

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM AT THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET,
BURNTWOOD ON THURSDAY 07 MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans (in the Chair)

Councillors Bishop, Coe MBE, D Ennis, R Ennis, Gittings (from 6.10pm), Kube, P Taylor, Tranter, and Willis-Croft

In attendance

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

Ms K Horner, Community Development and Engagement Officer

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

- 55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillor Kirkham and Councillor Wittstock.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

57. MINUTES

The Chair reminded Members that they were being asked to comment solely on the accuracy of the Minutes and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the minutes had been approved at Full Council on 25 March 2026.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 09 March 2026 (Minute Nos. 43-54) be approved as a correct record.

58. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dementia Friendly Burntwood

The Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that she alongside Councillor Evans had attended the latest meeting of Dementia Friendly Burntwood. The group are now being supported by a new member, Helena Haddock, from Home Instead Cannock and Burntwood alongside Susan Williams as Chair. She further explained that the group had discussed Dementia Action Week which is the 18 – 24 May and some events that are taking place locally that week, including A Musical Evening in May hosted by Magnolia Friends on the 16 May at the Memorial Hall to raise funds for their group, and a free Memory Café Party on the 19 May at Burntwood Library, hosted by Home Instead. As well as Dementia Action Week, they are also planning to hold another Memory Walk in partnership with Burntwood Town Council in

September which is World Alzheimer's Month. The date and further details will be confirmed soon.

Revive Staffordshire

Following a successful application to the Better Burntwood Fund, the Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that she had attended and supported Revive Staffordshire's Festival of Wellbeing which went ahead in March at Fulfen School. She explained that there were a range of different health and wellbeing organisations who attended and there were workshops and talks to take part in. It was fantastic to see this new event go ahead in Burntwood for the first time, and to see children, families and residents come along to join in and find out more.

Creative Burntwood

The Community Development and Engagement Officer stated that Creative Burntwood continues to be successful in the delivery of their project in partnership with Burntwood Town Council. The Community Development and Engagement Officer said that she attends their steering group meetings to support the projects progress and they have a wide range of performances planned over the next year, and the Young Garrick Burntwood Youth Theatre Group and the Burntwood Community Choir continue to be really well attended.

White Ribbon

As part of the Town Council's efforts as a White Ribbon Supporter Organisation, the Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that she alongside Councillor Coe MBE and Councillor Evans are looking at working with Pathway Project to provide training to staff and Councillors in support of the aims of White Ribbon. She explained that due to previous events and publicity, a supportive resident has offered to fund an online Active Bystander training session for Burntwood Town Council staff, residents and volunteers representing local charities and groups. This is planned for Thursday 11 June at 1pm, and members will be receiving an invitation to join this shortly.

Staffordshire Community Energy and Support Staffordshire

The Community Development and Engagement Officer explained that she alongside Councillor Evans and the Town Clerk attended a meeting held by Staffordshire Community Energy and Support Staffordshire to explore the idea of a community energy plan specifically targeting Boney Hay and Central Ward. There were discussions about how to launch this idea and it was suggested that an energy café would be held in the coming weeks to introduce the concept to local residents. Details of this will be shared as they become available.

Video Project

The Community Development and Engagement Officer also reported that she has been continuing to work with InLife Design on the creation of a series of short form videos. A lot of footage of different groups, activities and projects has now been captured and the videos are in draft form.

Burntwood Market

Councillor Evans confirmed that the next Burntwood Market would be held this Sunday (10 May) and she asked Members to encourage as many people as possible to attend this event.

Spark Open Day

Councillor Evans confirmed that she had attended the Spark Open Day on Wednesday 29 April. She explained that Spark do wonderful work across the board – for example baby/toddler sessions, support services, community fridge, baby bank etc and were set up as a result of the closure of the Sure Start Childrens Centres.

Burntwood Foodbank

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that he had recently visited the Burntwood Foodbank to learn more about the work they are doing locally. The Burntwood Foodbank is located behind Beacon Community Church and while foodbanks should not have to fill the gaps they do, the support they provide is vital for many local people. He explained the foodbank is open every Tuesday: 12pm – 2pm, every Thursday: 12pm – 2pm and every Thursday: 5pm to 7pm.

Chess Club

Councillor D Ennis confirmed that the Grangemoor Working Mens Club will be starting a chess club on Wednesday afternoons and as part of his Lichfield District Council Councillor Community Fund will be funding an outdoor chess table which will be located externally at Burntwood Leisure Centre.

Burntwood Pump Track

Following the submission of a CIL application, Councillor D Ennis explained that the Town Council had been allocated £300,000 from Lichfield District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund to build a pump track in Burntwood. He stated that this was a huge step forward. The initial location for the pump track was Chasewater however the County Council had not been forthcoming and the initial barrier is now to find a suitable alternative location.

PrimiFest

Councillor D Ennis explained that he had met with Mr Mark Maydew, Chief Executive Officer from Primitas Learning Partnership who have previously organised the PrimiFest in Burntwood which was designed to bring together their family of schools and the local community. He asked that before the date is set for the Wakes Festival in 2027 that a conversation is had with Primitas Learning Partnership to see if we could bring PrimiFest to the Wakes.

Town of Culture Competition

Councillor D Ennis explained that an Expression of Interest had been submitted on 20 March 2026. The competition is designed to celebrate the cultural contributions of towns. The winning town will be awarded £3 million to deliver a cultural programme. Additionally, the two finalists from their category will receive £250,000 each to deliver elements of their bid, however, the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) will award bid development grants of £60,000 to each of the shortlisted towns which are then invited to submit a full application. He stated that the shortlisted places announcement is Spring 2026.

Bleed Kit Training

Councillor Willis-Croft explained that he together with Yvonne James, Principal Community Safety Officer, Lichfield District Council had attended a Lichfield school last week to undertake bleed kit training however, it had been noted that no schools in Burntwood had signed up for the training.

59. BETTER BURNTWOOD FUND

Referring to Minute No. 36d – LifeSpring Church (19 January 2026 refers), the Deputy Clerk confirmed that LifeSpring Church for the time being will not be continuing with their fund application.

59a. Star Parenting CIC – Resubmission

Referring to Minute No. 6a (16 July 2025) and Minute No. 36b (19 January 2026), the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the additional information requested by Members had now been included on the form. Councillor D Ennis asked if staff wages were for external practitioners or inhouse practitioners. The Community Development and Engagement Officer confirmed that they were inhouse.

It was proposed by Councillor D Ennis and seconded by Councillor Tranter and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That Star Parenting CIC be awarded £105 towards the cost of gift packs & handouts and consumables.

59b. MHA Communities South Staffs

The Deputy Clerk showed Members a copy of the Communities Newsletter booklet for Winter 2025 and provided detail on the number of booklets produced and distribution across the district (for example to volunteers, membership, networking agencies etc). As the Town Council is unable to provide funding for items/activities outside of the Parish of Burntwood it was proposed by Councillor D Ennis and seconded by Councillor Willis-Croft and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That

- a. MHA Communities South Staffs be awarded £195 towards the cost of printing of the Communities Newsletter booklet (for distribution within the Parish of Burntwood) subject to confirmation that the remaining printing costs will be funded by MHA Communities South Staffs.
- b. MHA Communities South Staffs be advised to contact Lichfield City Council and Rugeley Town Council for help towards the printing and distribution costs outside of the Parish of Burntwood.

60. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE BURNTWOOD WAKES FESTIVAL 2026

Referring to the summary of the Burntwood Wakes Festival Organising Group meeting held on 23 March 2026, Councillor Evans asked if Members had any questions. She explained that there was no future Organising Group meetings scheduled in the diary and any further decisions for the Wakes Festival in 2026 would be made by this Committee. The content of the summary was received and noted.

Councillor D Ennis explained that the Town Council's vision going forward had originally included outside bodies (e.g. community groups, charity groups, private businesses etc) and he referred to his meeting with Mr Maydew regarding PrimiFest as Primitas Learning Partnership already have a committee set up to run this event. The Town Council's aim was to be an enabler rather than an organiser.

The Deputy Clerk detailed the activities which had already been booked and the budget spent to date. With regard to sponsorship, the Deputy Clerk raised concerns that following Councillor P Taylor's initial email sent and the response received from the Events and Communications Manager at Lichfield District Council on 26 February 2026, informing that the District Council would be introducing a proportionate bidding process for community events, even though several emails had been sent by the Town Clerk no details of the new sponsorship process had been received. It was **agreed** that Councillor P Taylor would email the Cabinet Member concerned.

61. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE PLAY IN THE PARKS EVENTS 2026

Referring to the informal update relating to the Play in the Parks events for 2026, Councillor Evans asked if Members had any questions.

Referring to the event on Wednesday 12 August at Redwood Park, Councillor D Ennis asked if the Pump Track could be invited to attend. Councillor P Taylor confirmed that there would be no fee to use the Burntwood Memorial Hall on Monday 17 August. It was **agreed** that Councillor Kube would provide the email contact details for Lidl.

62. INFORMAL UPDATE ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2026

Referring to the informal update relating to the Christmas Events in 2026, Councillor Evans asked if Members had any questions.

With regard to the development of the dementia care home which has now started on Cannock Road, it was **agreed** that the Deputy Clerk would email Bode Contracting Limited to inform them of the road closure on 28 November. Councillor D Ennis stated that he thought that the development would be finished in 2027 and the Town Council may have to consider an alternative site for the Xmas event as the space available would be reduced in size due to access/egress requirements for the dementia care home.

(The Meeting closed at 6.55 pm)

Signed

Date