

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held at 7.00 pm
Tuesday 25 August 2026 at Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllrs D Fereday (Chair), N Christie (Vice Chair), J Sharp, L Bayston and J Brazier.

35/26 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P Ralph, N Cresswell, S Chandler and P Hawkins

36/26 A4103 Closure – Lessons Learnt and Way Forward

The Council briefly reviewed the handling, communication and impact of the A4103 closure, including diversion arrangements, speeding concerns and their effect on local communities. The Chair invited Cllr Christie to lead the discussion.

Cllr Christie reported that the Parish Council Facebook page had received approximately 108,000 views over the previous 60 days, including around 17,000 views for the police vehicle post. The agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting had received approximately 90 views. The PC noted the significant level of public engagement and agreed this should be used positively to support future road safety initiatives.

Cllr Christie explained that the discussion should focus on two areas: the lessons learnt from the A4103 closure and the actions the Parish Council could take to improve traffic management and road safety going forward.

Cllr Christie referred to his letter dated 12 August 2026, which had been circulated to public representatives and relevant agencies in his capacity as a resident but signed off as vice chair. Members agreed that the issues raised reflected the concerns expressed by residents across the parish during the closure and will consider whether the Council should formally adopt the letter.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council formally endorse Cllr Christie's letter of 12 August 2026 as supporting correspondence on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Christie noted that Cllr Sarah Rouse's previous communication had referred specifically to conditions in Stocks Lane. The Council emphasised that the impact of the A4103 diversion was experienced across several areas of the parish, particularly Sherridge and Suckley Roads, and agreed that future representations by Cllr Rouse should reflect the experiences of all affected communities.

The Council discussed the need to strengthen both traffic calming measures and the enforcement of existing speed limits. Members agreed that speed limits alone are insufficient without effective enforcement and that robust local evidence would strengthen future representations to the relevant authorities.

Cllr Christie presented the latest Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) data:

- Week ending 16 August 2026: 3,100 vehicles exceeded 33 mph.
- Week ending 23 August 2026: 1,100 vehicles exceeded 33 mph.

The figures related to one direction of travel only, with approximately 5,500 vehicles recorded travelling from Bransford towards Smith End Green. Members agreed that the VAS data provided compelling evidence of persistent speeding and should be shared regularly with residents.

ACTION: Cllr Christie to oversee the regular downloading and publication of VAS statistics, with updates shared via the Parish Council Facebook page and other appropriate communication channels.

Cllr Christie outlined the Community Speed Watch scheme, explaining that it requires a minimum of six trained volunteers, with monitoring sessions undertaken by teams of three. Data collected is submitted directly to West Mercia Police as part of their enforcement process.

Cllr Sharp advised that historically local residents had already expressed an interest in volunteering. Members agreed that a parish-wide scheme would provide greater benefit than focusing on a single location and that recruiting additional volunteers should become the immediate priority.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council support the establishment of a Community Speed Watch group, subject to sufficient volunteers being recruited. **ACTION:** Cllr Christie to prepare a Facebook campaign inviting volunteers to join Community Speed Watch and providing information about the scheme and expected commitment.

The Council considered longer-term options for reducing vehicle speeds, including chicanes and speed bumps. The Parish Council acknowledged that any physical traffic calming proposals would require consultation with Worcestershire County Council and collaboration with West Mercia Police and other relevant agencies.

RESOLVED: That the Council seek a joint meeting with West Mercia Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Worcestershire County Council and Harriet Baldwin MP to discuss traffic enforcement and potential traffic calming measures. **ACTION:** The Clerk, with input from Cllr Christie, to write to the relevant agencies enclosing the endorsed 12 August letter and requesting a meeting to explore practical traffic management and road safety solutions.

Members noted that the Parish Council's VAS equipment is rotated between three monitoring locations every two weeks. All statistical figures can be reported with a specific data programme the council has. Cllr Christie offered to take this task on. Historical traffic data remains available and can be used for reference.

Cllr Sharp reported that, when accessing the Parish Council Facebook page as a non-account holder, he was unable to continue viewing the page after a minute or so, whereas he did not experience the same issue when viewing a neighbouring parish council's Facebook page. The Parish Council noted the issue.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Chair: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT