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Minutes of Denstone Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th November 2026 at Denstone Village Hall, College Road, Denstone, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 5HR.

1. **Attendees**: Cllr M Shermer (Chair), Cllr E Edmonds, Cllr M Flower, Cllr N Moult, Cllr J Mountney, Cllr S Ratcliffe, Cllr A Oldroyd-Clarke, Cllr B Wright, Borough Councillor Steve Sankey and J Sadler (Clerk)
   7 members of the village were present
   Apologies – Cllr S Owens and County Councillor Gary Hales
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
3. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2026**
   The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th October 2026 were agreed by all members as a true record of the meeting. These were signed and dated by Cllr Shermer (Chair)
4. **Public participation**
   a. Bus Service – Cllr Sankey informed the meeting that he had received several complaints and had witnessed himself the Swift bus service not coming into the village. When he questioned the bus driver he stated that they couldn't make the turn on Alton Road. Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that the clerk had already contacted the bus company regarding this and was awaiting a response from the operations manager. Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke suggested that when the clerk discusses this with the manager she asks about having electronic signs at the bus stops to inform the public when the bus will arrive. **Action Clerk**
   b. School Fence – Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that the clerk had received an email from a member of the village regarding the recent erection of the fence and gate at All Saints School in the village. Cllr Shermer went onto say that having made a site visit with the clerk we can only conclude that the fencing is providing a safe and secure environment for the young children at the school and is also aesthetically pleasing. There have been a number of positive comments from residents of the village and parents of the school children regarding the new fencing. Therefore it was agreed by the Parish Council that the clerk would respond to the member of the public and advise him to communicate directly with the school. **Action Clerk**
5. **Matters Arising/Clerk's report**
   a. Correspondence Received
      I. Public Footpath (15) – the clerk informed the meeting that she sent the paperwork out to the councillors prior to the meeting regarding the re-siting of footpath 15 off Oak Road. It was unanimously agreed that there was very little change to this and therefore no objections were made.

b. Railway Line Leak – the clerk informed the meeting that she had contacted Tim Clery (SCC) a number of times since the last meeting and so had Cllr Hales on the PC's behalf. However as yet she had still not received any update. Cllr Sankey volunteered to write to the Chief Executive of SCC on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Mountney also volunteered to write as a concerned resident. Cllr Wright asked the clerk to check when the lease between the SCC and the Parish Council runs out. **Action Cllr Sankey, Cllr Mountney and the Clerk**
c. Extra Defibrillator – The clerk informed the meeting that she had received a response from the National Grid and they will not allow a defibrillator to be sited on the telegraph Pole. However the clerk and councillor Shermer conducted a site visit in the village and 2 promising sites were being investigated. One was owned by the SCC so that would require a licence and a permit to dig from the SCC which Cllr Hales offered to provide funding for. Thanks to Cllr Hales. The other was thought to be owned by a member of the village. Hopefully more will be known by the next meeting. **Action Clerk**
d. College Road Hedge – This hedge had now been cut.
e. Broadband - Cllr Sankey informed the meeting that hopefully this would be in the village by the 1st quarter of 2027. Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke asked the clerk to contact Open Reach again about parking the vans on the verge on College Road. **Action Clerk**
f. Insurance – The clerk informed the meeting that she had heard back from Zurich Insurance regarding the war memorial and had been asked several questions. Once the clerk had received details regarding the cost of rebuilding the war memorial and the final quotes regarding the play area she would respond. **Action Clerk, Cllr Flower and Cllr Edmonds.**
g. LGR – The clerk informed the meeting that nothing further would be done regarding this until at least 2027. However, she would continue to keep the councillors updated. **Action Clerk**

6. Planning (Permitted & Refused are decisions by ESBC) – Cllr Shermer

a. Planning application Call ins – Cllr Shermer informed the meeting that as of the 31st October the Parish Council could no longer ask the Borough councillor to call in a planning application to the planning committee. All the councillors agreed that this was a backward step for Parish Councils.
b. P/2021/00235 - footpath on oak road, Denstone – The clerk informed the meeting that she had still not heard anything further regarding this issue. Cllr Sankey agreed to chase this issue, clerk to send latest email to Cllr Sankey. **Action Clerk and Cllr Sankey**

7. Highways – Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke

a. Pot Holes – the clerk informed the meeting that all the potholes on the roundabout at the bottom of Alton Road had been reported. Cllr Flower informed the meeting that the potholes recently done at the junction of the B5031 and College Road had already started to reappear. Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke stated that he would take pictures again. **Action Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke**
b. Feasibility Report – The clerk chased this again and was informed that the Parish Council should receive the report by the end of week commencing 9th November. Clerk will chase if nothing received. **Action Clerk**
c. Data B5031- Having reviewed the data collected, it is clear that although there is a great volume of traffic, no concerns about speeding were highlighted. We will continue to engage with CSW on a regular basis going forward, but we conclude that SIDS will not

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be required. Therefore, the clerk will contact the companies who kindly donated the money and ask if they would like the money returned or would the Parish Council be able to use the funds to contribute to purchasing gateways for the B5031. **Action Clerk**

8. **Play ground – Cllr Flower**
    a. Monthly update – Cllr Flower confirmed that all checks had been updated.
    b. Estimate for gate and Fence repair – Cllr Flower informed the meeting that as part of the playground report at the last meeting, he mentioned that it had been reported that a toddler had escaped from the playground on to the bowling green. This was because of a small gap (110mm) between the emergency gate post and fence something we were aware of but that has never been a concern and has never been picked up in any inspections,

       The situation has been made worse because the fixing post for the emergency gate has come loose probably with children swinging on it. Therefore the Parish Council agreed that it is something needs to be corrected. Cllr Flower approached the contractors who installed the fencing and having visited the playground they have provided a quotation to a) Move the gate to reduce the gap and b) install a filler between the gate. The cost for this would be £598 plus VAT. It was unanimously agreed by the councillors for this to be carried out. Cllr Flower to take this forward. **Action Cllr Flower.**
    c. Tennis Court – Cllr Flower confirmed that the main work on the tennis court had been done. Any further work would now be carried out next year.
    d. Laural Hedge – It was agreed that the clerk would contact Dave Green for a quote. **Action Clerk**
9. **Finance**
    a. Precept – The budget was briefly discussed and it was agreed that the clerk would send a breakdown of the account prior to the next meeting. **Action Clerk**
    b. New Signature for Banking – Cllr Shermer and Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke agreed to get together later in the week to start the process of adding Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke on as a signature to the Parish Councils bank account. **Action Cllr Shermer and Cllr Oldroyd-Clarke.**
10. **Miscellaneous**
    a. Denstone Community power pilot – this was moved to the next meeting.
    b. Denstone Meadow – Cllr Edmonds stated that after the tree has been taken down the meadow will be closed for the winter. It will be then sorted in the spring and reopened. Cllr Edmonds stated that he had now received a quote for a shed for the lengthsman's tools. The cost was £659.00 including Vat. The Parish Council agreed the cost of the shed. Cllr Shermer to raise this at the next village hall meeting in November.
    c. School Fence – this was discussed in public participation.
    d. Archive Documents – The Parish Council agreed for the clerk to archive some of the old paper documents that she had. They also agreed to purchase 3 plastic boxes costing £22.00 to place them in. **Action Clerk**
11. **Payments - To approve the following payments**

    The clerk went through the payments individually. The payments were agreed by all. All payments would be processed online by Cllr Shermer and Cllr Flower. All invoices would be signed and would be returned to the clerk once actioned
    a. Carolyn Hinton – Website - Pay October 2026 £25.00 [LGA 1972 s142 & 144]
    b. Clerk's pay for October (Made by Standing Order) = Net Pay £606.56 [LGA 1972 s112]

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c. HMRC – Clerk – Tax – October- £151.60
d. Clerk Employee National Insurance – October- £51.18
e. N Power – October 2026 – £52.74
f. Clerk expenses – October Travel - £9.00
g. Clerk expenses returned – paper and ink - £62.27
h. Stuart Smith - Lengthsman – .October 2026 – £73.08
i. Contribution to the Church - £800.00
j. Julie Sadler – Plastic boxes for Archiving - £22.00

1. **items for Future Agenda**
    a. Footpath and Steps on College Road – Cllr Edmonds
    b. Big help out – Cllr Mountney
    c. Precept
    d. Christmas drinks

Councillor Shermer closed the meeting by giving a huge thanks to Stuart Smith the Lengthsman for all his hard work on the war memorial and Cllr Mountney for the centre of the wreath.

Date of next meeting – 14th December 2026 at 7.00pm Village Hall Denstone.

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