

**EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts**

**MINUTES**

**of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall**

**114/25 - Present**

Cllr. Graham Watts - Chairman  
Cllr. Colin Pugh  
Cllr. M Joseph  
Cllr. S Pratt  
Cllr. M Pratt  
Cllr. Bruce Orme

**Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr. R Davis

**In Attendance**

The Clerk and Corvedale Division Councillor Colin Stanford

**115/25- Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

No declarations were made.

**116/25 – Reports**

Cllr. Colin Stanford reported on the current financial state of Shropshire Council. The Council has asked the government for a £60 million pound loan. If it does not get the loan SC will have to declare itself bankrupt and central government will step in and run SC on an interim basis.

Highways Report: SC says it has fixed 30,000 potholes this year and has carried some areas of total re-surfacing. They are using a better repair technique and it is hoped the repairs will last longer. He has been liaising with Munslow Parish Council about the road works on the B4368 by the Old Forge in Beambridge, where traffic lights have been in operation for months which has caused a lot of frustration for road users.

The recent storms have caused a landslip in Middlehope and deep flooding in the dip at Harton as the drains were all blocked with leaves. Cllr. Orme advised the parish council has taken the problems with this dip up with SC on several occasions as one local resident nearly lost his life in this dip when his car was submerged. No action seems to have been taken by SC but locals often clear tons of debris from the ditches.

Cllr. Stanford reported on the current state of the SC initiative Memorandum of Understanding. To date Parish Councils have shown little appetite to get involved in the scheme. Cllrs. Pugh and Orme advised Cllr. Stanford that local farmers often help with ditch and drain clearing on their own initiative and at their own expense.

Councillors discussed other issues of local concern with Cllr. Stanford, including the temporary closing of the car park at Carding Mill Valley; the total lack of parking at Shrewsbury railway station and the meagre amount of public parking available at Shrewsbury Hospital.

### **117/25 Public question time**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

### **118/25– Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The Minutes of the Parish Council's Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Joseph **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Orme

**Vote:** Proposal approved unanimously

### **119/25 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

094/25/2: The response to the parish council's complaint to Connexus about 3 Mount View, Hope Bowdler had just been received, following a reminder that a response was awaited. Councillors considered it was not a constructive response and will be pursued further.

### **120/25 - Correspondence/Communications**

**Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-**

#### **1. Road closure notifications:**

- Ad hoc closures in Carding Mill Valley car park between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 depending on availability of parking spaces.

- Closure of unnamed road between Ticklerton & Hatton on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Complex closure of B4371 and part A49 on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 involving Ticklerton, Wall Under Heywood, Common Lane Soudley, Darby Lane, Sandford Avenue to Marshbrook and to Henley Lane from 9.30am to 4.00pm
- B5477, Ludlow Road, Little Stretton – closed 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

2, FixMyStreet notifications

- That all the potholes on Birtley Lane, Soudley to Birtley have been filled.
- That all the potholes in Bull Lane, Hope Bowdler have been filled.

3. Notification that planning permission has been granted for 25/03273/FUL – erection of a detached garage at Dry Hill Farm, Ragdon

4. Notification from Shropshire Council inviting consultation from parish councils on its Design of New Dwellings planning document.

5. The above consultation will be discussed at the Shropshire Association of Local Councils committee meeting at Craven Arms Community Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at 6pm when Daniel Cordon, Principal Planning Officer will provide information. Agenda attached

6. Email Clerk to Connexus seeking a response to the parish council's letter to Connexus of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

7. Notification from Shropshire Council that the parish council will be billed £250 in January 2026 for the May 2025 elections.

**121/25– Highways, footpaths and environmental matters**

Cllr. Pugh reported on the considerable number of trees which have been felled and chipped up along the Jack Mytton Way in Eaton Under Heywood. A lot of replacement trees have been planted.

**122/25 - Financial matters to be considered**

122/25/1 – Finance report for November/part December 2025

**Balance brought forward from October 2025**

**£5,871.88**

**Payments to be made on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 from Precept Fund**

- HSBC bank charges £ 1.20

• Clerk's net salary for November & December 2025	£398.22
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's Nov./Dec. 2025 salary	£ 99.60
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in November 2025 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>	
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for November @ £20 p.m.	£20.00
• 1 ream of A4 copy paper	£ 4.90
• Andy Holmes – IT support. Trouble-shooting and reconfiguring Cloud/One Drive storage	£40.00
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 17.11.25 to Ticklerton Village Hall for PC meeting - 32 miles	<u>£14.40</u>
Total of November 2025 admin. expenses	£79.30
	<u>£ 79.30</u>
	£ 578.32
	<u>£578.32</u>
<b>Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to January 2026</b>	<b><u>£5,293.56</u></b>

Cllr. Orme **proposed** that cheques totalling £578.32 be approved for payment.

Cllr. Pugh **seconded** the proposal

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal

### **Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council**

#### **Environmental & Asset Maintenance Fund**

Balance b/fwd from October 2025 **£721.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from October 2025 **£451.59**

### **Total funds held by Parish Council following authorisation & presentation of the above cheques.**

<b>Precept Fund</b>	<b>£5,293.56</b>
<b>Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>£ 721.78</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Fund grant</b>	<b><u>£ 451.59</u></b>
	<b><u>£6,466.93</u></b>

### **122/25/2 - Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.**

The Clerk's reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 169 was checked and approved by Cllr. Orme.

### **122/25/3 – Initial consideration of the Precept Budget for financial year 2026/2027**

The Clerk had circulated a draft 2026/2027 Precept Budget prior to the meeting and was considered by councillors.

The precept budget included both a £260 hosting fee for the existing website host, WebOrchard but also included a setting up fee for an alternative website host, Hugo Fox Ltd of £250. The Clerk outlined the difficulties she encounters with

the WebOrchard website and requested that the council consider terminating the WebOrchard contract and switch to Hugo Fox instead. This request was considered and the Chairman **proposed** that the parish council shall switch to Hugo Fox as its website provider.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr S Pratt

**Vote:** unanimous in support of the proposal.

The draft Precept Budget amounted to £6689 (as against £6382 last year). A final figure will be agreed at the January 2026 meeting.

### **123/25 – Audit matters for the 2025/2026 Audit**

In readiness for the 2025/2026 Audit an internal auditor needs to be appointed.

The Chairman **proposed** that the parish council should appoint Mrs Jennie Griffiths as its auditor for the 2025/2026 Audit

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. M Pratt

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the appointment of Mrs Griffiths.

### **124/25 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

Difficulties the Clerk is experiencing with the parish council's computer were discussed. The consensus was that the problem has probably been caused by the installation of One Drive. Mr Andy Holmes will be asked to continue his efforts to resolve the problems.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished them a happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 8.20pm

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Hope Bowdler Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATED** \_\_\_\_\_