

STANLEY AND STANLEY COMMON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.00pm at All Saints' Church, Belper Road, Stanley Common

PRESENT: Cllrs P Carroll, S Doherty (*arrived at 7.25pm*), I Eyre, A Lawrence, L McGraw, M Pain (*arrived at 7.03pm*), C Tomlinson; Borough Cllr C Hart and 8 members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE: A Skidmore, Clerk

MEETING CHAIR: P Carroll

The meeting began at 7.00pm

1/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: Cllr Tomlinson proposed, Cllr Lawrence seconded and all Councillors unanimously resolved to approve the minutes from 19th May 2025.

2/26 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2025/2026

Cllr P Carroll provided the Parish Council report on behalf of the Parish Council for the year 2025/2026 (*see Appendix A*).

3/26 BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Hart gave reports for both County and Borough Councils (*see Appendix B and C*).

4/26 REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Reports that were read out:

Debra Ward (*on behalf of the Chair of Eventide*) – Eventide Hall (*Appendix D*)

Debra Ward – Wednesday Lunch Club (*Appendix E*)

The WHJFC report was summed up by Cllr Carroll (*Appendix F*)

5/26 ITEMS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

- Member of the public enquired about Christmas celebration plans for 2026. The Parish Council confirmed this would be discussed at the Parish Council meeting following the Parish Meeting.
- Member of the public stated that the double yellow lines along Common Lane have made it easier for cars to access onto Belper Road.
- Member of the public wondered if more trees are planned to be planted on the Recreation Grounds. The Parish Council informed the meeting that this was their intention.
- Member of the public enquired about Commoner's Lot. The Parish Council confirmed that they are still interested in obtaining Commoner's Lot. The decision is still with EBC for decision.
- Member of the public enquired whether an identification board was still planned for Fallow Field. The Parish Council confirmed this will be reassessed following new maintenance regime now being in place.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.41pm

Appendix A

Parish Meeting Report, May 2026

Abstract

Report to the Parish of the work performed by S&SCPC 2025-26, presented at the Parish Meeting at All Saints Church, Stanley Common on 18th May 2026

Stanley & Stanley Common Parish Council

[Annual Report for Parish Meeting 2025-2026](#)

[Preface](#)

I would like to start by thanking our Parish Councillors and our Clerk for everything they do. Not only are all Parish Councillors unpaid volunteers, but many of us also have daytime jobs and in some cases, caring responsibilities. Despite our busy lives, year after year I see Councillors devoting their time on committees and working groups, organising events and giving of their time and energy to contribute to the work of the Council.

We are also lucky to have a dedicated Parish Clerk, who does a great job ensuring everything runs smoothly, that our facilities are fit for purpose and that the Councillors have the information they need to inform meetings and decision making.

Our two villages continue to have people who care for and support each other, with volunteers giving time and energy organising a range of activities. In the villages there are opportunities and activities taking place on a regular basis which would not be possible without the dedication of the organisers, all of whom are also unpaid volunteers: thank you on behalf of myself the Parish Council for giving of your time and energy to continue to help others. Our villages are a better place to live thanks to everything you do.

[What has your Parish Council been doing this year?](#)

The Council has organised or participated in the following events in the past year

- The Annual Christmas Tree switch-ons in both villages
- The Wind Band Concert in Stanley
- The Annual Remembrance Day Services in both villages
- The Remembrance Service to commemorate the Wellington Bomber Crash in Stanley
- The Friends of Stanley Common Nature Ramble
- Organising and hosting a Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) Day at Stanley Village Hall as part of our Environmental Strategy.
- Awarding the first Freedom of the Parish to a Parishioner.
- Attending the National Grid Consultation on the new Pylon Route, held in Stanley Village Hall: the Council also submitted an objection to this route in consultation with the CPRE.
- Attending Town and Parish Forums with Erewash Borough and Derbyshire County Councils.
- Attending Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) events.
- Undergoing Councillor training in GDPR.
- Planting trees on our Recreation Grounds to encourage biodiversity as part of our Environmental Policy

[Our Day to Day Work](#)

Our day to day work is guided by our Strategic Plan, developed and published last year, and available on our website.

The Council holds 6 full Parish Council meetings per year, plus extra Advisory Group discussion at which formal approvals of motions and expenditure are approved. Our Borough and County Councillors attend these meetings, as do Members of the Public. Sadly I have to report that Public Attendance has been poor over this year, often with only a single parishioner present.

During the meetings the Council scrutinises Planning Applications both within and adjacent to the Parish: this year we supported West Hallam Parish Council in their objection to two new proposed housing developments in their parish.

Between meetings we receive inquiries and complaints from our parishioners, many of which are not within the Council's power to resolve: in these cases we signpost people to the relevant Borough or County Council, or in one case recently, referred a complaint to our MP. The things we often get asked about are:

- Speeding, potholes, parking and traffic (which are the responsibility of to Derbyshire County Council Highways)
- Planning applications or issues (the responsibility of Erewash Borough Council)
- Noise abatement (the responsibility of Erewash Borough Council)
- Responsible dog ownership (the responsibility of Erewash Borough Council)
- Cleansing (of roads and pavements) (the responsibility of Erewash Borough Council)

You may have noticed that no mention has been made yet of the three Recreation Grounds that the Council owns and administers. This is intentional, and you will find this information in the section “**Charities**” below.

Council Members and Staff

A heartfelt thanks to all our Parish Councillors and our Clerk for everything they do. As a Council we are entitled to have 10 members, and currently have 2 vacancies. We are a great team, and I am greatly honoured to be part of it.

Council Members

The current members of council are:

- Paul Carroll (Chair)
- Steve Doherty (Vice-Chair)
- John Beardmore
- Ivan Eyre
- Anita Lawrence
- Linda McGraw
- Martin Pain
- Colin Tomlinson

Council Staff

The Council currently employs Amanda Skidmore as Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer, working 32 hours per month.

Moving Forward

Moving forwards, the Local Government Restructure is imminent and will commence in May 2027 . Derby City, Erewash Borough and Derbyshire Councils will be merged into a single Unitary Council, likely named “South Derbyshire”, thus removing a whole tier of local government. No changes are proposed to Parish Councils, though the impact of the restructure will undoubtedly affect us. As yet we do not know how.

Council Assets

The Council owns:

- The War Memorial at St Andrews Church in Stanley.
- The Changing Rooms at Stanley Common Recreation Ground

(See charities Section below for the Recreation Grounds)

Support for Local Organisations

The Council chooses to fund and/or donate to the following local organisations or activities:

- Stanley St Andrews Church (Grounds Maintenance)
- Stanley Common All Saints Church (Grounds Maintenance)
- Stanley Village Hall
- Salvation Army Band Concert in Stanley
- The Friends of Stanley Common
- Nottingham Energy Partnership Workshop at Stanley Village Hall
- Canopy 2050
- CPRE

Succession Planning

Several of the Councillors named above have stated their intention to stand down in May 2027, having served for many years on the Council.

The Council therefore urgently needs to recruit new members to replace these Councillors.

As a Council, we require a minimum of 4 Councillors to be able to hold meetings and transact business.

Should it be the case that we cannot hold meetings due to lack of members, then the Borough or Unitary authority above us will be required to step in and operate the Council.

Therefore I urge you, as Parishioners, to stand as Councillors **this year** to ensure that the Council continues to function and you retain a strong local voice with an affinity for our two villages .

Our Charities

The Parish Council has established Charities for each of the Recreation Grounds:

- Stanley Recreation Ground
- Stanley Common Recreation Ground
- Smalley Common Recreation Ground (*The Fallow Field*)

The Parish Council makes an annual grant to each charity to fund mowing, maintenance and operation of the charity.

Principal users of the Recreation Grounds are:

- West Hallam Junior Football Club, who play competitive matches and train on Stanley and Stanley Common Recreation Grounds.
- Dog walkers on all three Recreation Grounds
- Families using the playgrounds at Stanley and Stanley Common Recreation Grounds.
- Nature lovers at The Fallow Field

Local improvements have been made to the Recreation Grounds, including the planting of native tree saplings to provide colour, shelter and food for wildlife.

Ground improvements (funded by the FA and obtained via WHJFC) have taken place and are still underway, and a substantial project is underway to improve the Changing Rooms at Stanley Common (again to be obtained from the FA via WHJFC).

Conclusion

Your Parish Council works hard to maintain or improve the quality of life in our Parish, however there will be a considerable change in Local Government next year: we continue to need fresh blood on the Council to retain a strong local voice, and urge you to consider becoming a Councillor to ensure that this happens.

No experience is necessary - training can be provided.

Appendix B

Cllr Hart Report

Annual Report – 2025/26

Derbyshire County Council

Cllr. Carol Hart

A very different Annual Report from me this year. Having been the Cabinet Member for Health & Communities for the previous 8 years, after the election in May, 2025 Reform took control of Derbyshire County Council and I am now Shadow Member for Health & Communities and in a very small opposition group.

Reform took control of the council with a very large majority. The problem is that many who stood for election did so most probably not expecting to get elected. It became pretty obvious that many new councillors had never attended or been involved in any council work of any kind and also did not realise that most meetings take place in the day. This has caused problems in allotting places on the many committees with a few councillors who have the time having to take positions on several committees and outside bodies. It is also a very steep learning curve as to what you can and cannot do as a local councillor and there have been several challenges on protocol over the year.

The Managing Director resigned and after interviews the new CEO is Neil Cittenden, he had previously been the boss at Alton Towers, absolutely new to politics so going to be very interesting how he copes. Since then another resignation, the Director of Corporate and Transformation stepped down with immediate effect and something like musical chairs taking place in that the Director of Place has moved into this position and Claire Braislford, who has been leading on mostly environmental work, has taken over the Place portfolio which of course is mainly dominated by Highways.

Although Reform had said that they would make big savings if they took control the reality is that the budgets have been squeezed for many years and services cut to the bone so it is proving an impossible task and they actually, after saying the previous CEO had been paid too much actually increased the salary for the new CEO.

Another promise was that all of the potholes would be filled. There was a really good summer and this enabled the crews to catch up. Unfortunately the winter with excessive rain, then snow and frosts all of the good work

has been ruined and the roads left in an awful state. EMCCA, with the new Mayor, and extra Government funding has meant that over £60M plus has been spent in the year 2025/26 but as many know there is still much more work to be done. We have been asked, as local councillors, to bid for any roads in our ward to be added to the list for possible work but with over 60 councillors and so many roads in each ward needing work many of us have been disappointed but we will keep fighting. It also seems to be noticeable that most work on roads seems to be taking place in the north of the County.

The good news is that £2.57M has been allocated to reduce flood risk across Derbyshire during 26/27 and Breadsall in my ward has been allocated £85K under the heading Breadsall Village Natural Flood Risk Scheme, watch this space.

5 Education Centres have been closed and 8 care homes are being sold. A provider was originally going to purchase all 8 care homes but withdrew and rather than go back out into the market DCC have decided to sell them. Unfortunately the Cabinet Member concerned decided to announce the closure of the care homes when there was still a consultation process happening, this caused them problems as it seemed they were making a decision without waiting the consultation period to end. It was also unlawful.

Reform are doing a review on the SEND provision. This is an area that has been under pressure for a long time but increased vastly after Covid. This area has a big overspend and Adult Care also struggle with provision within the budget.

The Heartland project, a Community Forest contributing to a million trees by 2030 is going well but at the same time a lot of work is happening on felling trees with ash die back.

As losing my role as Cabinet Member I am now a member of the Health Scrutiny Panel and the Standards and Governance Committee. I am now also a member of the Fire & Rescue Service committee which is not only very interesting but eye opening.

As Reform said they wanted to reduce costs and make savings as said previously they are now finding out how hard this can be and they set the Council Tax at 4.9% just below the maximum without a referendum.

I continue to work here in my ward, attending as many parish council meetings that I can and responding to residents concerns, queries and complaints. It is nice when I receive a thank you email when something positive is achieved but it can be frustrating when however hard I try I do not manage to get the outcome I am requesting. As I always finish my annual report if there is anything I can do help the parish council and residents please contact me at any time and I will always do my best to deliver.

Appendix C

Erewash Borough Council

Annual Report – 2025/26

Cllr. Carol Hart

May 2025 was the Annual Meeting of EBC and the Mayor Making Ceremony.

