



Councillor Mark Winnington (Mayor)

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

Councillors:

Aspin K M
Barron J A
Beatty F E
Carter E L
Cooke R P
Cooper A G
Cross B M
Godfrey A T A
Hobbs A D
Hood J
F D J James
James R A
Jones P W
Kenney R
Leason P A
McKeown B

McNaughton A R
McNaughton D M
Nixon A
Nixon L
Pardesi G P K
Pearce A N
Pert J M
Phillips M
Read J P
Reid A F
Rose J T
Rouxel D P
Sandiford A J
Spencer S N
Thorley J
Thurstance A

Officers in attendance:-

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

**C23 Freedom of the Borough Presentation to Sir Ian and Lady Jane
Dudson**

The Mayor called upon the Leader of the Council who led Members in paying tribute to Sir Ian and Lady Jane Dudson.

Upon receiving the freedom scroll from the Mayor, Sir Ian responded accordingly.

RESOLVED:- that Sir Ian and Lady Jane Dudson be granted freedom of the Borough of Stafford.

C24 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2026 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C25 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson, A P Edgeller, P C Edgeller, I D Fordham, E G R Jones, J A Nixon and J S Powell.

C26 Announcements

It was with sadness that the Mayor announced the passing of former Alderman Francis Albert Finlay. Councillor J M Pert led Members in tribute before all present observed a minutes silence.

The Mayor reminded Members that the annual Battle of Britain Commemoration would take place on Sunday 13 September. The Civic Service would take place at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Stafford followed by Wreath Laying at the Borough War Memorial.

Continuing, the Mayor detailed the following forthcoming Charity Appeal events:

- the Mayoress, Mrs Rosie Winnington, was undertaking a sponsored Zip Lining Challenge at Zip World, Penrhyn Quarry, North Wales on Thursday 1 October 2026; any sponsorship donations to be sent to the Mayor's Office;
- the Mayoress would be hosting a Ladies Charity Lunch at The Riverbank Restaurant, Stafford College on Thursday 22 October 2026. Tickets were available through the Mayor's Office;
- a Harvest Hoedown was being organised on Saturday 3 October 2026. Information and tickets were available through the Mayor's Office.

The Leader of the Council provided an update regarding the Government's recent unexpected announcement that all work regarding Local Government Reorganisation was to stop, during a period of 'pause'.

Elections to the Council would now go ahead in May 2027, with the term of office to be determined. Councillor Godfrey gave thanks to Officers for their efforts in this area of work.

C27 Notice of Motion

- (a) A Notice of Motion pursuant to Paragraph 13.1 of the Council Procedure Rules had been proposed by Councillors D P Rouxel and E L Carter as follows:-

“This council is concerned at the impact of both wildfires and the deliberate outdoor burning of rubbish, both within Stafford Borough and beyond. Wildfires, as we have seen recently, have the potential to damage property and injure people, and the burning of rubbish, including plastic from farms, households and other commercial waste has a significant impact on both the environment and the health of the citizens of Stafford, especially in relation to air pollution.

Council resolves to write to Government to ask that legislation be made more stringent, including the following measures:

- Increase the penalties for those deliberately starting wildfires and burning waste illegally
- Introduce a greater level of restriction on all activities in public spaces and private land which could accidentally lead to wildfires and increase penalties where restrictions are ignored
- Lower the standard of proof for activities involving burning of waste outdoors so that video and photographic evidence is sufficient for prosecution and the timeframe for investigations is shortened
- Undertake a review of the impact of particulate pollution with a view to requiring monitoring of particulate levels, requirements for appropriate measures of particulate reduction, and provide local authorities with the resources to undertake this.

Council further resolves to request members of parliament in Stafford Borough to support this proposal.”

During the ensuing debate the following amendment was proposed by Councillor F Beatty and seconded by Councillor J M Pert:-

That the following wording is deleted:

“Lower the standard of proof for activities involving burning of waste outdoors so that video and photographic evidence is sufficient for prosecution and the timeframe for investigations is shortened”

And be replaced by the following:

“That photographic and video surveillance play a strong role in enforcement and enables investigations to be undertaken more quickly, while retaining appropriate requirements for verification before a prosecution be brought”

The amendment was duly accepted by the original proposer of the motion and the original motion was altered accordingly.

On continuation of the debate, a further amendment was proposed by Councillor A T A Godfrey and seconded by Councillor R P Cooke that the matter be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member for detailed review of the matter.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared to have fallen.

Continuing, a request was made in accordance with paragraph 17.4(a) of the Council Procedure Rules that a recorded vote be taken; voting on the substantive motion (as altered) was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
K M Aspin		A R McNaughton
J A Barron		M J Winnington
F Beatty		
E L Carter		
R P Cooke		
A G Cooper		
B M Cross		
A T A Godfrey		
A D Hobbs		
J Hood		
F D J James		
R A James		
P W Jones		
R Kenney		
P A Leason		
B McKeown		
D M McNaughton		
A Nixon		
G P K Pardesi		
A N Pearce		
J M Pert		
M Phillips		
J P Read		
A F Reid		
J T Rose		
D P Rouxel		

A J Sandiford

S N Spencer

J Thorley

A Thurstance

RESOLVED:- that

(a) Council write to Government to ask that legislation be made more stringent, including the following measures:

- Increase the penalties for those deliberately starting wildfires and burning waste illegally
- Introduce a greater level of restriction on all activities in public spaces and private land which could accidentally lead to wildfires and increase penalties where restrictions are ignored
- That photographic and video surveillance play a stronger role in enforcement and enable investigations to be undertaken more quickly, while retaining appropriate requirements for verification before a prosecution be brought
- Undertake a review of the impact of particulate pollution with a view to requiring monitoring of particulate levels, requirements for appropriate measures of particulate reduction, and provide local authorities with the resources to undertake this.

(b) Members of parliament in Stafford Borough be requested to support this proposal.”

C28 Community Governance Review for Stafford Town

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance setting out the final recommendations from the Stafford Town Working Group following the recent Community Governance Review of the area.

Councillor A T A Godfrey introduced the report highlighting the detail as contained within paragraphs 3 and 5 and the associated appendices before proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor J M Pert.

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

RESOLVED:- that

- (a) the recommendations of the Stafford Town Working Group in relation to the Stafford Town Community Governance Review be implemented, and an order in accordance with the draft set out in appendix 2 of the report be made;
- (b) the Head of Law and Governance be authorised to take all required steps to give the recommendations effect.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Chamber for their support in this matter, noting that it was a historic vote by the Council to establish a Town Council for Stafford.

C29 National Scheme of Planning Delegation

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance proposing to update the officer scheme of delegation to reflect the mandatory national scheme of planning delegations.

Councillor A F Reid introduced the report highlighting the detail as contained within paragraphs 1 - 5 and the associated appendix before proposing that the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 of the report be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A Nixon.

During the debate the following amendment was proposed by Councillor E L Carter and seconded by Councillor D P Rouxel:-

“That the following wording be inserted into the report to form a 3rd recommendation:-

This Council believes that the changes in the National Scheme of Delegations set out in the report comprise a serious loss of democracy in removing the right to make views known on many planning matters through local councillors and through a spokesperson at Committee meetings.

This Council expresses its consternation at the implementation of the National Scheme of Delegation and its negative impact on the democratic process and the lives of our residents”.

The amendment was put to the vote and was declared to be carried.

Members discussed the proposal, as amended, and upon request in accordance with paragraph 17.4(a) of the Council Procedure Rules a recorded vote was taken; voting on the amended substantive motion to include a 3rd recommendation was as follows:-

For	Against	Abstain
J A Barron	K M Aspin	E L Carter
R P Cooke	A G Cooper	A N Pearce
A T A Godfrey	B M Cross	M J Winnington
A D Hobbs	R A James	
J Hood	P W Jones	
F D J James	L Nixon	
R Kenney	J M Pert	
P A Leason	M Phillips	
B McKeown	J T Rose	
A R McNaughton	D P Rouxel	
D M McNaughton	A J Sandiford	
A Nixon	S N Spencer	
G P K Pardesi		
J P Read		
A F Reid		
J Thorley		
A Thurstance		

RESOLVED:- that

- (a) the introduction of legislation prescribing the type of planning decisions that must be delegated to officers be noted;
- (b) from 31 October 2026, the Officer Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution as set out in appendix 1 of the report be amended;
- (c) it be noted that this Council believes that the changes in the National Scheme of Delegations set out in the report comprise a serious loss of democracy in removing the right to make views known on many planning matters through local councillors and through a spokesperson at Committee meetings.

This Council expresses its consternation at the implementation of the National Scheme of Delegation and its negative impact on the democratic process and the lives of our residents.

C30 South and Mid-Staffordshire Local Government Reorganisation Joint Committee

The Leader of the Council proposed that in light of the recent Government announcement regarding the future of Local Government Reorganisation that the report be withdrawn from consideration.

The proposal to withdraw the report was seconded by Councillor R P Cooke.

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

RESOLVED:- that the report be withdrawn and not be considered.

MAYOR