

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



**Full Council Meeting
held at Habberley Village Hall on
Monday 13th July 2026**

PRESENT

Councillors D Fletcher, A Windows, J Pritchard, G Moss, D Gregory, Cllr D Jones, M Trow, R Evans, K Day and N Hignett

Clerk of the Meeting Debbie Marais

Members of the Public : Two

44.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors A Hodges and C Sandells

45.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS Cllr Gregory declared an interest in Agenda Item 9.3 Underlease with Pontesbury Sports Association

46.26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS . A Pontesbury resident expressed extreme concern about the behaviour of drivers entering Pontesbury from Minsterley . Drivers enter the village very fast and with no regard for the mini-roundabout at the entrance of Lawrence Park. Residents coming out of Signal Drive are forced to cross the A488 at this point in order to walk into the village and it is extremely unsafe with speeding vehicles who are not using the roundabout appropriately. The resident felt there needed to be a pedestrian crossing across the A488 from Signal Dr to allow safe movement of pedestrians. There is very little signage on the road or any Vehicle Activated Signs to indicate to drivers that they must slow down as they enter the village. Some motorists even overtake on the mini-roundabout.

A second resident of Signal Dr. wished to add his concerns about the same issue. Many residents find it difficult to pull out of Signal Dr. and asked why the original planned footpath link from the estate had not been built.

Cllr Fletcher replied that the parish council had been working with a resident of Signal Dr. since 2024 and that when the initial planning application had come before the parish council the Planning Committee had requested a pedestrian crossing. This had not been granted. The resident in question had been in touch with Shropshire Council and the local MP but had not had a response. The parish council had met a couple of times with Cllr David Vassmer (portfolio holder for Highways) to discuss this matter and were awaiting a response from SC.

Cllr Fletcher suggested that residents form an action group to take this matter forward. Cllr Hignett said that he had also been working to resolve this issue and had made several suggestions to SC Highways. Cllr Hignett said that he would happily attend a meeting of any residents' action group.

Cllr Fletcher reiterated that the parish council would support residents and equally see this issue as urgent and important and will continue to work to resolve the situation. The local policing team are aware of the issues and also support resident's concerns.

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The resident also raised the issue traffic movements along Bogey Lane and around Mary Webb School in the mornings and that two way traffic and parents parking is causing school buses to have to mount the Kerb. There have been several incidents of wing mirrors clipping people. Cllr Hignett and Clerk had attended a meeting with SC Highways at Mary Webb School and other relevant authorities were present (including bus companies). The meeting had been positive with some suggestions made to relieve the problem.

47.26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Day, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 8th June 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting with an amendment to 36.25.1 as suggested by Clerk.

48.26 POLICE MATTERS – Nothing raised

49.26 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Evans gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**, including:

The draft Medium term financial plan including sustainability has been approved by SC cabinet. This includes a request for funding from Central Government for 2027-28. Quarter 1 figures for 2026-27 will be published in September 2026

- There will be a special cabinet meeting this week to make a final decision about the Shirehall site
- Annual Governance – There will be a council meeting on Thursday to consider the annual return for 2025-26. This is the seventh time there will be Limited Assurance and the auditors are concerned that the savings identified have not been made and the situation is not sustainable long term. There were some signs of change in Quarter 3 and 4 of 2025-26
- Section 151 Officer refuses to say the 2025-26 budget was not overspent but that he disagrees with the budget set as it included savings of £60m which he feels were not possible, and that the budget included no increase for Adult & Social Care costs which have actually costed SC an additional £38m in 2025-26
- Cruckton bridge will be closed between 20th July and early September for deck, footpath and drainage repairs
- National Grid will begin cable work between Plealey and Pontesford on 20th July. The road will be closed in stages and access to houses will be maintained at all times
- A Shropshire Local Transportation plan consultation will begin at the beginning of September

50.26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

50.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Gregory, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 1st June 2026 be adopted.

50.26.2 Cllr Fletcher, Vice-Chairman of Planning Committee, gave a verbal updated which was **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher wished to record his thanks to Cllr Hodges for all his hard work.

Cllr Evans reported that there was a consultation event on Tuesday 14th July about the 1200 houses planned for land adjacent to Edgebold Island.

51.26 PLAY AREA TASK AND FINISH GROUP

51.26.1 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Gregory, it was **RESOLVED** to approve appointment of Sutcliffe Play Ltd to undertake the refurbishment of the Pontesbury Station Road play area. This followed a 3 stage process of interview, public consultation and requirements and financial assessment of four specialist companies.

51.26.2 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVE** to approve a maximum budget of £50,000 ex. VAT for the refurbishment project

51.26.3 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To approve transfer of £8000 EMR underspend for the public toilet refurbishment to the play area refurbishment EMR giving a total EMR of £50,000

