

STANDISH VOICE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MAY 20TH, 2025

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm

Management Committee present: Allan Foster, Sharron Gerrard, Fran Aiken, Diane Gore, Paul Ogden, Karen Bliss, Sarah Djali, Gill Foster, Kathy Robertson, Nicky Ogden

1. **Apologies:** Ron Wade, Judith Atherton
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of April's Management Committee meeting were passed without alteration. Gill gave a tribute to founding committee member Janet Monks who sadly passed away recently. Gill spoke of her dedication to Standish Voice (SV), her love of the village and how she was an expert in the footpaths and green spaces of Standish. She said this knowledge served the committee well and was invaluable in the creation of Standish Neighbourhood Plan. A minute's silence was held in her honour.
3. **Update:** Gill gave an update from the recent meeting with Wigan Council on a number of current matters:
 - i) **The Line Phase 3:** Gill said the council was currently scoping a number of routes which link to The Line, north and south of the village centre, to see if they are suitable for an upgrade to improve access to The Line.
 - ii) **NHS discussions:** Gill said the council was organising a meeting with local NHS representatives, Standish councillors, the council and SV to discuss primary care challenges in the village
 - iii) **Traffic assessment:** SV had asked for a Standish traffic assessment. The council said a borough-wide traffic assessment would be conducted over the coming months with results coming later this year. The council said Standish would be adequately covered by this assessment.
 - iv) **Pepper Lane appeal:** Persimmon Homes had informed the council that they would appeal against the refusal of their planning application for homes off Pepper Lane. The council said they would prefer a less intensive 'informal hearing' to decide the appeal, which would be later in the year. If this happened, there would be no automatic right to speak to the inspector.
 - v) **Planning conditions:** A Monitoring Officer had been appointed to look at and enforce planning conditions across the borough.
 - vi) **Footpath designations:** SV was still monitoring the progress of deciding on new footpaths and Ron was questioning how these are prioritised.
 - vii) **Pond at St Marie's:** The council has been asked about its plans for the pond area on the bend opposite St Marie's Church.
4. **Planning Applications:** No planning applications
5. **Wigan Local Plan Consultation:** Paul said he had submitted SV's comment on the local plan which included views on Local Green Space, Green Corridors, the timing of release of housing land, redevelopment of Standish Centre and a lack of

- transport considerations for the village. Gill thanked him. The committee decided to ask the council if a planning officer was available to speak to the committee about the draft plan at a future meeting.
6. **Standish Neighbourhood Forum redesignation:** Paul said the submission to redesignate SV as a neighbourhood forum had taken place and a six-week public consultation was ongoing, which SV would publicise. After this, the redesignation request would go to Wigan Council's Cabinet for ratification.
 7. **Standish Christmas Market:** Kathy said preparations for the Market were going well and applications from traders were open. Prices for stall had increased by 10% but demand was still high. Some members of the organising committee were to meet the council to discuss road closures and diversions. A report had been created to outline the contingency plans for severe weather events, which was informing Market preparations and event insurance was being investigated. The High Sheriff had been invited to open the Market.
 8. **Update from lead committee members:** Fran said the 60th birthday celebrations of Standish Library went well and the series of events had been very popular. Gill thanked her and the Friends of Standish Library for their hard work in staging the celebrations.
 9. **Any other business:** Gill said she attended the opening of Millennium Care's new dementia-friendly care home on Chorley Road on behalf of SV recently. She said it was a wonderful facility of which Standish should be proud.
 7. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, June 16th.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm