

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 9th February 2026 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, M Trow, D Gregory, A Hodges, S Wallace-Johnson, K Day, A Windows, D Jones, G Moss, C Sandells and N Hignett

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: two members of the public were present

In attendance: PCSO Sarah Edwards

157.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Pritchard, L Jones, R Evans and S Davies

158.25 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

159.25 Public Questions and Comments

A resident from Habberley who had lived in the parish for more than 25 years asked the parish council to support her in her application for affordable housing on land in Habberley on the grounds of local connection.

Resident of Pontesbury wished to express his concerns about health and safety of local residents at the junction between Main Road and Minsterley road and to ask what was happening with the proposed junction improvements. Cllr Hignett explained that all Highways projects from Shropshire Council are on hold at present due to funding restraints. He was still waiting for revised plans from Highways Officers. Cllr Hignett was meeting with the portfolio holder for Highways about the roundabout by the old Horseshoes pub and would bring up the junction improvements project.

The resident also expressed concerns about the general state of roads and drains around the parish. Cllr Hignett reported that residents all over Shropshire were reporting similar concerns. The main issue is the financial situation for Shropshire Council and that 80% of the SC budget was being spent on adult social care.

The Clerk suggested that the resident also write to Julia Buckley MP about his concerns.

160.25 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2026.

161.25 Police Matters – PCSO gave a verbal report which was Noted. Currently the policing team had not been made aware of any anti-social behaviour other than the ongoing issues at Castle Meadow/Bailey Crescent which all parties are involved in. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank the local policing team for all their hard work and in particular with the ongoing problems at Castle Meadow/Bailey Crescent.

162.25 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett gave a verbal report including:

FINANCES- The Final Local Government Settlement announcement is expected on Monday 9th Feb. The latest position indicates an overspend of £2.5m more than the previous forecast (which was period 7). Projected overspend at the end of March is now £53.261m. The Council has applied for Exceptional Financial Support of £71.4m for the 2025/26 Financial Year, and Exceptional Financial Support of £130m for the 2026/27 Financial Year. The Draft Medium Term Financial Plan, to be presented to Cabinet on 11th Feb. is projecting a deteriorating position across the next 5 years. The Government currently sets a limit of 4.99% on Council tax increases. Worth noting is that Financial Budgets are now based on a multi-year settlement covering the next 3 years.

Also on Finance—Executive Director James Walton left the Council at the end of January, after 26 years of service. Duncan Whitfield is now Interim Director of Financial Improvement and Section 151 Officer.

CORPORATE PLAN- Shropshire Council has started work on a new Corporate Plan. This is a key Strategic Document which will set out the priorities for the Council to focus on, moving forwards. More details in the coming months.

POSTAL VOTING- A change in the law (Elections Act 2022) means that the maximum length of time a voter can hold a postal vote is now 3 years, rather than indefinitely. Over 29,000 postal voters across Shropshire were contacted last autumn and advised that they needed to re-apply. Just over 10,000 people hadn't replied by the 31st January deadline, and will now be contacted by the Council's Elections Team.

ADULT DAY CENTRE SERVICES- Shropshire Council has launched a Public Consultation and engagement on the future of its in-house adult day services, seeking feedback from residents, families, carers, professionals and stakeholders regarding three proposals for change. Approximately 178 people are currently supported. Further details are available on the Council Website, or contact your local Councillor.

REVISED TAXI FEES- Following a consultation, increased fees for licensing of all Taxis will come into force on 9th Feb. Again, further details of the new charges are available on the Council Website.

SHREWSBURY MARKET- This popular indoor market, jointly managed by Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council, was ineligible to take part in voting for Britain's Favourite Market, having won the award for the past 3 consecutive years. However, they have won the "Best Community Market" award, at a ceremony held in Birmingham on 5th Feb.

Cllr Gregory asked if there were any Key Performance Indicators associated with FixMyStreet in terms of timescales for repairs. Cllr Hignett reported that there weren't. Cllr Hignett also suggested that councillors keep an eye on reports that they have made as sometimes repairs are reported having been done erroneously.

Cllr Fletcher reported that the complaints about Highways issues were endemic across the whole of Shropshire according to Cllrs/Clerks attending the SALC quarterly meetings.

Clerk asked if the financial support from Central Government was not received and commissioners were called in, whether this would impact on timescales and amount of precept that local councils would receive.

Cllr Sandells joined the meeting

163.25 Planning Committee -

163.25.1 Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**.

163.25.2 **PLANNING REFERENCE: 26/00175/CPL FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed part conversion of existing integral garage to a play room. **LOCATION: 8 Nursery Lane, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0FP. Comment: Parish Council supports this application**

163.25.3 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE support for a local connection for the applicant for the proposed single affordable home on land to the rear of Hillsborough (pre application PREAPM/25/00531)**

164.25 Pavilion Committee – a verbal report was given by Cllr Fletcher which was **NOTED** including noting the cost savings since the solar panels were installed. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Deputy Clerk and Pavilion Building Assistant and the Pavilion Committee for all their hard work making the building a success.

164.25.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 15th December 2025.**

165.25 Personnel Committee

165.25.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Wallace Johnson, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9th January 2025**

165.25.2 A verbal report was given by Cllr Trow which was **NOTED**.

165.25.3 After a proposal from Cllr D Jones, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the volunteering policy and application form as recommended by the Personnel Committee.** Clerk to check with the parish council insurer's if there was an upper age limit for parish council volunteers to be covered

165.25.4 After a proposal from Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE compressed hours over four days for Pavilion Building Assistant**

165.25.5 After a proposal from Cllr D Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the change to one appraisal to be held annually for existing staff.**

166.25 Statutory Business and Finance

166.25.1 Income of £2498.69. This was **NOTED**.

166.25.2 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve payments of £32,613.76 as attached.**

166.25.3 After a proposal by Cllr D Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a transfer of £30,000 from CCLA to Unity account for February payments**

166.25.4 Quarter 3 2025-26 bank reconciliation for all accounts was **NOTED**.

166.25.5 Quarter 3 2025-26 budget monitoring report was **NOTED**.

166.25.6 Cllr Trow reported that there were no matters of concern from the Internal Checks for quarter 3 2025-26. Cllr wished to thank Cllr Trow and RFO for all their hard work

166.25.7 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Gregory, (Cllr Windows abstained), it was **RESOLVED to approve the 2026-27 contract with CCC4 business group/ANPRcheq for consultancy services for the ANPR Safer Shropshire project at the 2025-26 costs.**

166.25.8 After a proposal by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a maximum budget of £700 for the annual streetlight condition survey and delegated authority to Clerk to organise the survey**

166.25.9 After a proposal by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve Clerk writing to Friends of Pontesbury Library to request the £4000 contribution towards the 2025-26 grant to Shropshire Council Library Service.**

166.25.10 After a proposal by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a payment of £117 for legal expenses cover for Worknest (providing HR and H&S support)**

167.25 Health & Safety matters

Cllr Hodges wished to raise health and safety concerns about the flooding in Cruckton which is also covered below in Parish Matters

Clerk reported that the Rospa report for the play area had recommended that advice was sought from RLSS about the culvert next to the footpath from Hall Bank to the play area. Deputy Clerk was contacting the RLSS.

168.25 Request for additional councillors for committees/working groups – due to ongoing absence of councillors, additional members are needed for the Pavilion Committee and the Facilities Working Group/Play Area Task & Finish group. In the first instance this would only be until May when all committees are reviewed.

169.25 Request to site a grit bin on parish council land alongside Hall Bank meadow. After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the siting of a grit bin on parish council land.**

170.25 Clerk's Report - A report from the Parish Clerk was received and **NOTED.** Cllr Fletcher wished to thank John Bellis and Cllr D Jones for all their support to alleviate flooding at the sports field. Cllr Fletcher also thanked Cllr Day for undertaking the Fire Risk Assessment for the Pavilion.

Cllr Gregory left the meeting

171.25 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr D Jones raised concerns about the height of the fence going up at the bottom of Hall Bank. Cllr Jones will liaise with Cllr Hodges and Cllr Hignett about this. Cllr Jones also requested that the verges alongside the cycleway be cut back as well as sprayed as the path is getting narrower. Cllr Jones also raised concerns about the lack of white lines and give way sign at the junction between Main Road and Minsterley Road

Cllr Windows raised concerns about the work going on at the old Horseshoes pub site. Cllr Hignett reported that this was now an Enforcement issue and Shropshire Council Planning Officers were involved. Cllr Windows also raised concerns about groups of secondary pupils crossing Main Road. Clerk would write to Mary Webb school to request a site visit to look at safe crossing points – Cllr Windows, Hignett and Fletcher to attend

Cllr Sandells raised concerns about the speed of traffic at Lea Cross and between Pontesbury and Hanwood generally. Clerk was to add this to the list of areas to be looked at when

the Working group meet to look generally at traffic calming in the parish. Cllr Sandells also requested that early notification be provided for any work to Cruckton Bridge

Cllr Hodges raised ongoing concerns about the flooding next to the Fitzroy Academy in Cruckton. The previous work done by SC have caused further problems. The flooding is now a Health and Safety concern for vulnerable pupils at the school and for delivery drivers. Cllr Hodges would write to David Vassmer (portfolio holder for SC Highways) and request a site visit with Cllr Evans as a matter of urgency. Cllr Hodges also raised the request from a Cruckton resident to remove a bollard where a footpath meets the main road by 3 Church Close. The resident is concerned that a number of residents have fallen over/bumped into the bollard. Clerk to contact Shropshire Highways to request that the bollard be removed

Cllr Hignett had received a request that all the bins in the parish be changed to double topped bins to include rubbish and recycling. Currently SC Streetscene are not providing any new bins

172.25 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next parish council meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2026 at Pontesbury Public Hall at 6pm

The meeting closed at 8pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: