



Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall

25/060 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chairman), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Gareth Jones, Rob Trow.

Apologies: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Keith Daley and Martin Ruston.

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Susan Coleman; Brunning & Price representatives Will Stelling, John Duncan, and Stuart Groves; and 9 members of the public.

25/061 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Adney is a tenant farmer on land directly affected by the application appeal 25/03394/REF (25/067/a) and so resolved to leave the room for the duration of that item.

25/062 MINUTES - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 9th July 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

25/063 PROGRESS REPORT

a) Parking issues

Pub car park application: Will Stelling (B&P Property Director) gave an update on the current situation. The appeal against refusal has been submitted. The objections cited by Shropshire Council in their decision are fully addressed in documents clarifying heritage and landscape matters. Visuals of the proposal will be available soon. The deadline for public and parish council comments is 24 September. They have no timescale for when the appeal will be decided but think roughly 3-4 months.

The B&P representatives then took questions from residents:

Are there any plans to use Paradise Fields for extra parking over the busy Christmas season? Not really. The field is usually too wet over winter.

How would the car park be kept secure from misuse, especially out of hours? There would be a height barrier and a lockable gate. The AMPR system proposed would require users to register their vehicle at the pub within 15 minutes of parking. Management of any antisocial behaviour would be the responsibility of B&P.

How is the appeal heard, and by whom? There was no answer available. [Later information confirms the following from the gov.uk website: 'Nearly all appeals are decided by our Inspectors. A small percentage are decided by the Secretary of State - these tend to be the very large or contentious proposals.']

If this proposal is refused, is there a fallback plan? No. B&P has explored many possibilities but none are workable. Suggestions are always welcome.

A resident raised ongoing concerns about dangerous driving of pub staff using the parking at the farmhouse, especially late at night and early morning. B&P stated that a resident is moving into the property and that the parking spaces for staff there will be reduced. They apologised for any disturbance and risk that has been caused up to now and said that they will again address this. They also acknowledged that the broken gate is not helping the situation and said they would look into this. They commented that taking vehicle registrations would be helpful.

Parking in the village: Residents are asked to report any incidents of illegal or dangerous parking as promptly as possible to Shropshire Council's parking enforcement team. The link can be found on APC's website and Facebook page.

Village gates: This is on the agenda (25/070/b).

- b) **Bridge notice board** – Still untidy wires underneath. B&P said they would look into it.
- c) **NT Outdoor Hub planning application** – No update.
- d) **Highways works in village** – All line painting has now been completed. APC to be invoiced shortly. There is no date yet for resurfacing (probably next financial year).
- e) **Road safety measures at Emstrey Bank** – The quote for the initial lining and signage has been approved and the works order has been sent to Keir.
- f) **ATC (speed monitoring strips) in the village** – The site for this temporary traffic survey has been approved by APC and it should be happening soon.

- g) **Bridge repairs** – The parapet repair work is scheduled for the first week in October. The lighting levels on the bridge have been checked and are more than adequate. Old redundant columns have been removed and the ground reinstated.
- h) **Bus timetable** – Clerk still trying to get current timetable installed at the bus shelter.
- i) **Lloyds bank accounts** – The remaining balances have been transferred to Unity and the accounts finally closed.

25/064 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following matters were discussed:

Culvert bridge (Cross Houses lane): Following recent work on the bridge, two of the capping stones have not been replaced. Clerk to investigate.

Malthouse Lane phone box is dirty and overgrown. Clerk to report.

Flotsam in the river is still causing a concern about diversion of flow. Residents also raised concerns about possible erosion due to rocks being removed from the church river bank by vandals recently. Clerk to report.

The roadside footpath to Emstrey is very overgrown in places, causing danger to pedestrians. The resident was asked to take photos and report this on fixmystreet.com. It was asked whether this forms part of the Severn Way? [Answer supplied after the meeting: The route only follows the road for a short distance before leaving it to follow the river bank. Map now added to APC website.]

A resident raised concerns that the proposed amendments to the barn conversions planning permission included removing bat and bird boxes. Cllrs agreed to look into this before submitting their response. There was also concern about a large build-up of wood waste on the site, which should have been removed (part of the construction agreement). Clerk to report to site manager.

25/065 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Coleman reported that the government has confirmed funding for children's school holiday activities for 3 years. She was also pleased to report that Shropshire Council's Children's Services have been rated as outstanding. She mentioned that SC has put out a call for sites, for consideration in the new Local Plan.

Her main message was about the financial situation of Shropshire Council, which is extremely precarious. Everything is being done that can be done to rescue the council from bankruptcy. (If declared bankrupt, the council would be taken over by external management, who would immediately cut all non-essential services such as libraries, leisure centres, etc.) MPs are lobbying for more funding, to replace cancelled grants. She warned the parish council and residents that all non-essential actions are on hold.

Alison Utting clerk@atchamparishcouncil.gov.uk 01691 622093

25/066 ANY OTHER REPORTS – The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has sent out a survey. Clerk to complete on behalf of APC.

25/067 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following **planning applications**:

25/03065/VAR and 25/03050/VAR

Proposed Residential Barn Conversions East Of Atcham Grange – variation to Condition No. 2 to allow for amended plans.

APC agreed that no response is necessary, unless the resident's concerns about bat and bird boxes are founded, in which case the Clerk should raise this.

Cllr Adney left the meeting for the following item:

25/03394/REF, relating to 24/04428/FUL

Planning Inspector ref: 6000547

Appeal against Shropshire Council's decision to refuse permission (proposed car park south of B4380, Atcham).

APC agreed to reiterate its support for the proposed car park, mentioning the following points:

There is no viable alternative plan for extra parking, and the village is in dire need of it.

The council do not consider that the proposal constitutes any significant impingement on landscape or heritage in the area.

Providing alternative parking will alleviate pressures on both residents and the material fabric of the historic village of Atcham.

The pub is a thriving business with a good reputation, providing employment and hospitality for people in the parish as well as visitors.

All concerns about landscaping, security, flood risk, heritage, and management have been addressed to the parish council's satisfaction.

b) There were no further **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.

c) There were no **planning decisions** published in advance of this meeting.

25/068 FINANCE

a) Council noted the following **payments** made since the last meeting:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
489.57	Clerk's salary, PAYE & NI	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
	Clerk's salary, PAYE, NI, expenses	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
80.00	Training (KD, GJ)	
51.70	Streetlighting maintenance contract 2025-26	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

- b) Council approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) Council accepted the **Neighbourhood Fund report**. It was noted that some funds have to be used by the end of the next financial year. Payment of the TRO/H-bar charges to be met from this fund.

25/069 ADMINISTRATION

- a) **Publication scheme, policies and procedures** – The council agreed to review and adopt the policies as per separate report. (Prop: LD, Sec: GJ, unanimous).
- b) **gov.uk email accounts and APC website** – SA and RT still to activate email accounts. KD still to submit photos. All Cllrs have completed their DOI online forms. All Cllrs to check that they submitted their election expense nil returns.
- c) **Training** – Neither GJ nor KD were able to attend Fundamentals online training session. Both places have to be paid for. SALC has agreed to allow them to attend a future session.

25/070 ASSETS AND MAINTENANCE

- a) **Parking on grass verges** – The damaged post along Cross Houses lane has been very generously replaced by Salop Leisure, preventing parking on the wide verge. Parking has also been reported on the grass splay at the village end of the Old Bridge. This is both unsightly and may cause damage to the historic structure. Councillors agreed that the best solution would be to have wooden posts (probably 3) to block vehicles from this area, with a middle post removeable in case vehicular access is needed to the bridge for any reason. Clerk to action.

- b) **Village gates** – Council agreed to investigate further and consider quotes at the next meeting.

25/071 PARISH MATTERS

- a) The grass mound by the boulders is overgrown with weeds. Also the planters have been cleared of old growth and ideally need some new planting. Clerk to consult with B&P/Salop Leisure first, or instruct our own groundsman.
- b) Upcoming community events:
Harvest Festival at the church Sunday 21 September 2.30pm – 4pm.
Oktoberfest at Home Farm, Attingham Saturday 11 October 7pm – midnight.
Skittles Night at the Malthouse Saturday 15 November 7pm – 10pm.

25/072 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) NALC – Support regard Civility & Respect campaign: Link sent to Suzy Lamplugh Trust website which has free videos and 30-minute training sessions on tackling challenging situations.
- b) Project Gigabit – Upgrading broadband for the Upton Magna area is scheduled to begin this autumn.
- c) SALC AGM – Wed 29 Oct 4pm – 7pm at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Free buffet.
- d) SC – Memorandum of Understanding has been sent to town and parish councils.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 7.30pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____