

PARISH OF STAUNTON ON WYE

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Staunton on Wye will be held on Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.05 p.m. Staunton on Wye Village Hall, Herefordshire.

PRESENT: Councillor Nigel Sellar (Chairman, Staunton on Wye Group Parish Council, in the Chair) and twenty eight electors.

In attendance: David Thame (Clerk, Staunton on Wye Group Parish Council)
Councillor Robert Highfield (Herefordshire, Castle Ward)
Three members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed parishioners and confirmed that a quorum was present.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Brief report on the activities of Staunton on Wye Parish Council

The Chairman pointed to increasing pressures on Herefordshire Council - their funding was cut by £27m – and the likelihood this will mean increased demand for the parish council to step in, particularly through the lengthsman scheme looking after drainage, ditches, highways and public rights of way. The new lengthsman, Joel Durrell, has been visible around the parish dealing with drainage and highways issues.

The Parish Council has taken steps to prepare itself to meet growing day to day costs and are growing a small buffer to allow it to take on larger schemes. Behind the scenes the Council has employed a new clerk, changed our bankers, improved our audit and financial procedures, set up a new more user-friendly website. Together these steps put the parish council in a good place to help and protect the parish through what will be a testing few years.

During the last twelve months the Council has not just looked inward – it has looked outward and been active as a voice for the parish. It took a firm view on the redevelopment of the Jarvis School and it is largely thanks to Council pressure - and the very well attended meeting - that this issue was not waved through. We expect a revised plan soon. The council will continue to press on issues like this.

Without doubt the most conspicuous change this year was the relocation of the war memorial, undertaken by a Council committee. The Chairman thanked those involved for a remarkable achievement, on time and on budget.

3. Brief report from Herefordshire Councillor Robert Highfield

Councillor Highfield addressed the meeting on Herefordshire Council matters including a new public realm contractor and on the planning policy background. He referred to reduced government funding amounting to around £27m.

Councillor Highfield answered elector's questions on drainage, sewerage, and the impact of development on phosphate levels and pollution of the river Wye.

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan: Guest Speaker, Lynda Wilcox, Chief Executive Herefordshire Association of Local Councils

Lynda Wilcox addressed the meeting on the importance of neighbourhood planning, the opportunities to take local control of the development process, and how it could be accomplished through a review group. The Staunton on Wye Neighbourhood Development Plan was made in 2016 and therefore carries little weight in the planning process. It makes no site allocations, which NDPs are now required to do.

Questions were answered and local planning issues discussed including drainage, site appraisals and the role of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chairman asked electors to indicate if they would support the Council launching a review of the neighbourhood plan originally agreed in 2016. All present raised their hand.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Confirmed as a correct record:

Signed _____ Date _____