PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting
held at the Pavilion, Hall Bank on
Monday 12th October 2026

PRESENT
Councillors D Fletcher, A Hodges, D Jones, M Trow, G Moss, A Windows, R Evans, K Day and N Hignett
Clerk of the Meeting Debbie Marais
Members of the Public : One
In Attendance: Two representatives from Shrewsbury Town Council

104.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors J Pritchard, C Sandells, and D Gregory

105.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS Cllr Evans declared an interest in Agenda Item 16. Request from Hanwood Parish Council, as Cllr Evans is Chair of Hanwood PC.

106.26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS . A Pontesbury resident expressed concern about the parking outside Connections and the hazard it presents for vehicles turning right out of Chapel St. The resident recognised the contribution of the businesses to the village. A solution of Cllrs talking to the businesses concerned and asking them to make their patrons aware of the problem was put forward. The resident also suggested a targeted exercise of putting cones 10m from the Chapel St. junction up towards Connections and then enlisting Cllrs and local policing team to speak to motorists and advise them of the problems, and to not park within the coned zone.

107.26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 14th September 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

108.26 POLICE MATTERS – In addition to the parking issues raised by the local resident, Councillors Raised again the issue of electric bikes around the parish.

109.26 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Evans gave a verbal report which was **NOTED,** including:
FINANCIAL POSITION—SC predicts a positive outcome of meeting budget spend predictions at the end of 2026-27. However, significant financial pressures remain, and the rate of borrowing for 2026-27 remains very high, resulting in high interest repayments over future years. There will be a discussion about finances at the November cabinet meeting, including the 2027-28 budget requirements and Quarter 2 (2026-27) spend analysis.
Local Government reorganization/devolution—there are a number of options for Shropshire Council once the Strategic Boards come into place in 2029.
Further savings—SC will be focusing on the following for further savings/income generation:

- Libraries
- Increasing parking charges
- Devolved services to Town and Parish Councils
- Asset Sales

Local Transport Plan 4 - is now out for consultation

Longden bridge is currently closed daily for essential repairs
Plealey Culvert work by National Grid will be revisited Easter 2027 and the road will need to be closed again

110.26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

110.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026 be adopted.

110.26.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of Planning Committee, gave a verbal updated which was **NOTED**.

110.26.3 Planning Application Reference: 26/03714/TCA (validated: 28/09/2026). Address: Greenlees, 4 Habberley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0TP. Proposal: Fell 1no Spruce & get laid into hedge group of Beech saplings within Habberley Conservation Area. **COMMENT: Pontesbury parish council support this application as the tree is overgrown and poses a danger to neighbouring property. The removal of the tree will not have a significant impact on the character of the conservation area. the parish council support the wish to replace the tree with a suitable alternative**

110.26.4 Planning Application Reference: 26/03501/FUL (validated: 28/09/2026)
Address: Mill House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 8JN
Proposal: Extension and alterations to an existing dwelling, including a replacement porch. **COMMENT: Pontesbury Parish Council support this application as the high wall means that there is limited impact on the neighbouring heritage assets. External changes will not significantly affect the character of the building which has had numerous changes since the seventeenth century and these changes will improve the visual appearance of the building**.

110.26.5 Planning Application Reference: 26/03502/LBC (validated: 28/09/2026)
Address: Mill House, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 8JN
Proposal: Extension and alterations to an existing dwelling, including a replacement porch. **COMMENT: Pontesbury Parish Council support this application as the high wall means that there is limited impact on the neighbouring heritage assets. External changes will not significantly affect the character of the building which has had numerous changes since the seventeenth century.**

111.26 PAVILION COMMITTEE

111.26.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on Monday 27th July 2026**

111.26.2 Cllr Fletcher, gave a verbal update which was **NOTED.**

112.26 FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following recommendations from the FWG:**

112.26.1 adoption of the Tree Management Policy as prepared by David Woodhead (Llanerchaboriculture.co.uk)

112.26.2 the tree inspection regime as recommended in the Tree Management Policy

112.26.3 delegated authority to FWG to seek quotes for the Annual Formal Basic Inspection for High Usage zones, as illustrated in the Tree Management Policy

112.26.4 After a proposal by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE Cllr Day undertaking basic visual tree inspection training and to be appointed as the parish Tree Warden**

112.26.5 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett and seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to FWG to research which three trees are purchased and planted on School Green for succession purposes (as recommended in Tree Management Policy) and to report back to Full Council with a proposed budget, species and siting plan**

112.26.6 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a maximum budget of £5000 (from Cil Neighbourhood Funds) to be**

placed in an Earmarked Reserve for the purpose of preparing the site for the 1st Rea Valley Scouts Association at the play area.