Cllr. Harry Atkinson was elected to this office, the youngest every Mayor at Erewash.

There were to be 2 major areas of work in the coming year, the submission for the new Core Strategy and work to commence on the Local Government Reform. The Core Strategy had caused concern in many areas of the Borough as many new sites had been added and many of the proposals involved using green belt land. In West Hallam there was great anxiety about a possible site on Beech Lane.

However, when EBC presented their new CS to the Planning Inspectorate they were very quickly told it was not acceptable and one of the major reasons was that they had no strategy on green belt land and therefore no justification for including these sites. EBC after deliberation decided to withdraw the CS and start a new one, this could take a couple of years and be quite costly. Although the CS was withdrawn it did not mean that developers could not lodge planning applications on any of the sites and it will be interesting to see how these applications are handled as the Government is pushing for more housing, even on green belt.

Local Government Reform looks as though it will happen and EBC, along with other districts and boroughs, City and County will be coming together to look at all of the options. Consultation has taken place on various options and Erewash supported the option of joining with Derby City and South Derbyshire. It will mean the abolition of the districts and boroughs and many residents were unhappy with this but on the consultation on the options there was no box for 'none of the above'

There were quite a few motions at the Full Council meetings covering grants to shops for signage being extended to a wider area than just Ilkeston and Long Eaton, agreed, bringing back brown bin being used to recycling over the winter months, refused, challenging planning laws on the hotel in Long Eaton housing asylum seekers, agreed, support for the Stop the Pylons group opposing the massive pylons National Grid want to blot

the landscape with, refused and seeking to stop the increase in HMOs, Houses of multiple occupation, agreed.

One other motion was to try and persuade the controlling group who had £8M in the reserves to re-instate the concurrent function to parish councils was turned down but with continued lobbying they did agree to put two grant awards forward for parishes, one was to allocate certain amounts to parishes for them to bid in for, Stanley & Stanley Common's amount is £15K, there is also £185K set aside for any of the parish councils to make a bid for a large project in their area, it has to meet certain criteria but certainly West Hallam will be looking to hopefully put a bid in for this grant pot.

A Freedom of the Borough was given to Donald Rose, a war veteran who was 100 years old, he was unable to attend the ceremony at the Town Hall but the Mayor visited his at his care home.

The Chief Executive, Jeremy Jaroszek who had been in post for 2 decades announced his retirement. There is now an interim CEO, Gary Smith who previously held the position of Director of Environmental and Community Services.

The new food waste bins have now been delivered and collections started a couple of weeks ago.

We now move into the last year of this term of office and in May 2027 there will be lots more information on LGR and the fate of EBC.

Appendix D

Eventide Hall

It is with great satisfaction that I am able to deliver our report for the Eventide Community Hall given that this could well have been our last.

The Hall was facing closure for good in July of this year.

Our Treasurer, Sean Heavens has been instrumental in getting the Halls finances back on track and the potential closure has been avoided.

Since the present committee were elected in August 2024, the many obstacles inherited have slowly been overcome.

The lack of financial control, as evidenced in the Treasurers report, clearly showed that wages, expenses and other outgoing commitments were not sustainable given the Halls income.

We no longer enjoy the luxury, afforded over many years to the previous administrators of the Hall, being mainly the £20,000 per annum Derbyshire County Council grant.

Our income is now mainly derived from rent paid by our loyal Hall users together with donations received from users of our bus and other smaller grants.

To be now in a stable financial position is testament to the committee's efforts and they will continue to ensure the Hall remains operative despite the constraints we encounter.

We have a valued number of volunteers who step up when necessary and I thank them for their contributions.

We will continue to maintain good relationships with all our local organisations and Hall users and we look forward to a much brighter future.

Kind Regards

John Fowler (Chair)

Appendix E

The Wednesday Club

We run a friendship group, The Wednesday Club based at The Eventide Community Hall, we meet on alternate Wednesdays, 2-4pm. The group is open to anyone, regardless of age or location. We pay rent to the hall and we also pay a donation for the use of the hall's minibus to collect people from surrounding villages and bring them along to attend the group. The minibus has a tail lift so people with mobility issues and wheelchair users, can also access it without any problem.

