Penkhull Residents Association

Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday 21st September at 7.30pm 2026
The Studio, Village Hall

Attendees

Committee:

John Chinn, David Chadwick, James Payton, Gwen Rylands, Steven Rylands, Matthew Oxby, Jayne Deaville, Bruce Jarvest, Adan Colclough

In attendance:

Cllr Sarah Hill, Claire Gurden, Cllr Jane Ashworth, Gareth Snell

Observers:

Jenny Walker, John Walker, Ian J Rawlingson, Dave Barnett, Noreen Stokes, Drew Cooke, Sarah Alcock, Mike Allen, Dorothy Gough, Kevin Cox, Ray Dodd, Annette Stokes, John Stokes, HPM Gurden

Apologies:

Mark Mabey, Karen Jones, Janet Wakefield, Martin Wakefield, Charles Pantin

Welcome	**Lead**	**Enclosure/Comments**
Welcome to all	Chair	
Apologies	Chair/DC	
Declaration of interests	Chair	
Matters Arising & acceptance of minutes	Chair	Minutes from August 2026
Welcome guest from City Council	Chair	Cllr Jane Ashworth

Welcome to all
Chair welcomed everyone and ran through housekeeping health and safety.
Apologies
Declarations of interest
Matter arising
Welcome Guest from City Council

Items		***Please follow July minutes***
1. Extraordinary General Meeting	Chair/ JD	**To accept the revised constitution as discussed at previous meetings.** **Revised constitution has been emailed out and is available on the website.**

Committee Constitution
JD gave headline summary of changes to current constitution.
There was a discussion regarding some specifics.
Constitution and changes were agreed and actioned.

ACTION – JD to provide summary of agreed changes to constitution.

2. Guest Speaker	Cllr Jane Ashworth	

Local Government Reorganisation
JA gave a talk and provided information regarding local government reorganisation and devolution.
In particular, JA explained one of the main drivers for this is cost effectiveness and less bureaucracy.
Local Government Organisation is on pause in order to ensure that legal, social, political and economic aspects are correct.
Timeline

December 2026 – estimated timescale for outcome of review
May 2027 – elections to Stoke-on-Trent
May 2028- New combined authority –
2028/29 – new mayoralty
Q – Chair clarified ideal size of units referred to. JA responded that there would be 84 councils.
Q – An attendee asked about job losses. Response from JA was that there would be the same number at an operational level.
Q – An attendee asked if this process would be will this take enrichment programme money away from Stoke-on-Trent.
Q – A question was asked by an attendee - Are mayoralities the only option on the table for reorganisation? JA highlighted the Manchester model as a successful example of this approach.
Q – Cllr Sarah Hill raised the point that it was important to ensure our village has a say and are protected. JA – What is the best structure to hear more local voices?

ACTION – how do the committee help to ensure that local voices can input into the process?

Q – An attendee asked - How will the council tax work? – JA responded that each band is less than its' equivalent in Newcastle and Moorlands.
Q – A member of the committee asked – Who will ultimately decide what happens? – JA responded that this would be central government.

3. Police Report	PCSO/ DC	

No police report had been provided prior to the meeting.

Key Points
Cllr Sarah Hill noted that this had been provided to local councillors and shared some key points.

- Youths in and around Penkhull Education Centre - Bushes had been cut down to improve visibility for law enforcement and local residents.
- Council sending someone x1 per week to check on any damage etc.
- There had been anti-social problems at The Marquis and damage to the windows

PCSOs
It was noted that PCSOs are having to spend a lot of time in the centre of Stoke. The impact of this is that Penkhull are not getting as much PCSO time as previously.
Q – The chair raised the question of what might be causing this cause of this. Anecdotally it was shared that social media and Tik Tok dares were being acted upon.

ACTION – Sarah to forward the PCSO report to Dave Chadwick, secretary.

Q – MP, Gareth Snell, asked about the e-bikes and whether a station was to be located in Penkhull for them. It was highlighted this may be an issue re: anti-social behaviour that had been highlighted.
Q – An attendee raised the question of noise at The Marquis recently and asked if this had disturbed anyone else. A number of attendees confirmed it had. A local resident asked that it be raised. Cllr Sarah Hill noted this had been raised with the council.

4. Highways, Car Parking and Transport. 20 MPH Zone Updates School Parking/ 20MPH Zone	Chair/ chair/ Cllr Hill Chair	To contact local schools

Pot holes
A number have been being fixed., including temporary actions. The intention of this is to get the vast number filled swiftly and then complete a more permanent job later due to the number.
20mph limit
There was a short discussion and comments from attendees were invited.
The following points were made.
- Many road users not keeping to it
- Could the area be extended
- Light up signs and timing needs to be reviewed

ACTION – 20mph stickers for the bins

ACTION – Cllr Sarah Hill will take forward the issue re: light up signs to the council.

