

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at Pontesbury Public Hall on Monday 9th March 2026 at 7.20pm

PRESENT

Councillors: J Pritchard, M Trow, D Gregory, A Hodges, S Wallace-Johnson, K Day, A Windows, R Evans and N Hignett

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: None

173.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Moss, L Jones, D Fletcher, D Jones and S Davies. After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE acceptance of the Apologies for Absence on health grounds for Cllrs Fletcher, D Jones and S Davies and other personal commitment grounds for Cllr Moss and L Jones**

174.25 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

175.25 Public Questions and Comments - None

176.25 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th February 2026.

177.25 Planning Committee -

177.25.1 PLANNING REFERENCE: 26/00810/HRM. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: To remove length of hedge totalling 45m **LOCATION:** Sewage Works, Station Road, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire **Comment: The parish council supports this application as the hedge is not of historic value. The parish council expect the hedge to be reinstated like for like, as mentioned in the application**

177.25.2 PLANNING REFERENCE: 26/00837/TPO. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Reduce crown by 10 percent of 1no. Cedar protected by the SABC (Main Road, David Ave and Chapel Street, Pontesbury) TPO 2005 (SA/402) **LOCATION:** The Cedars, David Avenue, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire **Comment: The parish council support this application as the tree work is essential for safety reasons**

177.25.3 PLANNING REFERENCE: 26/00699/TPO. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Crown reduce by 2-3m to re-shape 1no Ash protected by the Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council (Hinton Lane, Hall Bank and Station Road) Tree Preservation Order (Ref: SA/404) **LOCATION:** - 14 Station Road, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0QY. **Comment: The parish council support this application for tree work needed to restore the healthy shape of the tree**

178.25 Pavilion Committee –

178.25.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 26th January 2026**

178.25.2 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a renewal of contract on same fee structure as previous contract from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 and to delegate authority to Clerk and Cllr Hignett to sign contract**

179.25 Facilities Working group –

179.25.1 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a retrospective payment of £300 for additional tree work (2 trees to be felled at play area on Station road) on health and safety grounds and £60 for a permit to work on Hall Bank to do tree work recommended in tree inspection report September 2026**

179.25.2 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a contract with Company 2 for a 3 year grounds maintenance contract from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029, subject to a satisfactory probationary period of 1 season with a review in October 2026 for both parties. Company 2 was chosen on the grounds that they had worked in the parish previously and know the land to be maintained and would also replant and maintain the flower beds on Hall Bank**

178.25.3 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a quote of £700 to open up the area between Hall Bank meadow and the old railway line to create a circular walk to enjoy the wildlife area and to remove old wire/concrete that was a health and safety concern**

178.25.4 It was accepted in principle that a Water Risk Assessments for the culvert by the footpath to the play area and the attenuation pond is needed. Clerk to find out how often an assessment would be needed and to seek further quotes for and report back to the April meeting

178.25.5 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the use of the purchased noticeboard to replace the noticeboard at St George's churchyard and a maximum budget of £2000 from CiL Neighbourhood Funds for a new noticeboard for Lea Cross. Cllr Evans to chase permission to site the Lea Cross noticeboard**

179.25 Statutory Business and Finance

179.25.1 Income of £8,929.20. This was **NOTED**.

179.25.2 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve payments of £21,064.18 as attached.**

179.25.3 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a transfer of £20,000 from CCLA to Unity account for March payments**

179.25.4 After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE payment of £15,000 to Shropshire Library Service for 2025-26**

179.25.5 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve payment of £1068 for a streetlight pole replacement on Ashford Avenue**

180.25 Health & Safety matters - None.

181.25 Police & Crime Commissioner lease at Pavilion

After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve in principle renewal of a 5 year lease with PCC on same terms as previous lease and a maximum budget of £1500 for solicitor fees to draw up the new lease.** The final lease would be brought to Full Council at the April meeting for consideration

182.25 Request for additional councillors for committees/working groups – Cllr Hodges agreed to join the Play Area Task and Finish Group and the Facilities Working Group until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2026

183.25 Request for funding for Pontesbury Green Day - After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve £200 to cover the costs of the printing of additional pages in the newsletter to promote the Green Day.** Cllrs asked for further information about the £300 for other costs and information about grants/match/sponsorship funding received by the group and to put the matter on the April agenda

184.25 Request for funding from Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group to cover insurance costs. Clerk to ask for further details about what funds the group currently have and to put the matter on the April agenda

185.25 National Grid proposed works from Bayston Hill substation to Malehurst Substation. Cllrs Evans and Hignett would be attending a site visit about this matter and would report back to the April meeting

186.25 Clerk's Report - A report from the Parish Clerk was received and **NOTED.** Cllr Gregory wished to report to the police that activities involving drugs previously taking place in Castle Meadow/Bailey Crescent had now moved to Stallion Lane.

187.25 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr R Evans raised concerns about a rally event in September that would affect areas within the parish. Clerk to contact organisers for further information

Cllr Windows Cllr Windows wished to follow up his concerns about groups of secondary pupils crossing Main Road. Clerk now had a contact within Severndale to arrange a site visit

Cllr Hodges wished to report that a site visit about the flooding next to the Fitzroy Academy in Cruckton had taken place and SC will address the broken pipe and the school need to deal with issues on their land

Cllr Pritchard left the meeting

Cllr Day raised concerns about the roundabout by the old Horseshoes pub. Cllr Hignett reported that he had met with SC portfolio for highways, David Vassmer to look at this site and others. Cllr Hignett would report back to the parish council when a report was received from SC

Cllr Gregory reported tyres that had been fly-tipped on Hinton Lane. Cllr Gregory had reported the issue on FixMyStreet and would report to the police

188.25 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 13th April 2026 at The Pavilion, Hall Bank at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: