

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at the Pavilion, Hall Bank on Monday 14th September 2026

PRESENT

Councillors D Fletcher, A Hodges, Cllr D Jones, M Trow, R Evans, K Day and N Hignett

Clerk of the Meeting Debbie Marais

Members of the Public : One

85.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors J Pritchard, C Sandells, G Moss, A Windows and D Gregory

86.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS Cllr Hignett declared an interest in Agenda Item 12. Funding request from Pontesbury Public Hall, as he is a trustee of the hall.

87.26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS . A Pontesbury resident expressed concern about the state of the drains (not being cleared) and bins (not being emptied regularly and damaged) in the village of Pontesbury. He also raised concerns about the lack of white lines at the junction of Main Road and Minsterley Road as cars are not stopping at this junction but just continuing, causing a hazard for pedestrians and vehicles coming out of Brookside. The resident was also concerned about the anti-social behaviour locally regarding drug use. Cllr Fletcher replied that he would report the damaged bin on School Green, on FixMyStreet. Cllr Hignett would follow up the whitelines on Main Road and hopefully phase 3 of the works to the Hall Bank junctions would help with calming traffic. Clerk would contact National Grid who had agreed to clear the drains down Main Road and up to Malehurst, following their work in the area. Cllr Fletcher reported that the police are very aware of the anti-social behaviour relating to drug use and they have been working with other relevant agencies, including the parish council in the area.

88.26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 24th August 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

89.26 POLICE MATTERS – Councillors raised the issue of illegal riding of electric bikes around the parish. These are speeding, have no lights or means of identification and are causing danger to the riders themselves and any drivers or pedestrians meeting them, particularly at night. Cllr Day talked about problems in Asterley and Cllr Jones about problems around Pontesbury, on the A488 and on the cycleway to Minsterley

90.26 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Hignett gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**, including:
FINANCIAL POSITION—on 9th September Cabinet received a Financial Monitoring Report for quarter 1 2026/27. The report forecast that the council will be £2.291 million under budget at the end of the financial year, and that the council's need for Exceptional Financial Support has reduced from £121 million to £90 million for 2026/27. However, significant financial pressures remain, particularly

in children's services and adult social care, and further difficult decisions will be needed as the Financial year progresses.

WHITCHURCH CIVIC CENTRE—This building has been closed since September 2023-except for the sports/market hall area, after specialist engineers found that RAAC concrete exists across the majority of the complex, and that it has major structural issues. £4 million would be required to return the building to sustainable use. On 9th September Cabinet agreed a recommendation to dispose of the centre. Local community groups and residents will be invited to put forward their suggestions for the future of the building.

CORNOVII—on 9th September, Cabinet took the decision for a structured closure of Cornovii Developments Ltd. This company is wholly owned by Shropshire Council, and was set up in 2019 to build homes in the County. Since then it has delivered 196 homes-including affordable homes for sale, private rented homes, and rent-to-own properties. Cabinet recognised these achievements, but confirmed that the Council is no longer in a position to continue borrowing to fund Cornovii's activities.

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT—Shropshire residents will be asked for their views on proposals to change the council tax support scheme, so that child benefit is no longer counted as household income when support is calculated. A full six week consultation will take place, with cabinet reviewing the findings on 18th November, before any changes are considered by Full Council on 10th December. If agreed, the proposal to disregard child benefit in the calculation would help reduce the impact for families who receive it, with the intention of giving better support to those most in need in Shropshire.

SHREWSBURY RAILWAY BRIDGES—Maintenance work on the Castle Foregate and Great Western Railway under bridges in Shrewsbury will continue until 8th November. The work, being carried out by Network Rail, was due to finish in September. Additional steelwork repairs have been identified as necessary, alongside scheduled cleaning and repainting, followed by the installation of new pigeon-proofing mesh. The road will remain open during daytime, with closures in place mostly on Sundays.

HILL FORD STAGES RALLY—This rally takes place on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September. The event begins in Shrewsbury on Saturday with the Ceremonial start, before moving to Weston Park for the rally festival and competitive rally stages during the afternoon. On Sunday 20th the rally moves onto closed public roads in South Shropshire, with 5 stages taking place at Cressage, Clee Hill, Lawley, Dorrington and Linley, each of these areas being used twice during the day. Temporary road closures will be in place. Full details and information on viewing the rally safely are available on Shropshire Council's website

91.26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

91.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2026 be adopted.

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

92.26 PAVILION COMMITTEE

92.26.1 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 20th April 2026

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

93.26 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE

93.26.1 Receipts – total since last meeting £6458.60

93.26.2 Payments – total since last meeting £115,981.46 (this includes payments for August and September and the large play area refurbishment invoice).

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

93.26.3 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve that £35,000 be transferred from CCLA to Unity account for payments in September and £2000 from Unity to Lloyds Pavilion account for payments in September.

93.26.4 Clerk gave a verbal update that as yet there had been no applicants for the parish council Cllr vacancies.

93.26.5 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve a new contract fee of £242 for DM Payroll Services Ltd for 2027-2028.

93.26.6 After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the NJC pay agreement for 2026-27 and **APPROVE** the pay increase be backdated to 1 April 2026 as agreed by NALC. The back pay would be included in the September salaries.

93.26.7 The External Audit report of successful completion with no outstanding matters was **NOTED**.

Cllr Fletcher wished to thank the RFO Caroline Higgins for all her hard work on submitting the audit documents

94.26 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS – None raised

94.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £495 to LLanerch Aboriculture for a woodland inspection and management plan for the woodland alongside the sports field. This is necessary for health & safety reasons as there is a lot of Ash dieback in the wood and use of the woodland is more than the council previously thought.

95.26 REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENTS –

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following documents as prepared by Clerk

- i) **Organisational Risk Assessment**
- ii) **Financial Risk Assessment**
- iii) **Business Continuity Plan**

96.26 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM PONTESBURY PUBLIC HALL – After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Jones, (Cllr Hignett abstained) it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a grant of £5000 towards the installation of solar panels to sustain the hall for the future. This will be paid from CIL Neighbourhood Fund.

97.26 HALL BANK IMPROVEMENTS – Cllr Hignett gave a verbal update on the works to improve pedestrian safety at the bottom of Hall Bank. Phase 1 to widen the footpath at the bottom of Hall Bank is now complete. Phase 2 to put in flood alleviation measures on Brookside is underway. This work involved the Shropshire Council Flooding Officer. Shropshire Rural Housing are very pleased and hopefully with the work SRH have done with their flood barriers residents in Mary Webb Close will not be affected by flooding as in the past. Phase 3 of the works to make changes to the junction at the bottom of Main road is currently under discussion.

Cllr Fletcher wished to commend Shropshire Council Highways Officer Andrew Moreton, and his team, for their work in co-ordinating all of the improvements.

Cllr Jones raised a concern about the wall by the culvert at the Station Road end of the new pavement. Cllr Hignett would speak to SC Highways about this matter. Cllr Jones was also pleased that Cllr Hignett was taking forward the request for new white lining on the junction to re-train vehicles to give way at the bottom of Main Road for safety reasons.

98.26 PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE – Cllrs Fletcher and Hignett had met with Clerk/Deputy/RFO to review the insurance documents. There were some amendments required to the policy schedule. After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a maximum budget of £5000 for 2026-27 insurance cover and delegated authority to Cllrs Fletcher/Hignett and parish council staff to amend policy appropriately and to ensure the insurance cover was in place by 30th September 2026.

99.26 CIL NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND – After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the CIL monitoring form to be signed by Cllrs Fletcher/Hignett and Clerk and returned to SC as completed by Clerk with the addition of the £5000 allocated for Pontesbury Public Hall for the solar panels. This will leave £22,296.63 unallocated CIL Neighbourhood Funds.

100.26 YOUTH GROUP SUMMER ACTIVITIES REPORT – A report had been received by Cllrs of the summer activities arranged with the £200 grant given in July 2026. After a proposal from Cllr Jones,

seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that the group retain any unspent funds from the grant towards holiday activities in other school holidays. Clerk would ask for a further report on how retained funds were spent.

101.26 CLERK'S REPORT – The Clerk's Report was received on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting and was **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Cllr Hignett on all his work supporting the residents of Bailey Crescent and driving a resolution forward. Cllr Hignett has arranged another meeting with the new Housing Officer covering this area for Housing Plus.

102.26 PARISH BUSINESS – matters to be reported

- Cllr Trow reported that the works to Cruckton Bridge are continuing until the end of September. There is some resident dissatisfaction with how long it is taking
- Cllr Sandells had emailed Clerk also expressing concerns about the length of the works on Cruckton Bridge and communications with local residents. Cllr Evans would follow the concerns about Cruckton Bridge works up with SC Highways
- Cllr Hodges raised a resident's concerns about dogs loose on Church Green and this worrying residents with young children using the area. Cllr Evans would follow this up.
- Cllr Evans – raised concerns about the use of lanes between Plealey, Pontesbury and Linley on the weekend of the rally. There is very little information available for residents outside the rally stage areas
- Cllr Day – raised concerns about the number of caravans on the Malehurst site. Cllr Hignett would raise this at the SC Planning meeting
- Cllr Jones raised the issue of hedge trimming around the solar lights on the cycleway. This would be added to the October agenda. Cllr Jones also raised the issue of the work by National Grid from Main Road to Malehurst resulting in a lot of debris in the drains. This may cause flooding in the winter. Clerk to contact National grid to get assurance that the drains will be cleared on completion of the work

103.26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting is on **Monday 12th October 2026** at **the Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 1950

Chairman: Date: