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## **Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall**

### **26/001 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Present:** Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chairman), Simon Adney, Gareth Jones, Martin Ruston. Rob Trow arrived during item 26/004. Cathy Ritchie joined the table after item 26/007.

**Apologies:** Stephen Cook (accepted).

**Clerk:** Alison Utting

**Also:** 7 members of the public.

### **26/002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.**

**26/003 MINUTES** - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 12 November 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

### **26/004 PROGRESS REPORT**

*Any updates on planning applications – 24/04831/FUL National Trust Outdoor Hub:* An additional document has been filed by a representative of Hereford Storage, reiterating that they will not allow access over their land. "[Shropshire] Council should therefore determine the application on the basis that it fails to demonstrate an achievable access to the public highway. Any alterations to the access would require substantial revisions to the layout and require a new application."

*Installation of bollard posts (Old Bridge) –* This has been completed.

*Installation of village gates –* This is scheduled for end Feb/beginning Mar.

*Road safety measures at Emstrey Bank –* No news. SC will chase.

*ATC (speed monitoring strips) in Atcham –* The data has been received and reviewed by councillors. It will be published on the Parish Council website. Clerk to find out from Shropshire Council whether the results support an application to upgrade the two vehicle-activated signs (VAS).

*Wires under notice board –* Not yet sorted. GJ to follow up.

*Bridge parapet repairs* – Repairs to the main B4380 bridge parapet are underway. There is a scheduled road closure for repairs to Chilton Bridge (Cross Houses lane) – see item 26/013.

*Phone box maintenance* – BT engineers are scheduled to clean, inspect and repair.

*Training* – GJ scheduled to attend 19 February. New Cllr invited to attend 3 March.

*Road surface repairs* – We have had official confirmation that resurfacing of the main road through the village will be done in 2026-27 financial year.

## **26/005      SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Coleman had sent apologies and a written report, which was read out by the Clerk. Key points: Shropshire Council finances remain precarious. More news to follow in February. Recent funding decisions by government have resulted in even less money for rural areas. Tough decisions will have to be made.

## **26/006      OTHER REPORTS – None.**

## **26/007      CO-OPTION**

There had been two applications to fill the vacancy on the council. It was resolved that Cathy Ritchie be co-opted. (Majority vote, secret ballot). Cllr Ritchie signed the Acceptance of Office and joined the table. Thanks were recorded to the other applicant.

## **26/008      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

It was asked whether the devolution of services to larger councils (e.g. Shrewsbury Town Council) had also been offered to parish councils. The answer is yes, we were invited to discuss options for devolution of services at the same time as larger councils. Unfortunately, there are no services provided by Shropshire Council that we could effectively carry out ourselves.

Council Tax was briefly discussed. It was mentioned that of every pound you pay in Council Tax, around 80 pence is spent on Adult & Child Social Services (largely because Shropshire has a high proportion of older residents). The remaining 20 pence has to cover Fire & Police, highways, waste collection, planning, libraries, leisure centres, and everything else. A very small percentage goes to parish/town councils – although this will now increase for areas like Shrewsbury where services are being devolved.

## **26/009      MAINTENANCE**

- a) **Community litter pick** - Cllr Dixon had suggested this after doing some herself and realising the scale of the problem. Clerk to contact possible sources of

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equipment/support and draw up a risk assessment. Plan to be drawn up at next parish council meeting. Volunteers very welcome – contact us if you are unable to attend the meeting.

- b) **Groundskeeping schedule** – The schedule was clarified and the Clerk asked to obtain quotes. It was resolved that the decision be delegated to the Chair and Clerk, as the growing season will begin soon. (Prop: GJ, Sec: RT, unanimous).

## **26/010 PLANNING**

- a) There were no new **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.
- b) There were no new **planning decisions** published by Shropshire Council in advance of this meeting.

## **26/011 FINANCE**

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

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Power to spend</b>
356.01	Clerk's salary	LGA 1972 s112
1540.00	Groundskeeping 2025	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9, 10
423.60	Bollard posts (Old Bridge)	Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s31
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

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

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Power to spend</b>
493.26	Clerk's salary, PAYE, NI, expenses	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
125.00	Shropshire Council – Election admin fee 2025	LGA 1972 s111
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

It was also noted that £125.80 was received in bank interest.

- b) Council approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) Council agreed the **annual budget** for 2026-27, published separately. (Prop: LD. Sec: SA. Unanimous.)
- d) Council agreed to request a **precept** of £6315 for 2026-27, which represents a 0% increase for average Band D households. (Prop: LD, Sec: MR, unanimous.)

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**26/012      PARISH MATTERS**

Overgrown hedge on Malthouse Lane, blocking the footpath. Clerk to follow up.

**26/013      CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SALC – Online training programme 2026.
- b) Community Oil Buying Club – Details to be shared online and in the magazine.
- c) **HIGHWAYS:** Cross Houses lane will be closed for repairs to Chilton Bridge from 30 March to 14 April.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.*

*The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 7.30pm.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_