112.26.7 After a proposal by Cllr Windows and seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to FWG to seek quotes for hedge trimming along the RHS, as you go up Hall Bank, and to report back to Full Council at the November meeting.**

113.26 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE

113.26.1 Receipts – total since last meeting £2396.54

113.26.2 Payments – total since last meeting £29544.89

After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that the Receipts & Payments information be Noted/Approved**

113.26.3After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that**

- **£30,000 be transferred from CCLA to Unity account for payments In October**
- **£2000 from Unity to Lloyds Pavilion account for payments in October**
- **£219.33 be transferred from Unity to Equals**
- **£40,000 be transferred from CCLA to Unity when SC invoice for the Hall Bank junction improvement works (from CiL Neighbourhood Fund allocated in Earmarked Reserve for this purpose)**

113.26.4 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE a maximum budget of £200 for clearing around the solar lights on the Pontesbury to Minsterley cycleway**

114.26 PARISH COUNCIL CLUSTER ON BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE RECOVERY

114.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Terms of Reference for the biodiversity cluster of Pontesbury, Minsterley and Hanwood Parish Councils – Rea-Act for Nature**

114.26.2 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the parish council Biodiversity Policy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy as prepared by Clerk**

115.26 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS – None raised

115.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Health & Safety policy as updated by Clerk and to delegate authority to Chair/Clerk to sign the statement**

116.26 PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 –2029 - After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Strategic Plan as updated by Clerk**

117.26 DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – Cllrs received a presentation by Rob Wilson (Leader of Shrewsbury Town Council) and Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager) about how STC had taken over Streetscene services from Shropshire Council and the positive benefits for STC residents. Cllrs had received a paper from STC on how the Town Council could through a contract arrangement support surrounding parishes through providing such services.

Cllr Trow asked if there would be a limit to how many local councils STC could support in this way. Cllr Wilson responded that provision of services to other local councils must not result in a cost being borne by STC residents.

117.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to the Facilities Working Group, with any other Cllrs attending if they wished with a view to any contractual arrangements entered into being built into the 2027-28 budget and starting in April 2027**

118.26 RESIDENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT ROAD SAFETY

Parking outside Connections

Cllr Hignett said that this has been an issue for many years. Residents from Yarlington Orchard had also complained about parking impacting on their ability to exit and enter their road. Whilst it is important to support local businesses, pedestrian/motorist safety is also important. Any double yellow lines put in place would need

to be supported by the police, and may lead to parking on the opposite side of the road causing further hazards. Cllr Hignett would speak to the businesses within Connections about the issues and see if notices can be displayed asking motorists not to park in this area.

Cllr Fletcher asked Clerk to contact SC Highways to investigate the problem and review traffic movement within the village, potentially considering restricting traffic to a left turn out of Chapel St. Many children/buses serving the schools also encounter problems in this area.

Cllr Jones felt that the increase in housing development in the village had exacerbated the situation and suggested a 20mph limit in the area from above Connections and around the one way system in the village

Cllr Windows felted that it was important to approach the local businesses concerned and to enlist the help of the police with advising motorists parking in this area. In the medium term it was a traffic management issue and various solutions such as controlled crossings and signage could be employed.

Speed of traffic along the A43986 alongside the Hare & Hounds development
Cllr Trow had been contacted by a resident worried about the dangers faced by school children having to wait on the verge along this section of road with traffic passing at up to 60mph. Various solutions could be considered, including alternative places for children to wait for school buses, a reduction in the speed limit and increased signage making motorists aware that they were entering a residential area.

Cllr Jones agreed that a 40mph zone from the crossroads with the Cruckmeole road and beyond the Hare and Hounds development along with signs about entering a residential area.

Cllr Evans felt that there were three areas of concern, the area mentioned, Lea Cross and Cruckton to Cruckmeole. Speed limit reductions in the areas were needed and increased signage about entering residential areas

Cllr Hodges had personal experience of how dangerous the junction of the road from Cruckmeole and the B4386 was and felt speed limits along the stretch from the crossroads to Hare and Hounds should be in place

Clerk was asked to write to David Vasmer to request a site visit with local residents and to ask for an update on issues raised at the meeting he attended in Pontesbury early in the year

119.26 REQUEST FROM HANWOOD PC TO SITE AN ANPR CAMERA OUTSIDE ST THOMAS' AND ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Day, (Cllrs Evans/Windows abstained) it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE in principle the siting of a camera outside the school.**

120.26 CLERK'S REPORT – The Clerk's Report was received on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting and was **NOTED.**

121.26 PARISH BUSINESS – matters to be reported

- Cllr Trow reported that Cruckton Bridge had been reopened
- Cllr Jones asked Clerk to chase the Ground's Maintenance contractor about scarifying the wildflower areas on the Pontesbury to Minsterley cycleway
- Cllr Fletcher asked Clerk to contact National Grid to request a piece in the November newsletter explaining the importance of the roadworks throughout the parish. Cllr Fletcher also requested that Food Resilience be added to the November agenda

122.26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting is on Monday 9th November 2026 at the Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2010pm

Chairman: …… Date: ……..