52.26 FACILITIES WORKING GROUP - the notes of FWG meeting held on 23rd June 2026 were received:

- 52.26.1** Cllr Windows gave a verbal update from the Play Area Task & Finish Group which was **NOTED**. There would be an official opening of the refurbished play area on 21st August 2026 and it was hoped that as many Cllrs as possible would attend. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Cllr Windows and the group for their hard work on bringing this project to fruition.
- 52.26.2.** After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a maximum budget of £5500 for additional sand and upgrade to BMX track. Eight companies had been invited to quote and Sutcliffe Play Ltd were appointed to deliver and install the sand/and BMX dust at a cost of £5228.57
- 52.26.3** After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, (Cllr Gregory abstained) it was **RESOLVED** to approve the underlease with Pontesbury Sports Association for 25 years and to approve an additional budget of £500 to PCB Solicitors to register the underlease with Land Registry, undertake trustee ID checks and for PSG to undertake Energy Performance Certification
- 52.26.4** After a proposal by Cllr Prichard, seconded by Cllr Dayt, (Cllr Gregory abstained) it was **RESOLVED** to approve delegated authority to Cllr Fletcher and Chair to sign the underlease with Pontesbury Sports Association
- 52.26.5** After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Highline to meet the requirement of a 5 year electrical survey of the streetlights by undertaking a survey of 20% of lights each year, given that the lights were newly installed in 2025.
- 52.26.6** After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £456 (to be offset by a contribution of £226 from Minsterley Parish Council) to clean and inspect the solar lighting along the cycleway linking the two villages.
- 52.26.7** After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve an additional budget of £300 for the revaluation of parish council buildings for insurance purposes by Cardinus (£1500 budget was previously approved at the June 2026 council meeting)

53.26 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- 53.26.1** After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr Trow as Chair and Cllr Fletcher as Vice-Chair of the Personnel and HR Committee
- 53.26.2** Cllr Trow gave a verbal update from the Personnel Committee meeting on 2nd July which focussed on succession planning for council staff and councillors and a campaign to attract people to become councillors
- 53.26.3** After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 26th January 2026 be adopted as a true record.
- 53.26.4** After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve delegated authority to the Facilities Working Group and the Personnel Committee to investigate the impact of any future partnership work with Shropshire Council and to report recommendations back to full council at a future meeting.
- 53.26.5** After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve an additional 20 hours for RFO for end of year/audit work.

54.26 PAVILION

- 54.26.1** After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £420 to Severn Valley Renewables for the annual clean and inspection of the solar panels

54.26.2 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a new contract with HTL for automatic door inspections for the Pavilion, Hall Bank

55.26 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE

55.26.1 Receipts – total since last meeting £2628.63

55.26.2 Payments – total since last meeting £30,191.95

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

55.26.3 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve that £80,000 be transferred from CCLA to Unity account for payments In July and August and for the play area equipment and £4000 to be transferred from CCLA to Lloyds Pavilion account for payments in July and August

55.26.4 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £90 for a logo for the Rea-Act for Nature Cluster on nature recovery (Minsterley and Hanwood councils would contribute a similar amount

55.26.5 Clerk gave a verbal update that as yet there had been no applicants for the parish council Cllr vacancies. Personnel Committee had made suggestions of promotional activities to attract candidates that would be carried out over the next few months

55.26.6 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve an additional £50 (£800 total, £750 agreed at June 26 council meeting) for the cutting of both sides of the hedge by the public toilets

55.26.7 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £6000 for sand/BMX dust and a new bench at the play area from the £9500 left in the public toilet refurbishment EMR – this would leave £3000 in the EMR for any future updates to the toilets

55.26.8 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £95 for a biochar mulch for the Oak tree on Hall Bank as recommended in the 2025 tree inspection report

55.26.9 Clerk reported that the Lloyds Bank fees would drop to £5/month as the precept is now paid into the Unity account. This was **NOTED**.

56.26 TRAFFIC CALMING WORKING GROUP – Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal report following a meeting with Cllr David Vasmer (portfolio holder for highways, Shropshire Council) where all of the areas of concern were raised. Cllr Vasmer would pass the concerns onto appropriate officers

57.26 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS – None raised

58.26 UPDATE ON HALL BANK WORKS – Clerk had circulated dates for road closures for work on flood alleviation measures on Brookside and footpath widening at the bottom of Hall Bank. A meeting to discuss the road changes at the Main road/Minsterley road Junction would take place in the future.

59.26 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH – this was deferred due to the absence of Cllr Sandells who had raised the matter previously

60.26 MEOLE BRACE PARK AND RIDE – Clerk had received a letter of concern from a resident and a request for support in asking Shropshire Council to revisit their decision to close the facility. Cllr Jones also raised concerns. After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, Cllr Evans abstained, it was **RESOLVED** to approve Clerk writing on behalf of the parish council to ask SC to reverse their decision to close the facility.

61.26 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM PONTESBURY YOUTH GROUP – the youth group had requested £200 towards summer holiday activities. After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £200 to Pontesbury Youth Group. Clerk would ask the youth leader to provide a report back to full council at the end of the summer.

62.26 PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – a meeting had been arranged with Cllr Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader SC) on Thursday 23rd July at 5pm at the Pavilion. Clerk would circulate the date and ask who wanted to attend and also send a zoom invite for those who could not attend in person. A spreadsheet listing areas in Pontesbury parish that SC currently maintain had been received. This would be looked at in detail by Facilities Working group at their next meeting and a report back to Full Council. Any Cllr could attend this FWG meeting.

Cllr Gregory left the meeting

63.26 CLERK'S REPORT – The Clerk's Report was received on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. Clerk reported that an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council was required to consider and let Utilities contracts for 2026-29 and the PCC lease. This would be held on Thursday 23rd July at 6.30pm following the meeting with Alex Wagner

64.26 PARISH BUSINESS – matters to be reported

- Cllr Hignett – reported that he had received positive feedback from residents about the newly refurbished public toilets and how clean they were. This would be reported in the newsletter
- Cllr Pritchard – concerns about the overhanging hedge by Linley Crescent. Clerk to write to Housing Plus and about contacting MP Julia Buckley to ask her to support dairy farmers during this difficult time
- Cllr Jones raised concerns about the encroachment of the verges on both sides of the cycleway making it difficult to use by walkers and cyclists

65.26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting is on **Thursday 23rd July 2026** at **the Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 2000

Chairman: Date: