

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



**Full Council Meeting
held at Cruckton Village Hall on
Monday 8th June 2026**

PRESENT

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

Clerk of the Meeting Debbie Marais

Members of the Public : None

Neighbourhood Policing Representative PC R Walters

23.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr D Jones

24.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS None received

25.26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS No public questions

26.26 MINUTES OF COUNCIL – After a proposal from Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of 11th May 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

27.26 POLICE MATTERS – a verbal report was received from PC R Walters including:

- updates on a number of anti-social behaviour issues around the village where the policing team are working with various housing associations to resolve the problems
- poster campaign about deterring young people from using catapults
- trying to educate people about legislation concerning use of scooters and electric bikes – please report any mis-use of these vehicles
- the team have Trucam at the moment doing some work on speed enforcement
- will try and patrol play area following burning of the bench

PC Walters updated the councillors on staffing levels in the rural east and west. Clerk was asked to write to PCC to express concerns about the low level of staffing

Cllr Hignett asked if the police had been notified about the roadworks in Pontesbury due to work by National Grid, as an ambulance had been reported as not being able to get through and this work is set to continue for a couple of months at least. Police had been notified.

Cllr Sandells asked about break-ins in rural areas. PC Walters advised farmers to be vigilant and mentioned the Rural Crime dedicated Officer. Cllr Sandells also asked if the Pontesbury Community Speed Watch had been disbanded. PC Walters said that they had and would send some information about CSW to Cllrs.

Cllr Fletcher wished to thank PC Walter for taking the time to come to a meeting and to pass on the thanks of the parish council to the rest of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

28.26 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr Hignett gave a verbal report including:
SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 2026

**Tel: 07951 205519
Email: clerk@pontesburypc.org.uk**

FINANCES—Shropshire Council has published its “Financial Outturn Report” for 2025/26, ahead of it being discussed by the Financial Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th June. The report looks at how much the Council actually spent over the year compared to its budget set in February 2025 by the previous administration. It shows the Council spent £49.4 million more than planned in its main (general fund) budget, mainly due to rising demand and costs in Adult and Children’s social care, along with savings that proved difficult to deliver. The report will go to Cabinet on 10th June. An updated medium-term financial plan and sustainability plan will be presented in July, setting out the next steps.

NEET---NEET stands for “Not in Education, Employment or Training”.

There have been major headlines in the Press over the last 2 or 3 weeks, regarding the number of 16-25 year olds not successfully placed in Education, Employment or Training. The figure quoted is 1 in 8 and rising. Combined with the figure for those whose placement is “Not Known”, the data shows Shropshire has one of the lowest rates in the area (less than 1 in 30). The data quoted covers the area of England, The West Midlands and neighbouring Counties.

FLOODWATER MANAGEMENT---Shropshire Council will be at “Flood and Coast 2026”, which takes place in Liverpool from 9th to 11th June. They will showcase the role of the Marches Forward Partnership, in supporting the future delivery of the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, particularly in relation to testing how digital and wireless technologies can support better monitoring and resilient approaches to managing water and flood risk. This is relevant to the Rea Valley, where a number of monitors have been installed upstream. Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS) is a pilot project led by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Powys and Shropshire Councils, to explore large-scale water infrastructure solutions.

FRANKWELL FOOTBRIDGE---On 5th June work started to improve access on the Smithfield road side of the footbridge. This is prior to the construction of the new Landing/Stairway area, which will lead into the new Riverside Gardens Park. The bridge will stay open throughout the works.

NEW MARKET BUILDING, BRIDGNORTH---Whilst not in Our area, I have included this in my report for information. New Market building is a large and impressive Victorian building at the southern end of Bridgnorth’s High street. Built 1855 in the Italianate style, it is now suffering from a long period of underuse and neglect. It has been recognised by the Victorian Society, and added to their list of top 10 most endangered buildings for 2026. Shropshire Council are currently reviewing what planning Enforcement options are available to it, and will work with Bridgnorth Town Council, Historic England and others to find a better future for the building.

29.26 PLANNING COMMITTEE

29.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 5th May 2026 be adopted.

