

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL

156. WELCOME

Cllr Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

157. PRESENT

Cllrs A Richards – Chairman, M Lowndes – Vice Chairman, F Turner, E Riley, R Madeley, C Stevenson
Clerk N Green

158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr's A Dixon, P Bodimeade and J Hartley sent apologies.

159. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

None declared.

160. PUBLIC SESSION

None present.

161. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20th JANUARY 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Lowndes and seconded by Cllr Bodimeade that the minutes of the meeting on the 20th January adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

162. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk reviewed the actions from the previous meeting as follows:-

The Clerk reported the HSBC review was ongoing (Action Open).

The Clerk reported that SC Highways had been emailed concerning the condition of Lushcott Lane and the response had been circulated (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported the Planning Portal had been updated as required (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported the precept request had been submitted and receipt confirmed (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported he had written to SC and requested grit bins be located at Wall under Heywood and Longville, response awaited (Action Open).

The Clerk reported that he had informed West Mercia Police concerning incidents of anti-social driving on Stone Acton Lane (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported that the Millenium Green Trust had been sent a copy of the insurance policy for their attention (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported that details concerning the proposed communications tower and the Openreach broadband contract had been circulated on the web site (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported that he still needed to put the exact location of the defibs on the boxes and obtain a new sticker for the box in Longville (Action Open).

163. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Richards reported that he had spoken with Glen Lovelock from SC Highways. He was informed that they intended to complete repair works on the bank from Lushcott to Wenlock Edge. He was also informed that a 15mt pothole on Lushcott Lane had been filled but the weather washed out any works. The contractors had been instructed to complete the works again.

Action – The Clerk was asked to circulate the report from SC concerning Lushcott Lane on the webpage.

Cllrs discussed the current and potential locations for the SID devices.

164. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk informed the Cllrs that the Auditor had sent his estimate with a cost of £150.00. It was proposed by Cllr Stevenson and seconded by Cllr Lowndes that the work is authorised, the Chairman and Clerk signed the relevant document.

Action – Clerk to instruct Auditor.

The Clerk informed Cllrs he had a response from SC concerning the exterior appearance of the Longville Arms. SC did not consider any action was required.

The Clerk informed the Cllrs that the Groundworks Contractor had confirmed he would complete the works as last year at an increased cost of 2% (£2626.57, 7 payments of £375.25). It was proposed by Cllr Stevenson and seconded by Cllr Madeley that the contractor is instructed to complete the works.

Action – Clerk to instruct Contractor.

The Clerk informed the Cllrs that Cllr Dixon had reported the condition of Derby Lane via 'Fix my Street'.

The Clerk informed the Cllr's that there was a briefing by SALC concerning the upcoming elections. He said he would provide further details.

Action – Clerk to update Honeypot and Web page.

The Clerk stated a survey had been circulated by SALC concerning aspects of Council life to represent them in future changes.

Action – Clerk was asked to circulate the questions so a response could be submitted.

165. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No new applications or decisions received.

166. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Motley was not present but sent a report which was read out by Cllr Richardson, as follows:

Household Recycling Centres

Good news on this front: following feedback from residents after a three month survey, the council has removed the need to book in advance for cars visiting a recycling centre, although drivers may be asked for proof that they are Shropshire residents. This is because of the high volume of out of county people who take advantage of our recycling centres and add considerably to the cost of waste disposal for the Council.

Shropshire residents using a van or trailer will still need to book a slot and provide proof of residency when they arrive.

Our recent budget consultation asked for views on a possible change to three-weekly collections of general waste, to help contribute towards council savings. We had plenty of feedback and concluded that as all councils will be legally required by Defra to introduce free weekly food collections from 2026 we wouldn't consider any changes to general waste collections until after April 2026 when the new food collections start.

Any change to the frequency of waste collections would have to be subject to agreement by the Council's Cabinet and full Council plus public consultation and discussions with Veolia, the Council's waste contractor.

Still on the budget we have some £8.5m of new savings to find, which may mean reducing opening hours of the castle and museum in Shrewsbury; switching off some streetlights making changes to park and ride services.

Our finance settlement from Government placed us in the third lowest slot of all councils in the country, so our spending power for 25/26 will only increase by 3.1% even with a 4.99% council tax increase. The national funding increase for councils averages out at 6%, with urban authorities benefiting the most.

None of this makes Shropshire a great prospect for devolution; perhaps this is why we have heard nothing from government although we were informed that the devolution deals would be announced at the end of last month.

The ongoing worry is the ever increasing demand for council services, particularly social care, which still accounts for £4 in every £5 we spend. Together with rising costs of services and supplies this is likely to outstrip Shropshire's proposed increase.

However, all is not gloom – we should get some financial benefit from new homes bonus, a market sustainability and improvement fund, and various pots of homelessness funding.

As you know, local government and parish/town council elections take place on 1st May under the new boundary system which means Cardington parish comes into the Corvedale. There will be 22 newly named unitary divisions in the county as a whole and 74 councillors in 72 divisions (only two divisions will have two councillors).

All the Corvedale polling stations remain the same and to vote in person you'll need an accepted form of photo ID which must be original, not a copy. For those voting by post, the deadline is 5pm on 14th April. Parish elections will be held in those parishes that have more candidates than parish council seats available.

167. FINANCIALS

The following list of accompanying invoices were reviewed, Members also received the latest bank reconciliation (Jan) which brought the accounts to the 31st Jan 2025 to £12,090.14. All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise these payments to be made.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	IT data backup	LGA 1972 S.111	£7.20
2	Village hall	LGA 1292 S.111	£16.50
3	Web Site	LGA 1972 S.133	£11.99 (direct debit)

168. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated he had received an email from Severn Trent which he had circulated to Cllrs providing a dedicated email address for contact from Cllrs.

The Clerk stated that Atlas Tower had contacted him asking if there was any feedback from the PC. He explained that he has asked them to clarify what if any planning permission they require.

169. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Cllr Stevenson stated that he has now received a reply from the Post Office concerning the stolen post box in Wall under Heywood. Cllr Stevenson had raised the matter with the local MP. The full reply will be posted on the web page. However, the Post Office stated they will install a new post box when a location is identified.

Action – Clerk to post letter on web page.

170. PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Madeley stated that he had received complaints about the public footpath that runs through Lillywood onto Wenlock Edge. Apparently, a number of trees had fallen and were blocking the path.

Action – Clerk to report matter to SC.

171. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The election (May 2025) process is to be placed on the agenda.

172. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 17th March 2025 at the Committee Room, Rushbury Village Hall.

Cllr A Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.20 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.