PiPP Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Minutes – 21 July 2026, 6:00pm

1. Attendance

Present

- Neil Roberts (Chair)
- Sam Flint
- Sarah Spencer
- Corrine Hobson
- Sara Bonas-Whalen
- Daniel McGuinness
- Shesh Sheshabhatter
- David Lane
- Chet Parmar
- Hazel Dawkins (Chelmsley Wood Town Council)
- Cllr Karen Grinsell
- Cllr Phil Tierney
- Saqib Bhatti, MP

In attendance

- Felix Kupay (Solihull MBC- Partnerships & Programme Manager)
- Austin Rodriguez (Solihull MBC- Head of Service Stronger Communities)

Apologies / Resignations

- Natalie – resigned from the Board following concerns regarding online harassment and public engagement.

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2. Key Decisions

Governance and Board Management

1. **David Lane was appointed Vice Chair** of the PiPP Neighbourhood Board.
2. Governance documents, Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy were reviewed.

3. Board agreed several amendments to governance documents including:
    - Clearer wording and paragraph numbering.
    - Review of quorum requirements.
    - Clarification of resident-led/community-led representation.
    - Introduction of provisions for proxy voting.
    - Hybrid attendance arrangements.
    - Clearer arrangements for deputies.
    - Improved complaints and member removal processes.

Social Media and Public Conduct

4. Board agreed to:
    - Minimise engagement with negative or abusive social media comments.
    - Redirect residents to official information sources.
    - Support board members experiencing online abuse.
    - Develop a process for dealing with persistent disruptive behaviour.

Recruitment

5. Vacant board positions will remain open while the Board explores suitable community candidates.
6. Potential members including **Dale** and **Nathaniel** will be approached regarding Board participation.

Communications and Engagement

7. Board agreed to:
    - Develop a dedicated Communications Strategy.
    - Produce a regular newsletter.
    - Launch surveys in both digital and paper formats.
    - Increase community engagement through local events and outreach activity.

Working Groups

8. The Board approved the establishment of thematic working groups:
    - Health & Wellbeing: Sara Bonas-Whalen and Sam Flint

    - Arts, Culture & Community: Sam Flint, Hazel Dawkins, Neil Roberts
    - Business & Social Enterprise: Dave Lane & Chet Parmar
    - Children & Families: Chet Parmar
    - Safety & Security: Daniel McGuinness
    - Housing & Environment: Phil Tierney, Hazel Dawkins & Sheh Sheshabhatter
    - Young People, Education & Opportunity: Chet Parmar & Dave Lane

9. An additional **Assets and Buildings Sub-Group** will be established (Sarah Spencer & Dave Lane) with the aim of:

- Accessing information about community assets available in the area including recent condition surveys, valuations, feasibility/ business cases, indicative costings etc.
- Exploring whether the council are aware of any private land / assets that may be in disrepair or possible use?
- Accessing information about VCFSE's operating in the area and whether any are contracted to provide specific things - mindful of the need to enhance and strengthen and the remit of funding etc
- Establishing a database of businesses in the area- who, what, where?

Funding and Grants

10. The Board confirmed participation in the current Heart of England Foundation grant process.

11. Long-term funding arrangements and future grant panels will be developed with greater community involvement.

Meetings

12. Board agreed:

- Next meeting scheduled for **29 July 2026**.
- Future meetings to move to a regular Wednesday pattern initially, with a longer-term schedule to be confirmed.

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3. Main Discussion Points

Social Media and Community Perceptions

The Board discussed recent social media activity, concerns around misinformation and attacks directed at individual members. Members agreed that:

- Most community engagement remains positive.
- A small number of individuals are creating disproportionate disruption.
- Online abuse has already led to one board resignation.
- Future communications should prioritise factual information and official channels.

The Board also agreed that protecting the wellbeing of members and residents is essential.

Governance Review

A detailed review was undertaken covering:

- Board membership requirements.
- Quorum calculations.
- Role of the Accountable Body.
- Election periods and councillor participation.
- Deputy attendance arrangements.
- Proxy voting.
- Hybrid and virtual meeting attendance.
- Publication requirements.
- Expenses claims and transparency.

The Board recognised that governance documents will continue to evolve as the programme develops.

Community Priorities Emerging

Current community feedback indicates strong interest in:

1. Youth provision.
2. Community facilities.
3. Sports and recreation opportunities.

4. Environmental improvements.
5. Public spaces, including Bluebell Park and surrounding green infrastructure.
6. Safety and anti-social behaviour concerns.

Communications Approach

Members discussed learning from other Pride in Place areas and agreed that:

- Printed surveys remain important.
- Digital-only approaches risk excluding residents.
- Community events provide valuable opportunities for engagement.
- Inclusive approaches are required, including consideration for neurodivergent residents and older people.

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4. Actions Log

Action	Lead	Deadline
Update Governance Documents following Board comments	Felix	Before next meeting
Set up Board SharePoint site and document library	Felix	Immediate
Contact Dale regarding potential Board membership	Neil	Next meeting
Contact Nathaniel regarding potential Board membership	Corrine	Next meeting
Draft warning process regarding disruptive behaviour and seek advice from Police	Chair / Austin	Next meeting
Develop Communications Strategy	Felix / Board	August 2026
Develop Newsletter proposal	Communications subgroup	August 2026
Prepare online and paper community survey	Felix / Council Team	August 2026

Action	Lead	Deadline
Establish thematic working groups and recruit participants	All Board Members	Ongoing
Form Assets & Buildings subgroup	David Lane and volunteers	August 2026
Draft Complaints Procedure	Felix / Austin / David	Next meeting
Draft Expenses Policy	Felix	Next meeting
Create central stakeholder and contact database	SharePoint Working Group	Ongoing
Attend community events to promote Pride in Place	All Members	Summer 2026
Explore funding opportunities and leverage external investment	MP, Board Leads, Austin	Ongoing
Participate in Heart of England Grant Panel	Sarah, Hazel,	July 2026

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5. Summary of Outcomes

- Vice Chair appointed.
- Governance documents substantially reviewed.
- Social media approach agreed.
- Recruitment activity initiated for vacant seats.
- Working groups established.
- Communication and engagement programme approved.
- Asset subgroup established.
- Funding and grant arrangements progressing.
- SharePoint and document management approved.
- Community consultation activity to begin immediately.

Meeting closed following agreement on next steps and preparation of the Pride in Place Community Plan for submission later in 2026.