29.26.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of Planning Committee, gave a verbal update which was **NOTED**:

29.26.3 Proposed biomass boiler – Little Halston Farm, Pontesford (ref. 26/01403/FUL). Information requested by the Planning Committee had been received and After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following **Comment: In light of the further information supplied, the parish council support the application for a biomass boiler**

29.26.4 The Clerk had received an email from a concerned resident about PA 25/04031/FUL. The Chair had sought advice from Shropshire Association of Local Councils. After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following response and course of action.

The Parish Council is a consultee in the planning process and has previously considered and submitted its response to the application. However, your concerns were raised at the Full Parish Council meeting last night and the Parish Council takes the view that given the issues raised, the application is actually best determined at Committee level where both applicants and objectors can also exercise the opportunity to address the Committee before it makes a decision on an officer report.

Although there is no guarantee of the outcome, the Parish Council will make representations to Shropshire Council requesting that given the issues raised, the application be referred to Committee for decision rather than via the delegated route

30.26 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

30.26.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the FGP Committee meeting held on 5th December 2025

30.26.2 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the end of year (2025-26) documents presented to Council, as recommended by FGP at the meeting on 28th May 2026

30.26.3 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the movements to and from the reserves, as presented and recommended by FGP at the meeting on 28th May 2026

30.26.4 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the review of Direct Debits/Standing Orders as recommended by FGP at the meeting on 28th May 2026

30.26.5 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Income and Debt Write Off policy and General Reserves Policy, and to next review these policies in 2028

30.26.6 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Banking Policy and Banking Mandate and to confirm Cllr Windows as being able to authorise Unity and Lloyds Bank payments and to next review these documents in 2028

30.26.7 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to Approve that the shared balance on the Equals debit card be increased to £1000 in line with Clerk's level of delegated authority (individual spending limit for officers of £500 to remain) and to approve the transfer of £811.38 to top up the balance to £1000

Cllr Hodges left the meeting

31.26 FACILITIES WORKING GROUP - the notes of FWG meeting held on 26th May 2026 were received:

31.26.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to Approve Company 3 for the public toilet cleaning contract 2026-29. First year the fee is £4659.72 + £93.18 for the sanitary bin collection, thereafter, to be reviewed in line with inflation and National Minimum Wage

31.26.2 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve using aluminium poles (instead of steel poles) for an additional £100 per pole (£600 for the 6 poles council approved replacement of in 2026-27). This gives a total of £11,950 for 2026-27. £1950 to be paid from CiL Neighbourhood Fund. Clerk was asked to obtain warranty information for aluminium poles from E-On. Procurement for the poles comes under Financial Regs. 5.12.

31.26.3 After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** To approve a maximum budget of £1000 for additional lighting for the rear of the Pavilion to cover the rear steps for health and safety reasons, and to delegate authority to Clerk/Chair to organise quotes and the work to be done

31.26.4 After a proposal from Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Windows, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a maximum budget of £1500 to revalue the Trading Post, Sports Pavilion, bus shelters, public toilets and the Pavilion, Hall Bank for insurance purposes and to delegate authority to Clerk/Chair to organise quotes and obtain revaluations

32.26 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE

32.26.1 Receipts – total since last meeting £2399.08

32.26.2 Payments – total since last meeting £22,857.

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

32.26.3 It was reported by Clerk that no monies need to be transferred from CCLA to Unity account for payments

this month

32.26.4 After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Gregory, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £775.80 to PCB solictors for work done to date on the underlease with Pontesbury Sports Association

32.26.5 After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour it was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated draft lease with PCC for use of Pavilion rooms, following comments by the PCC solicitor

32.26.6 Clerk gave a verbal update on the 3 parish councillor vacancies (2 in Pontesbury ward, 1 in Cruckton ward). It was hoped that candidates could be co-opted at the July and/or September meetings

32.26.7 Clerk gave an update on members of council committees and working groups

32.26.8 After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Financial Regulations (with decision that under 5.6 any contract over £60,000 would be advertised under an open invitation in compliance with any relevant provisions of the legislation) and Standing Orders as amended by Clerk

32.26.9 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve £780 to cut back and reduce the height of the hedge by the public toilets and remove all waste from site

33.26 AUDIT 2025-26

33.26.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Day, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve and sign, and respond YES to all questions, (excluding question 9, which is not applicable for AGAR and question 10 as the parish council website is not yet WCAG 2.2 AA compliant) Section 1 – the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 for Pontesbury Parish Council.**

33.26.2 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve and sign AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/2026 for Pontesbury Parish Council**

33.26.3 It was **NOTED** that the intention to publish the Notice of Elector's Rights in June and upload it and the AGAR pages to the Council website.

34.26 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025-26 – After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to Clerk/Chair to complete the Annual Report for 2025-26 and to approve a maximum payment of £500 for a 4 page colour insert in the July newsletter

35.26 TRAFFIC CALMING WORKING GROUP – Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal update from the meeting and outlined the areas that the group would like to focus on. Clerk would contact Highways to request a site visit to look at areas of concern. Cllr Gregory raised concerns that there was not enough accident data to merit introducing speed limits. Cllr Sandells felt that residents would want to know that the parish council was doing to raise concerns. All accidents cause a major disruption to the area.

36.26 HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS – Cllr Sandells wished to comment that the removal of the tree at the junction between the road from Cruckmeole and the Montgomery Road made the junction much safer for motorists

37.26 WITHDRAWAL OF THE 745 BUS SERVICE PONTESBURY, CLUN, LUDLOW – Cllrs regretted the withdrawal of this service but accepted that with very little use it is not a cost-effective route

38.26 UPDATE ON HALL BANK JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS AND S.106 MONIES – Deputy Clerk had approached the S.106 Officer at Shropshire Council. The monies associated with the Hall Bank development have been expended and used to fund the design of the improvements. Andy Moreton who is responsible for the three phased project has assured Cllrs that there is money available to complete all three phases of the improvements to the junction and flood alleviation measures and the parish council will only be billed for the £40,000 Cil Neighbourhood Fund that the parish council have already approved as a contribution to the works.

39.26 UPDATE ON NATIONAL GRID PROGRAMME OF WORKS - Cllr Hignett gave a verbal update and Clerk was asked to put something into the July newsletter explaining what the work was for and approximate timescales. The first phase is Pontesbury to Malehurst, then Pontesford to Pontesbury planned for the end of September and Plealey to Pontesford during the school holidays. There will be some road closures required.

40.26 UPDATE ON CAR RALLY IN SEPTEMBER – A report went to Shropshire Council this week with maps and details. Cllr Evans reported that there had not been consultation in areas where cars are moving between rally points, this was a concern as cars will be travelling down some very narrow lanes. After a proposal by Cllr Day, seconded by Cllr Windows, Cllr Gregory and Sandells voted against and

Cllr Evans abstained, it was **RESOLVED** to send a comment about the concerns raised and stating the parish council's opposition to the car rally to Shropshire Council.

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

42.26 PARISH BUSINESS – matters to be reported

- Cllr Windows – raised concerns about the amount of bins that had not been emptied around the parish. Cllr was asked to write to SC raising this as a health and safety issue, particularly at the play area due to bottles and dog faeces spilling out of bins.
- Cllr Trow – reported that the Cruckmeole to Cruckton road would be closed for 2 months for works in September.
- Cllr Pritchard raised concerns that white markings around potholes were wearing off before the potholes were fixed.
- Cllr Gregory reported that it had been 12 months since he reported the sign on Linley Avenue and nothing had been done

Cllr Moss left the meeting

Cllr Evans raised concerns that the road markings in Lea Cross on the A488 have not all been reinstated

Cllr Hignett reported that the new noticeboard by St Georges was working well and that the bench on Jubilee gardens needed some attention

43.26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting is on **Monday 13th July 2026** at **Habberley Village Hall, starting at 6.30pm.**

Please note that there will be a Cyber Security training session before the meeting, starting at 5.30pm. Under the new Assertion 10, this training is mandatory for councillors.

The meeting closed at 2015

Chairman: Date: