

EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th September 2025
7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

092/25 - Present

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman
Cllr. Colin Pugh
Cllr. R Davis
Cllr. M Joseph
Cllr. S Pratt
Cllr. M Pratt

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Bruce Orme and Corvedale Divisional Cllr. Colin Stanford

In Attendance

The Clerk

093/25- 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.

094/25 – Reports

094/25/1 - Cllr. Colin Stanford submitted a written report by email. Financial pressures dominate Shropshire Council which was all set to declare itself bankrupt, which would result in external administrators being brought in to cut services and balance the books. This would be unjust as Shropshire Council has historically been underfunded by Central Government: their funding formula favours urban areas. We have seen Cleobury Mortimer Leisure Centre have its council funding cut and Much Wenlock Leisure Centre is under threat once more. At this week's council cabinet meeting it was decided to declare a "financial emergency" asking council officers to stop all non-essential spending and agreed to set up an Independent Improvement Board to reduce the over-spend.

Devolution is again in the air which is odd as NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin is being subsumed into a bigger grouping including Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent, creating a geographical area stretching from the Powys border to the Peak District. It's hard to understand the logic but Shropshire Council is also being pushed towards a larger group of neighbouring counties and once more Stoke on Trent has been suggested. His personal view is that most services should be managed and provided for in a coherent area where geographical and cultural distinctions and identity create more accountability and better local investment. Shropshire Council has recently asked our parish councils to consider and sign a new memorandum of understanding or agreement to look at parish councils providing services more locally. Most of us from time to time think we could do a better job of road repairs or verge cutting but the devil is in the detail regarding transparency contracts, legal and liability risks, not to mention the dreaded Health & Safety legislation. I hope that some clusters of parish councils will work together on this, or work with neighbouring town councils. From what I hear there is some enthusiasm matched by even more scepticism.

On a more positive note, I was delighted to learn that Shropshire Council Childrens' Services were rated as Outstanding in their recent OFSTED inspection, which is a great achievement and acknowledges the dedication and care provided by their staff, who often face some very difficult and distressing situations.

094/25/2 – The Clerk reported on contacts the parish council had received concerning a Connexus property. The concerns raised were discussed and it was agreed the parish council will contact Connexus about the matter.

095/25 Public question time

No issues were raised.

096/25– Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 14th July 2025

The Minutes of the Parish Council's Meeting held on 14th July 2025 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. S Pratt **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 14th July 2025 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jospeh

Vote: Proposal approved with one abstention.

097/25 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 14th July 2025

Any matters arising are dealt with as Agenda items.

098/25 – Planning application

25/03273/FUL planning application for the erection of a detached car port/garage at Dry Hill Farm, Ragdon, SY6 7EY

Councillors considered the plans and reports. It was agreed that the proposed building is in a secluded spot and could not be seen from anywhere. The design and materials matched the existing building and blends into the landscape.

Cllr. Joseph **proposed** that the parish council should support the application and raise no objections to it.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

099/25 - Correspondence/Communications

Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-

1. Notification from PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditors) confirming the 2024/2025 audit is completed satisfactorily, unless any electors exercise their public right to challenge the audit.
2. FixMyStreet – notification that they have completed the works on the road erosion by Lower House Farm, Ticklerton. (To be checked by the parish council).
3. Notification from SALC of forthcoming training courses: Public Procurement training on 06.11.25 and Fundamentals for Councillors, 07.10.25. Please advise the Clerk if you wish to attend either course (they are on-line).
4. Letter Clerk to HSBC with 13 page bank mandate form, being delivered by Cllr. R Davis.
5. Fraud & Scams bulletin from West Mercia Police. Courier fraud is on the increase.
6. Road closure notification: 29th September only – unnamed road between Hope Bowdler and Ticklerton. (Severn Trent)
Road closure notification: 29th September, 9am – 6pm - Chelmick Road, Hope Bowdler. Network Plus.
7. Correspondence with Mr Tony Madeley and Legal & Democratic Team, Shropshire Council.
8. Planning decision re 25/01140/FUL – erection of detached outbuilding at Pikeside, Hope Bowdler. Planning permission granted.
9. Notification of a Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

10. Correspondence re repairs to road subsidence at Lower House Farm, Ticklerton between Highways and Cllr. Colin Stanford.

11. West Mercia Police's Town and Parish Council PCC's Survey to be completed at this meeting.

Responses: Item 11: Councillors considered their responses to the Police & Crime Commissioner's Survey. The Clerk was instructed to complete and submit the Survey.

100/25– Highways, footpaths and environmental matters

100/25/1 - With thanks to Cllr. Stanford, for his intervention, it was noted that the collapsed stream bank opposite Lower House Farm in Ticklerton has finally repaired, albeit the repairs looked somewhat on the flimsy side. The part of the road adjacent to the end of the white railings has not been fixed and the highway (road to Harton) continues to erode.

100/25/2 – It was noted that the two bridges crossing the stream on Eaton Manor land have still not been repaired, having been in disrepair for some years now.

100/25/3 – Cllr. S Pratt advised that Birtley Lane in between Soudley and Birtley is full of pot holes, as is Bull Lane in Hope Bowdler. It was agreed the Clerk will report these to FixMyStreet.

101/25/1 - Finance Report for August /September 2025

Balance carried forward from July 2025 **£6,805.55**

Payments to be made on 15th September 2025 from Precept Fund

- HSBC bank charges £ 16.80
- Clerk's net salary for August & September 2025 £398.22
- HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's Aug./September 2025 salary £ 99.60
- Clive Martyn – website administration £ 37.50
- Admin expenses incurred in August/September 2025
- paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.
- Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for Aug/Sept. 2025 @ £20 p.m. £40.00
- 1 ream A4 copy paper £ 4.75
- Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile
- 07.08.25 – travelling to HSBC at Bishops Castle re bank mandate forms
- 11.08.25 - Taking bank mandate forms and HSBC letter to Cllr. R Davis, Hatton; then to Eaton to see Tony Madeley re his election

expenses forms and then to Hope Bowdler
to see Mr & Mrs Davies.

Total mileage 7/8 & 11/8 – 45 miles

15.09.25 to Ticklerton Village

Hall for PC meeting - 32 miles

Total mileage – 77 miles £34.65

Total of Aug/Sept. 2025 admin. expenses £79.40 £ 79.40

£631.52

£ 631.52

Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to October 2025

£6,174.03

Cllr. Davis **proposed** that cheques and direct debits amounting to £631.52 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Joseph

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Environmental & Asset Maintenance Fund

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

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

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

Precept Fund **£6,174.03**

Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund **£ 721.78**

Neighbourhood Fund grant **451.59**

£7,347.40

101/25/2 - Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The verification of the Clerk's reconciliation between the Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statements 165,166 and 167 was conducted by Cllr. R Davis and approved.

101/25/3 – Up date concerning the HSBC bank mandate

Cllr. Davis has been unable to get to a branch of HSBC to date: he will endeavour to get to Shrewsbury this coming Saturday.

101/25/4 – 2024 – 2025 Audit

The external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLF, have confirmed that this parish council's audit process for 2024 – 2025 was satisfactory and no issues arose.

The public rights notices have been displayed on parish notice boards and on the website.

102/25 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15pm

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Hope Bowdler Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 13th October 2025

SIGNED Colin Pugh **DATED 13.10.2025**