

STANDISH VOICE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The meeting commenced at 7.45pm

Management Committee present: Paul Ogden, Gill Foster, Sharon Gerrard, Allan Foster, Diane Gore, Fran Aiken, Kathy Robertson, Karen Bliss.

1. **Apologies:** Nicky Ogden, Judith Atherton, Ian Trafford, Sarah Djali.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of October's Management Committee meeting were passed without alteration.
3. **Planning Applications:** No significant planning applications.
4. **Pepper Lane Planning Appeal:** Gill said Standish Voice (SV) was extremely disappointed at the outcome of the planning appeal by Persimmon Homes for 57 homes at Pepper Lane. She said Wigan Council did not put up an effective case against the appeal at the hearing she attended with the planning inspector. She said she had written to the council outlining the deficiencies in the council's case, including that the officer who was defending refusal of the planning application was the one who recommended approval of the application originally. She said this was a conflict of interest and unacceptable. Councillor Ray Whittingham had also written a formal complaint about the performance of the council at the hearing.
5. **Friends of Ashfield:** Paul said that a group had formed to enhance Ashfield Park and Victoria Pit Reclamation Area. The committee agreed to donate £200 to the Friends of Ashfield to kick-start their activities when they had formally constituted themselves with Wigan Council and opened a bank account.
6. **Preston Road development:** Paul said SV was trying to find out what was the current situation with the vacant site on Preston Road. New tarmac had been laid on part of the site. He said the council was trying to liaise with the developer about his intentions.
7. **Standish Christmas Market:** Kathy outlined the details of Standish Christmas Market, including security, performers, traders, the prize draw and the programme. She said a Safety Briefing would be held on December 1st with volunteers on the day. Gill wished the organisers well with the event.
8. **Update from lead committee members:** Gill thanked Phil and Karen Bliss for organising the Poppy Appeal successfully and Paul said the Spire Appeal that SV supported was on track to complete the repairs at St Wilfrid's Church on time and on budget.
7. **Date of next meeting:** AGM on January 20.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm