

MINUTES OF KEELE PARISH COUNCIL EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING**Held on Monday 8 December 2025 at 7.00pm at Keele Village Hall**

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Cllr G Bibby (Chair, GB), Cllr S Hughes (SH), Cllr M Downing (MD), Cllr W Naylor (WN), Cllr V Newman (VN, remote), Cllr C Ashton (CA), Cllr T Arnold (TA), Cllr D Jones (DJ)

162/25 To receive apologies

Cllr A Rowe (AR), Cllr T Wright (TW), Ms D Powell (DP), Cllr J Hall (JH)

163/05 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. None.**164/25 To discuss the Keele Neighbourhood Plan****a. To receive Chair's comments**

There was unanimous agreement that the threats to Keele from development in the Green Belt, both currently and in the future under any new Local Plan development, were of grave concern and that a prompt and speedy completion of our Neighbourhood Plan was of primary importance. It was accepted that it was important that our Neighbourhood Plan was not the last to be completed in the Borough. It was judged that were this to happen, it would significantly weaken whatever protection a completed Neighbourhood Plan could offer to the parish.

b. To discuss the Urban Vision Planning Consultants fees proposals received on 20 November 2025, as circulated

- i. **Proposal 1 – at a cost of £6,069.00**
- ii. **Proposal 2 – at a cost of £3,757.00**

Proposal 1 was unanimously approved. It was agreed that Urban Vision should be asked to delay/schedule payments to minimise financial impact.

c. To discuss the Keele Parish Council Financial Position, Reserves and Precept increase

The meeting received the report on the Parish Council's financial position. It was unanimously agreed that funding the Neighbourhood Plan, in the absence of other funding, should constitute a situation in which the reserves could be used.

It was unanimously agreed that the cost of the carrying forward the plan to completion should be added to the precept proposal together with the proposed annual rise suggested in the Borough's documentation. Given that there will be at least 5 vacancies it was unanimously agreed not to request an additional increase to the precept to cover potential election expenses in May. Nevertheless, Cllr Jones has undertaken to pursue what were judged to be unreasonable charges with the Borough Council. Nevertheless, it was agreed to ask the Clerk to model three precept proposals for formal resolution in our January Meeting: basic increase in line with Borough's proposal, increase to accommodate cost of Neighbourhood Plan completion + Borough's proposed increase, increase to accommodate Neighbourhood Plan, Borough and cost of a contested election.

It was agreed that, were our precept proposal to be rejected by the borough then the possibility of a load should be investigated prior to drawing on reserves.

d. To discuss progression of the Keele Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation

It was unanimously agreed that the regulation 14 consultation would go ahead in February. The Chair has undertaken to draw up a new timetable, in conjunction with the Clerk, to be agreed in our January meeting.

165/25 Public participation on the above topic. No one present.

Signed

Dated

Dates of the next meetings

12 January 2026, 9 February 2026, 9 March 2026.