

Councillor Jenny Barron (Mayor)

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Aspin K M | McKeown B |
| Carter E L | McNaughton A R |
| Cooke R P | McNaughton D M |
| Cooper A G | Nixon A |
| Cross B M | Nixon J A |
| Dodson M G | Nixon L |
| Edgeller A P | Pardesi G P K |
| Edgeller P C | Pearce A N |
| Fordham I D | Pert J M |
| Godfrey A T A | Powell J S |
| Hobbs A D | Read J P |
| Hood J | Reid A F |
| James F D J | Rose J T |
| James R A | Rouxel D P |
| Jones E G R | Sandiford A J |
| Jones P W | Spencer S N |
| Kenney R | Winnington M J |
| Leason P A | |

Officers in attendance:-

| | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| T Clegg | - | Chief Executive |
| I Curran | - | Head of Law and Governance |
| W J Conaghan | - | Press and Communication Manager |
| J Dean | - | Democratic Services Officer |

C54 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2026 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C55 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F Beatty, A M Loughran, M Phillips and J Thorley.

C56 Announcements

The Mayor reported that Mr John Loughran and family greatly appreciated all of the messages of support they continued to receive during Councillor A M Loughran's period of illness.

Continuing, the Mayor detailed the following forthcoming events for Members to note:-

- Charity Afternoon Tea to be held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at the Riverside Restaurant, Stafford College, Stafford;
- Annual Crown Green Bowls Challenge between Stafford Borough Council and Stonefield Park Bowling Club to be held on Tuesday 21 April 2026;
- Mayor's Civic Dinner to be held on Wednesday 29 April 2026.

Bookings for all of the events could be made through the Mayor's Office.

C57 Councillor Session

Councillor S N Spencer had submitted the following question in accordance with Paragraph 12.3(a) of the Council Procedure Rules:-

"The state of our roads is, arguably worse than ever and in many areas unsafe for passage. This council approved a road emergency Motion over a year ago, to which we had no satisfactory response or, certainly for rural roads, little demonstratable long-term actions or solutions from the administration at the time.

Following the change of County Council administration, can the Leader of the council contact the County Council, resubmit the Borough's road emergency Motion and reaffirm the significant safety concerns for all road users arising from the lack of discernible action and request a defined plan for the situation to be addressed?"

Councillor A T A Godfrey responded as follows:

"Yes, I would be delighted to write to Staffordshire County Council expressing this Council's concerns regarding this matter."

Councillor M J Winnington asked the following supplementary question:

"Was the Leader of the Council aware of the seriousness of this matter, which was exacerbated by drainage issues, particularly in the rural areas of the Borough and a lack of road sweeping carried out?"

Councillor Godfrey replied that he was happy to mention those issues in his correspondence to the County Council, which would be treated as a matter of urgency.

C58 Primate Licensing

Considered the report of the Head of Regulatory Services requesting that a fee for primate licensing applications be endorsed and recommended and authority to administer and enforce the new legislation be delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services.

Councillor I D Fordham introduced the report highlighting the details as contained within paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 before proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey.

The matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (a) the introduction of the new legislation be noted;
- (b) the setting of initial fees of £300 for both new applications and renewals under the regime, in line with those fees for existing animal activity licences be approved;
- (c) authority be delegated to the Head of Regulatory Services to grant and/or revoke licences, refuse applications, attach conditions, serve relevant notices and agree any full or partial refunds of fees.

C59 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance presenting details of the recommended amendments to the Constitution as proposed by the Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report highlighting the detail as contained within paragraphs 2, 3, 5 together with the associated appendices.

Councillor Cooke concluded his comments by proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey.

Councillor M J Winnington, Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Committee thanked Members of that Committee for their input and Officers for preparing the report.

The matter was then put to the vote and declared to be unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:- that the following be approved:-

- (a) the amendments as detailed in appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) the revised Code of Conduct for Employees attached as detailed in appendix 2 of the report.

MAYOR