirchley ward Councillors. It is strongly believed that implementation of the proposal would remove that identity where such community identity is regarded as important to link to a Parish Council and its Councillors.**
- 2. The proposal for a combined Nedge Parish Council does not take into account the developments taking place across the parishes and a future**

proposed Councillor membership of 18 is considered totally inadequate to properly represent the current and future resident population.

3. It is recognised that both Stirchley and Brookside have areas of deprivation, of which Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council is particularly conscious and aware of and seeks to work in partnership with relevant stakeholders and organisations that can assist. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council strongly believes that a merged Parish Council with Hollinswood and Randlay will result in the focus on the deprived areas being lessened and possibly ignored resulting in the residents being further distanced from areas and people of support.
4. Adoption of the proposal would result in a parish with extended communities and holding of community events would result in issues for many where the distances and lack of transport across the parish would result in residents feeling denied or ignored in being able to attend “local events”.
5. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council disputes the geographic logic presented by the Review which states that the links to the A442 merit the merger. It is believed that many of the Telford communities have links to the A442 and presenting the logic as stated is not a case for merger.
6. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council strongly believes the proposal under the Review is community damaging and that there is a strong case for the communities of Stirchley and Brookside to continue being served by the Parish Council as it currently stands.
7. The proposal for the merger throws into doubt the key delivery areas and operating models between the two Parish Councils. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council provide a large and strong youth provision and environmental services offering including free gardening service for eligible parish residents. The merger would throw these offerings into doubt and compromise the services and hard work undertaken by the team within Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council.
8. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council endeavoured to gather views of its residents and 43 paper responses were received expressing views on the proposal. Of these, 11 residents supported the proposal whilst 32 opposed. On that basis 76% of the residents oppose the proposal and desire no change to the current setup within Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council.

Councillors noted that the 43 responses received to date from residents would also be sent to Telford & Wrekin Council.

FC/25/076 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Applications Received Post Agenda Publication

Cllrs noted no applications had been received requiring consideration.

b. Application Decisions

Cllrs noted no decisions had been received from Telford & Wrekin Council but noted the advice that application TWC/2025/0363 relating to 49 Blossomfield, Brookside had been withdrawn.

FC/25/077 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY IN THE PARISH

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that responses to the Traffic and Road Safety Annual Update consultation was not required until the end of August. Cllrs agreed in the interest of time and the fact that three new Cllrs had joined the Council the topic be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

FC/25/078 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllrs noted the contents of the paper presented by the Locum Clerk and the updated Parish Council Risk Assessment.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that work continues on addressing areas which were not considered sufficiently adequate. Cllrs noted that risk assessments relating to Human Resources and Health and Safety would be separately documented and presented to upcoming meetings of Council.

Proposed by Cllr M A Salifu, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was resolved with nine in favour and one abstention (due to not having had opportunity to review) to accept and adopt the Parish Council Risk Assessment presented to Council, noting that updates on progress to address the risks not considered adequately covered would be presented to future meetings of Council.

FC/25/079 MAINTENANCE AT THE SAMBROOK CENTRE

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that he awaited a second quote in relation to a deep clean of The Sambrook Centre as well as a cleaning contract in the event this was required.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that a review of the external entrance doors was being undertaken to identify opportunities to reduce wear and tear and enhance the security within the building.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that fire risk and legionella assessments of the centre had been scheduled for 24 July.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that further reviews of the electrical setup within the building was being undertaken and updates would be provided at an upcoming meeting of Council.

FC/25/080 MAINTENANCE OF BROOKSIDE PLAY AREA

Cllrs noted the paper presented by the Locum Clerk on the work and costs required to replace equipment and replenish the bark chippings on the play area in Brookside. It was noted that discussion had taken place with idverde in seeking their assistance in installing the chippings.

Cllrs shared concerns over the inadequacy of CCTV in the area.

Cllr A England noted he had Pride Funding available and was willing to support funding of the equipment.

Proposed by Cllr A England, seconded by Cllr G Sinclair and it was resolved with nine in favour and one abstention that the Council proceeds with the replacement of the

equipment, replenishment of the bark chippings using idverde's services at a total cost of £7,300.24.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that investigations would be undertaken to identify suitable equipment that would benefit youths with mobility issues.

FC/25/081 BROOKSIDE CENTRAL CIO

Cllrs noted the paper presented to Council detailing the background and current status in relation to Parish Council representation on Brookside Central CIO Board of Trustees.

Cllrs noted under the CIO's Constitution Section 9. (2) (e) that trusteeship can include a representative from a number of categories including "Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council Representative".

Cllrs noted the contents of the latest edition of Local Councils Explained containing guidance relating to Councils/Councillors working with external agencies including Charities.

Cllrs considered responsibilities and duties relating to representation on a charity along with requirements in relation to registering and disclosing disclosable pecuniary and any other interests under the Council's Code of Conduct.

Cllrs considered whether the Parish Council should have a representative on the CIO Board of Trustees.

Proposed by Cllr M A Salifu, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was resolved with six in favour, two against and two abstentions that the Parish Council should not appoint a member of Council as a Trustee of Brookside Central CIO.

Cllrs noted that there was no issue with any Councillor wishing to be a Trustee in a personal capacity, should they desire it.

FC/25/082 FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Financial Report

Cllrs noted the paper presented to Council advising of the current status of the Council's finances.

b. Payments Requiring Approval of Council

Cllrs noted the payments required for approval at Council together with a payment requiring ratification. Details of all payments set out in the appendix.

Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr G Sinclair and it was unanimously resolved that the payments be made and the payment previously made ratified.

Cllrs noted the paper presented by the Locum Clerk to the meeting relating to the plan to hold the pensioners' Christmas lunch at the Holiday Inn Telford on 11 December 2025.

Cllrs noted the requirement to pay the deposit to secure the booking and which had been added to the list of payments presented to Council and which had been approved.

c. Approve Increase in Clerk's Discretionary Limit for Payment of Employee Contractors

Cllrs noted the paper presented detailing the reasons behind the slight increase in the weekly payments for the employee contractor and the delay this was creating in terms of effecting prompt payment.

Proposed by Cllr G Sinclair, seconded by Cllr J Anderson and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk's discretionary limit for payment of employee contractor invoices be increased to £800.00 per invoice for as long as the service was required.

d. Note and Approve Bank Reconciliation at 30 June 2025

Cllrs noted the Bank Reconciliation at 30 June 2025 presented to Council.

Proposed by Cllr A England, seconded by Cllr G Sinclair and it was unanimously resolved that the Chair sign the Bank Reconciliation on behalf of the Council.

FC/25/083 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that he had not been in a position to prepare a paper relating to the Parish Council's website. The Locum Clerk advised that the website host required payment to ensure the website continued and the cost of £432.00 had been paid which covers a three year period.

Cllrs noted that a review of the website would be undertaken and presented to a future meeting of Council.

FC/25/084 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr A England expressed appreciation for the lunch held to celebrate the retirement of Cllr J Loveridge.

Cllr A England advised Cllrs he continues to deal with case work.

Cllr N Page advised Cllrs of arrangements for further surgeries across the ward. Cllrs noted that a later start and end time had been arranged for the surgeries in The Sambrook Centre.

Cllr N Page advised Cllrs that she was joining some Telford & Wrekin Council committees.

Cllr N Page advised Cllrs she had been undertaking duties as deputy mayor.

FC/25/085 PARISH MATTERS

None raised.

FC/25/086 NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

- a. Traffic and Road Safety in Parish
- b. Council Meeting Start Time
- c. Items to be referred to Locum Clerk in advance of next meeting.

FC/25/087 NEXT MEETING DATE

Cllrs noted the next meeting scheduled for 12 August 2025 at 7:00pm at The Sambrook Centre.

The Chair thanked everyone, declaring the public session of the meeting closed at 8:23pm.

FC/25/088 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

It is recommended that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in relation to any individual, as defined in paragraph 1, and/or information relating to financial or business affairs, as defined in paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Cllrs noted that there were no matters requiring consideration that required the exclusion of the public and press.

FC/25/089 HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

Cllrs noted there were no matters requiring discussion at the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone, declaring the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

APPENDIX

STIRCHLEY AND BROOKSIDE PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 8 JULY 2025: FC/25/082b

INVOICES FOR PAYMENT APPROVAL

ID	SUPPLIER	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE NO	NET AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
1	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	Insurance Premium	Pro-Forma	£6,171.23	£0.00	£6,171.23
2	Auniqueart	Wall Mural	1000250634	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00
3	Hays	Employee Contractor	1014195715	£775.20	£155.04	£930.24
4	Hays	Employee Contractor	1014204585	£775.20	£155.04	£930.24
5	Amethyst Academies Trust	Utilities Charges	INV-0619	£1,341.76	£129.21	£1,470.97
6	HMRC	Tax & NIC	N/A	£3,638.95	£0.00	£3,638.95
7	Telford & Wrekin Council	Microsoft Licences	4656263	£806.40	£161.28	£967.68
8	Telford Hotels Limited	Pensioners' Christmas Lunch Deposit	SBPC111225	£1,400.00	£280.00	£1,680.00
TOTAL				£16,908.74	£880.57	£17,789.31

INVOICES RECENTLY PAID

ID	SUPPLIER	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE NO	NET AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL	PAID
1	4 All Foundation	Youth Provision	INV-00587	£770.00	£0.00	£770.00	03- Jul
			TOTAL	£770.00	£0.00	£770.00	

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Chair

Date: 12 August 2025