

# ACTON TRUSSELL, BEDNALL & TEDDESLEY HAY PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 8.00 pm

Present A Thompson (Chair), B Wyatt, D Marsden, T Williams, T Parrott , D Cllr A Adams,  
One member of the public in attendance Clerk D W Wright

Apologies, C Cllr Craig Humphreyson, Cllr B Dellicompagni, Cllr S Calvert,

## 1. Chairman's Report

Another year has flown by and there has been a huge number of things going on.

The eight home affordable scheme in Bednall was completed ahead of time and all bar one property has been occupied so far. The Parish Council are in the process of purchasing the land for the Car Park in Bednall

Neither village are taking part in the Best Kept Village competition this year, but undoubtedly both villages will again look stunning and kept clean and tidy with lots of colour and new planting.

As a Parish Council we continue to put pressure on County Highways and in the past year there continues to be several challenges. The Mill Lane Bridge was hit by a DPD van and has had temporary traffic lights for months,

The long-standing issue of water continually running down the road in Bednall and being forced out of the drain at Cherry Tree Cottage is getting closer to being fully investigated with already a temporary repair made to the iron works surround together with other larger areas of road erosion.

Speed Indicator Devices update. We have the licences; we have the speed indicator devices; we have the poles. We now just need a County Highways approved contractor to install them, which is posing quite a challenge.

Planning continues to keep us on our toes and the latest consultation of the South Staffordshire Local Plan 2024 had us gain a huge amount of local support both within the Parish and from neighbouring Stafford Borough. We made sure that our objections were accepted for land identified on Acton Hill at Wildwood (Site 036c) for an initial 81 homes following a very successful Crowdfunding campaign which saw almost £2000 raised to pay for expert advice. If this site is approved, we could be looking at almost 3000 new homes in years to come, extending all the way to the boundary of Acton Trussell together with a loss of high-quality agricultural land forever. The Inspectors hearing in July 2025 will be attended by me on behalf of the Parish Council and by Brian Wyatt on behalf of the residents of the Parish and those of Stafford Borough.

We are working on a Housing Needs Assessment for the Parish to support us at the hearing together with the much larger project of The Neighbourhood Plan which is likely to cost in the region of £8-10k but will provide us with the much-needed voice in shaping any future housing or other protection within the Parish.

A Neighbourhood Plan allows us to:

- **Develop a shared vision:** Allows us to set out our vision for the future of the Parish.
- **Direct development:** We can determine where new homes, shops, offices, and other developments should be built.
- **Influence appearance:** We can have our say on what new buildings should look like.
- **Grant planning permission:** In some cases, Neighbourhood Plans can be used to grant planning permission for specific developments agreed by the community.
- **Protect local green spaces:** We can identify and protect local green spaces.

Demands on the Parish Council with the possible move to a new Unified Authority in Staffordshire is very much an unknown currently, but other areas have seen more financial pressures on Parish Councils to provide services previously undertaken by their District, so watch this space. Although the precept went up 22% this year, it is still relatively low, and we need to build up the reserves for future expenditure, to replace the spending on the land in Bednall, together with any future demands put on us by Unification.

The Community Centre is doing very well, with a new website and progressing towards a new charitable status of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), a type of legal structure for charities in England and Wales, with a move to more financial independence from the Parish Council in the coming years.

Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors for giving up their time to help keep our community listened to, safe, and valued

In the coming year it would be good to fill our vacancy for at least one more Parish Councillor.

A big thank you to Andy Adams for all that you do at District in keeping us well informed of changes, giving us invaluable advice and making sure we are aware of opportunities for funding and in the loop with planning queries.

I hope our newly elected County Councillor, Craig Humphreyson, will attend our meetings regularly so they can update us on issues such as Unification, see the issues we face rurally in the Parish and assist us with anything within their remit.

**2. Minutes.**

The minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 had been circulated before the meeting.

**3. Finance.**

The Clerk presented the accounts for 2024/25 and summarised the income and expenditure. The accounts will now be submitted for external audit after this meeting but will be available for any member of the parish to consult during a 30 working day period in June and the first 10 days of July.

**4. Community Centre**

The reorganization of the Charity Trusts associated with the Community Centre was still ongoing. It should help the Community Centre access the funds from the Old Village Hall.. The facility is well used by the local community and by other parties from outside. The external bookings provide a good income

**5. Matters raised. Potholes and speeding.**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

***The Annual Parish Assembly is not a meeting of the Parish Council.***