The group has been running for over 12 years now and we are hoping to keep the group running for many more years to come. We have professional entertainment every month; quizzes and games, a birthday card register; and tasty refreshments. We have an average of 48 people attend, rising to around 60 on entertainment days.

We were very fortunate to be given a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund in September 2024. The grant awarded was £19,709 and will be used to fund the group until August 2026. It is our intention to apply for another grant in the hope that we can keep the group free of charge for our attendees.

Many of our members have gone on to become firm friends outside of our meetings; phoning each other and meeting up for a coffee; a meal or a night out, which helps reduce the risk of loneliness and isolation. A few of the members have begun helping out on a club day, setting up tables and chairs, handing out refreshments, and befriending others; giving them a sense of purpose and well-being.

Our club has a formal constitution, managed bank account, an AGM, and the committee meet 4 times a year. There are 10 committee members and all the positions are filled by members of the club; the Assistant Treasurer is also the group organiser.

The organiser liaises with the local G.P.'s social prescriber to help identify people who may benefit from attending the group; people who have recently been bereaved, people suffering ill health, or living with mental health issues. She also liaises with AGE UK; and Derbyshire Adult Care Social Workers; and supports people away from the hall with welfare calls.

We do have a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWednesdayClubEventideHall>.

We believe our club makes a positive difference to people's lives.

Appendix F

WHJFC Annual Report 2025/26

As always, I would like to begin by thanking all our coaches and committee members who give up their time to ensure the continued success of the football club and provide a safe, enjoyable environment for all our players. Their dedication remains the backbone of everything we do.

Following changes at executive level, I would like to place on record our thanks to Matt Haddon for his service as Vice-Chairman. I am delighted to welcome Dave Fretwell into the role, who has made an outstanding start and has done a tremendous job in helping to lead the club this season. I would also like to thank Jack Williamson for his work in overseeing the transition of our kit supplier to Meyba, which has been a smooth and successful process.

We remain extremely grateful for the continued support of West Hallam Parish Council and Stanley & Stanley Common Parish Councils. Their backing is invaluable in ensuring that we can provide and maintain facilities for our players and the wider community.

It has been another positive year on the pitch, particularly with the continued growth of our girls' section. The introduction of the Lionesses U7s and Harlequins U9s marks an exciting step forward, and it is fantastic to see this area of the club expanding. Congratulations also to the Titans U7s on a brilliant first season, and to our Senior Team on an excellent achievement in winning the Long Eaton Junior Cup. Finally, well done to the Lionesses on reaching the cup final in the DGLFL.

The season has once again been impacted by the weather, with disruption across the fixture calendar. However, we continue to make significant progress in improving our playing surfaces. Investment through grants has supported work at Nutbrook Cricket Club, Beech Lane, Stanley, and Stanley Common, and further improvements are planned, with reseeding and scarifying work due to commence shortly.

As is always the case, the end of the season brings some farewells. We say goodbye to the Wanderers U14s, and I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all the players and coaches for their contribution to the club. Thank you to Rich Annable, Jack Smith, and Luke Hutchinson for their commitment and hard work over the years – the team will be greatly missed.

Our Junior Coach Education Programme continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Chris Innes. A huge well done to all participants this season, and we look forward to seeing four players begin their Level 1 qualifications soon following successful completion of the course.

Off the pitch, there has been excellent work from many within the club to support wider projects and fundraising initiatives. I would like to thank everyone involved in the ongoing plans to renovate the Stanley Common Pavilion, and all those who contributed to fundraising efforts, including the T20 cricket game and the charity match against Ilkeston Town in support of the Will Garvey Foundation. These events highlight the strength of our club community.

Finally, I would like to pay special tribute to Kevin Parkes, who steps down as our long-serving groundman. Kevin has dedicated over 15 years to maintaining Beech Lane and other venues, and his contribution to the club has been immense. On behalf of everyone at West Hallam JFC, I would like to thank him for his outstanding service.

Looking ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new U7s teams to West Hallam JFC for next season. We are excited to watch your journey unfold, and you can be sure that the club will support you every step of the way.

Our core aim remains unchanged: to provide opportunities for players of all ages and abilities to enjoy football in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. This continues to guide everything we do as a club.