

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21st JULY 2025 AT
7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL**

36. WELCOME

Cllr Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

37. PRESENT

Cllrs A Richards, M Lowndes, F Turner, E Riley, R Madeley, P Bodimeade, A Dixon, Shropshire Councillor Colin Stanford.

Clerk N Green.

Public – Nick Pugh.

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Hartley.

39. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Richards commented that he will withdraw from any conversations / discussions concerning the planning application from Wenlock Edge Farm Shop due to his potential involvement in works at the site.

40. PUBLIC SESSION

None.

41. MINUTES OF THE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16th JUNE 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Riley and seconded by Cllr Dixon that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 16th June 2025 be adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

42. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Richards sated that Nick Pugh had expressed an interest in joining the Council last year and had attended this meeting in order to do so. It was proposed by Cllr Riley and seconded by Cllr Dixon that Nick Pugh is co-opted onto the Council, it was resolved that Mr Pugh becomes a Councillor.

Action - Clerk to forward the relevant documents to Mr Pugh.

43. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Richards stated that he had attended the site meeting for the Longville Planning application (9 dwellings) along with Cllr Stanford who also attended the hearing. He explained that they did not have the opportunity to speak at the site and it was not passed.

Cllr Richards stated that he had been approached by a number of Parishioners concerning road signs that were obscured by hedge growth. He explained they were all advised to report the matter via 'Fix my Street' and that it is the landowners responsibility to keep them clear.

Cllr Richards stated that a number of Parishioners had spoke to him with regards to the logs that the owner of the Plough Inn had placed adjacent to the highway. Again, this has been reported via 'Fix my Street' and Parishioners had been advised to do the same.

44. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk stated that he had updated the Planning Portal concerning the Rushbury Church tree works application.

The Clerk stated that all the relevant documentation concerning the Audit process had been placed on the web page and forwarded as required.

45. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Stanford stated that the Shrewsbury Northwest relief road project had been paused / cancelled and that SC was trying to recover £9million from central government. He said that it was disappointing because the M6-M54 link road had been approved and the NW relief road would have provided economic opportunities.

Cllr Stanford explained that new Shropshire Local Plan was due for completion in 2028 and there had been a call for development sites to be identified. It had been agreed by SC that new Cllrs would receive guidance on the process.

Cllr Stanford stated that the SC budget had been passed last week but there are restrictions on expenditure.

Cllr Stanford stated that Highways were making efforts to repair potholes, etc, but they were restricted due to finance.

Cllr Stanford explained that he attended the site meeting and planning hearing concerning the proposed development of nine homes in Longville. He said that he presented the Parish Councils supporting comments and that he tried to assist the application. However, it was refused in the main due to the size of the scheme, access and the TPO. He went on to explain that it was not a brown field site application but a change of use of open countryside.

Cllr Bodimeade stated that he felt an opportunity had been missed, that a mini roundabout may have assisted with regards to access and amendments could have been made.

Cllr Stanford stated that he had been co-opted on to the Shropshire Hills Nation Landscape panel.

Cllr Bodimeade raised the issue of white gate entrances to villages and noted that he had seen more being installed locally. Cllr Stanford stated that they had been installed in Morville and that they received a grant from the PCC because they are quite expensive. Cllr Lowndes stated that this had been looked at before with regards to Longville and it was not possible to have them installed.

Action – Clerk to make enquiries regarding white gate issue.

20:00 Cllr Stanford left the meeting.

46. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr's considered the planning applications detailed below:

Reference: 25/02298/FUL (validated: 23/06/2025)

Address: Wenlock Edge Farm, Meat Processing Unit At, Edge House, East Wall, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DU

Proposal: Replacement of fire damaged farm shop

The Cllrs unanimously supported the application on the grounds that it supported local economic growth and was the replacement of an existing business. (Note- Cllrs Richards withdrew from the discussion / decision due to a potential pecuniary advantage).

Action – Clerk to update planning portal.

Reference: 25/02314/FUL (validated: 23/06/2025)

Address: Bramley Farm, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DZ

Proposal: Erection or single storey rear extension and replacement windows.

The Cllrs unanimously supported the application on the grounds that it was appropriate to the size of the property and in keeping. They noted that no Parishioners had contacted them about it.

Action – Clerk to update planning portal.

Reference: 25/01447/OUT (validated: 14/04/2025)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land South West Of , Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DS

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 9 dwellings

Decision: Refuse

The Cllrs noted the decision regarding this application.

47. FINANCIALS

The following list of accompanying invoices were reviewed; Members also received the latest bank reconciliation (June) which brought the accounts to the 30st June 2025 to £18,454.50. All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments that have been made or were to be made.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	IT	LGA 1972 S.111	£7.20
2	Village hall	LGA 1972 S.133	£16.50
3	Web Site July	LGA 1972 S.142	£11.99 (direct debit)
4	Ground Main	HA 1980 S.96	£375.25
5	HMRC	LGA 1972 S.112	£175.15
6	Web Site Aug	LGA 1972 S.142	£11.99 (direct debit)

The Clerk stated that the CIL amount of £508.68 had been credited and the CIL balance was now £4240.08.

The Clerk stated that the HSBC had informed him the £8.00 monthly bank charge was being removed.

The Clerk stated that HSBC safeguarding had contacted him regarding an updated on the account. It was noted that three of the account signatories were no longer serving on the Council. It was proposed by Cllr Bodimeade and seconded by Cllr Madeley that the new signatories are Cllr Richards, Cllr Lowndes and the Clerk. It was resolved that the Clerk updates the HSBC.

Cllrs discussed the reserves and that the Auditor had suggested a policy is adopted. Cllr Lowndes commented that the previous Clerk had built up the reserves to a sensible level and that perhaps the policy should identify a percentage of annual budget that should be maintained. It was requested that the Clerk prepares a draft policy.

Cllrs also discussed what could be done with the CIL money and a proportion of the reserves. It was decided that they would try and bring forward some ideas for projects to the next meeting. It was also suggested that Parishioners could be canvassed for ideas via the Honeypot.

Action - Clerk to update HSBC with signatories.

Action - Clerk to draft a reserves policy for the next PC meeting.

Action - Clerk to place item in the Honeypot for suggestions from Parishioners re projects.

48. LONGVILLE ARMS

Cllr Bodimeade raised concerns about the continuing deterioration of the previous pub and its visual impact.

It was noted by Cllr Richards that Shropshire Council had been contacted about this matter last year and decided no action should be taken.

Cllr Bodimeade asked that Cllr Stanford is requested to make some enquiries with SC as to what could be done.

Action – Clerk to discuss issue with Cllr Stanford.

49. RESPONSE TO ALEX WAGNER – SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr's Lowndes and Dixon volunteered to complete the survey from Mr Wagner concerning the service provided to Parish Councils.

50. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated he had been contacted by a Parishioner from Wall under Heywood concerning speeding traffic on the main road. The Clerk had reported this to the local Police. Cllrs agreed that the speed devices should be sited in the area in response to this.

The Clerk stated that he had been contacted by the agents for the development at Wenlock Edge Farm. They were encouraging support for the application.

The Clerk stated that Rushbury Village Hall had contacted him to invite the Parish Council to nominate a representative for the RVH committee. The Cllrs decided that they would prefer to attend the meetings on a rota basis.

Action – Clerk to contact RVH and ascertain if this is possible.

The Clerk stated that two Parishioners had contacted him concerning the logs that had been placed adjacent to the Highway adjacent to the Plough Inn. In particular he had been asked to establish if there were any rights of way over the land. He was asked to request that the Parishioners utilise 'Fix my Street'.

Action – Clerk to check for any rights of way and reply to Parishioners.

The Clerk stated that Atlas Tower had contacted him requesting that the PC contact the various mobile phone companies to encourage them to utilise the new telecoms mast. The Cllr's felt that they had done enough to support the application and no further action is required.

The Clerk stated that the PC had been invited to complete a request to have the government resurrect Neighbourhood Plans. The Cllrs did not consider a response was required.

51. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Cllr Bodimeade discussed the road sign in Longville that was obstructing the view of residents exiting the new barn development. He intends to submit a further 'Fix my Street' notice.

52. PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Riley discussed the potential for a 20mph zone adjacent to Rushbury School. It was noted that the PC had previously been told to add this item to the Neighbourhood Plan. Given this no longer exists it was suggested that SC could be requested to consider the idea.

Action – Clerk to explore this with SC.

53. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Draft reserves policy, suggested project items, CIL criteria.

54. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 15th September 2025 at the Committee Room, Rushbury Village Hall.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.57 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

These minutes will remain in draft format until signed by the Chairman as a true record.