Q – A resident raised the illegal parking issue on Princes Road as a result of parents driving their children to school. It was highlighted how dangerous this is, particularly since it is at the 'mouth' of the road and at this time there is a high volume of pedestrians. Additionally, this reduces visibility and increases congestion for both road users and pedestrians.
A committee member commented it was difficult for parents as they had had to make arrangements to be late at work in order to drop off their children and it was necessary to park somewhere.
Another committee member noted that it was relatively easy to drive round the roundabout at the entrance to the school, drop children and leave, without adding to the parking issues.

5. Building and Planning HMO updates Penkhull Farm Submitted building planning applications	Chair Chair Cllr Hill	

Penkhull Farm
- Chair been in touch with owner of but not yet had a response.
- Dominic Gratty (Stoke City Council) had ordered some work to be done.

Garden street
- There have been a number of conversations regarding the future of these buildings and planning requests that have been made.

HMOs
HMOs continue to be of concern to residents regarding disruption and noise.
Local council have put forward a new policy to regulate these – should be in place by Christmas..
License – HMOs must be licensed and this license can be taken away if there are persistent issues.

Q – A resident asked how HMOs are tarrifed in terms of council tax. Currently, no one was able to provide an answer.

ACTION – committee to find out the relevant information re: council tax tarrifs for HMOs.

6. Open Spaces Skip on land end P.Terrace	Chair	

Skip
Another skip appeared on Penkhull Terrace.

Cllr Sarah Hill had already noted this and was checking for compliance to regulations.
Litter
A litter bin is going to be placed at the end of Penkhull Terrace.
Green Area on Penkhull Terrace
Cllr Sarah Hill had previously suggested this could have a name e.g. after a local person.

ACTION – for next agenda re: gathering ideas of local residents

Resident's House Wall on Honeywall
There was a discussion about the wall on Honeywall where original sandstone has been replaced with new bricks and a fence. There is a general feeling that this is not in-keeping with the look/ history of the area and has had a negative impact.
The area is not part of the conservation area of Penkhull which is why this has been granted planning permission.
Q – A resident raised the point regarding this situation going forwards – could the Residents Association look into protecting other walls?

ACTION – committee to ascertain this

7. Promoting the RA	Chair	Forthcoming Penkhull Events

There was a short update on this item.
Q – A resident raised there were many attendees committed to looking after the interests of Penkhull residents but asked what the residents' association focus was in terms of garnering support, engaging residents and promoting the village. Was it appropriate to have a 'working group' to look into this.
The chair responded that it would be good to have some posters displayed and also cost high vis vests with Penkhull volunteers on. Additionally, more 'grabbers' for picking up litter.

ACTION – posters to be created, litter pickers and bags

8. Penkhull Recorder	BJ	

Bruce gave a quick update on the date for articles to be received (10th November), finances (potentially breaking even), article length (500 words/ ½ page)

9. Finance	JP	

Finance 'report'
James gave a headline summary and noted it was very similar to the previous update.
James shared the balance of accounts.
Donations
Continued discussion re: card machines and facilitating donations in order that transactions are easy.
Website
James shared some analysis of the website he had completed including the number of people visiting the site.
This information will aid future discussions about PRA promotion, local engagement etc.

10. Communication Website Secretary/ Facebook	 JP DC	

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11. Correspondence	Chair	
There was a discussion, related to an anonymous item of correspondence, that had been received before the previous meeting. Q - A resident raised that people should have the right to redress correspondence made, particularly in the event of that being vexatious and 'the record needing to be set straight'. There was a brief discussion and it was agreed that vexatious complaints would be addressed and this added to the constitution. **ACTION – Add agreed response to vexatious complaints to the constitution.**		
12. Questions/ comments from observers	Chair	
See throughout, no further questions raised at this point		
13. Any other business:	Chair Chair	
Parking Wardens to attend October meeting. Approach the Willows about flying The Penkhull Flag – addressed at the last meeting **ACTION - Michelle Lawrence (Principal THHS) to be invited to attend November meeting - DC** **ACTION - Andy Meakin (CEO at VAST) to be invited to talk about the voluntary sector (January) - SH**		
14. Dates of next meetings		
Monday 19th October 7.30 PM **The Studio, Penkhull Village Hall**		

The Meeting Closed at 9.14pm