

DRAFT Minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on Monday 17th August 2026, at Sandon Parish Room, Lichfield Road, Sandon, Stafford ST18 0DN. The meeting commenced at 7pm.

Present: Cllr H Wildblood (Chairman), Cllr A Hudson, Cllr A Greaves, Cllr O Antcliff, Cllr R Wildblood, Cllr G Wyatt, Cllr A Mynors (SCC), a resident and the clerk.

EO 26.08.001 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES – Cllr K Aspin (SBC)

EO 26.08.002 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS. The Clerk received 4 dispensation requests for “all agenda items” concerning St Rufin’s Church. Dispensation requested were: “remain in meeting and participate in vote/future votes”. Council RESOLVED to grant dispensation to Cllr H Wildblood, Cllr R Wildblood, Cllr A Hudson, Cllr O Antcliff until the end Councillors term of office, May 2027.

EO 26.08.003 TO CONSIDER PCC LETTER REGARDING CLOSURE OF ST RUFIN’S CHURCH, BURSTON. The Council acknowledged receipt of PCC letter, which they received via a resident. The letter advised a decision to close St Rufin’s Church, Burston was made by Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Sandon and Burston on 22nd July 2026. The closure will take place on 18th October 2026.

The letter confirmed 6 facts that the PCC took into account regarding the closure, 1. building works needed would cost £3,800 in first year and £7,100 in next 2-5yrs, plus 5 other factors. Council RESOLVED to liaise with Friends of St Rufin’s Resident group to discuss the letter further.

**The Council was informed during the Council meeting that the Bishop will attend the last service at St Rufin’s Church on 18th October to give a Thanksgiving Service.

EO 26.08.004 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PCC LETTER REGARDING CLOSURE OF ST RUFIN’S CHURCH, BURSTON

After lengthy discussion the Council RESOLVED to write to the Church Wardens regarding the consultation process and statements in the PCC title registration document.

The Councillors will create a letter and Clerk to send to Church Wardens on 20.08.2026, with the hope a response from the PCC can be received for the next Parish Council meeting on 1st September.

EO 26.08.005 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COUNCIL’S POWERS AND DUTIES REGARDING CLOSURE OF ST RUFIN’S CHURCH, BURSTON AND ACTIONS REQUIRED

The Council discussed their powers and duties regarding St Rufin’s Church and RESOLVED they had a number of powers available in order to engage with the PCC regarding the future of the building.

The Councillors RESOLVED in anticipation of the PCC response to the letter being sent (EO 26.08.004), the Council would research options for the building, creating a draft business plan for each option that could be considered in the November meeting.

EO 26.08.006 TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW PREVIOUS COMMUNITY ASSET APPLICATION TO STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC)

Councillors reviewed the previous application which was declined by SBC in August 2025 and

NOTED the objections raised by SBC.

EO 26.08.007 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE RE-SUBMITTING COMMUNITY ASSET APPLICATION TO STAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC).

The Council RESOLVED not to resubmit the application to SBC.

EO 26.08.008 TO CONSIDER FUNDING OPTIONS REGARDING COMMUNITY ASSET.

The Councillors discussed funding options and criteria of S137, General Power of Competence, Grants and Public Loan. Clerk to provide details/guidance of each option to the Councillors.

EO 26.08.009 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION*

The resident happy not to comment in the meeting.

Cllr Mynors advised he would have an update on the All Saints Way Footpath 36 bridge replacement on Wednesday 19th August and would like to propose an opening ceremony event. Cllr Mynors attended the Sandon Fete, which was a great success and brought the community together.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7pm. The meeting was formally closed at 20.15

Signed.....