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## **Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall**

### **25/047 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Present:** Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chairman), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Gareth Jones, Martin Ruston.

**Apologies:** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Keith Daley and Rob Trow.

**Clerk:** Alison Utting

**Also:** SC Cllr Susan Coleman and several members of the public.

**25/048 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – In the interests of transparency, Cllr Dixon declared that she is a tenant farmer on National Trust land (item 25/054a) but has no personal or pecuniary interest in that application. Cllr Adney is also a tenant farmer but on land directly affected by the application and so resolved to leave the room for the duration of that item.

**25/049 MINUTES** - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the Annual Community Meeting and the annual meeting of the parish council, both held on 14th May 2025, as true and correct records of those meetings.

### **25/050 PROGRESS REPORT**

- a) **Road safety measures at Emstrey Bank** – The works order has been raised, the quotation from Keir's lining contractor being chased up as a high priority.
- b) **Planning applications** (car park and NT Outdoor Hub) – Following the refusal of planning permission for the proposed car park, B&P are planning to appeal against that decision. There have been amendments to the Outdoor Hub application (see 25/054a).
- c) **Parking restriction road markings and road surface repairs** – Work scheduled for 10th July.

- d) **Change of Cllr email accounts** – Still in progress.
- e) **ATC (speed monitoring strips)** in Atcham – APC has agreed to pay for this and is awaiting implementation.
- f) **Bridge repairs** – The parapet repair is scheduled for October. Two old streetlight columns have been removed.
- g) **Training** – Cllr Jones had to postpone his induction training, to be rescheduled. Cllr Daley has completed his.
- h) **Bus timetable** – Clerk still trying to get current timetable installed at the bus shelter.
- i) **Bridge notice board** – Still wobbly and untidy wires underneath. Clerk to repeat request to B&P.

**25/051 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** - The following matters were discussed:

Shropshire Council – Due to widespread replacement of Unitary Cllrs, some holdups and difficulties have been experienced with getting things done. New administration is seeking to improve communications and working relationship with town and parish councils (see item 25/056).

Dangerous driving on Malthouse Lane, which has put several cyclists and pedestrians at risk and made the St Eata's Lane junction hazardous to negotiate.

Speeding on B4380 and Berwick Wharf road, especially late evenings. Police have been around and will continue to monitor when they can.

A resident asked whether the B4380 could be upgraded to an A road.

A resident raised concerns about the dangers of people swimming in the river.

A resident asked whether the flotsam which has accumulated by the bridges will be cleared, as it is altering the flow. Clerk to raise this with Longner Estate and/or the Environment Agency.

## **25/052 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Coleman contributed updates on the Progress Report. She also announced that the Norton crossroads has been added as an 'Accident Cluster' site by Shropshire Council, along with Emstrey Bank. This may have a significant bearing on the Outdoor Hub planning application. She has also been in communication with land and business owners at Atcham Business Park regarding the application.

**25/053 ANY OTHER REPORTS** – The Policing Charter for Atcham has been renewed with the same top priorities – speeding, rural theft, and dangerous parking. The police have also been given a list of APC meeting dates.

**25/054 PLANNING**

*Cllr Adney left the meeting for the following item:*

a) Council considered the following **amendment to a planning application**:

Ref: 24/08431/FUL National Trust Outdoor Hub

17th June Agent Response Letter – Additional Information

Council resolved to submit the following response: "The parish council has considered the additional information constituting an amendment to the original proposal, in particular the Agent Response Letter (1 Jul 2025). The parish council does not find that its objections have been addressed in any meaningful way, the applicant merely listing aspirations for other bodies to possibly solve those concerns. That being the case, the parish council stands by its original objections as registered on 22 Feb 2025."

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

c) The following **planning decisions** were published in advance of this meeting:

25/01453/FUL Poppy Cottage (solar panels) – Permission granted.

24/04428/FUL Proposed car park – Refused.

**25/055 FINANCE**

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

Amount	Details	Power to spend
345.82	Clerk's salary (Jun)	LGA 1972 s112
79.80	PAYE (month 03)	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
£443.46	Clerk's salary (July) and expenses	LGA 1972 s112
80.00	PAYE (month 4)	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142

162.25	Energy for streetlighting 2025-26	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301
47.00	Data Protection fee	Data Protection Act 2018
116.64	MS365 annual fee (repayable to C Higgins)	LGA 1972 s142
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

The following receipts were noted: £132.00 bank interest, £75.00 compensation for bad service (Lloyds Bank), £114.05 reclaimed VAT 2024-25, £750.00 Environmental Maintenance Grant.

b) Council approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.

It was noted that Microsoft have again taken an annual payment from the previous (locum) clerk's bank account. Clerk to investigate whether the parish council can get a payment card.

**25/056 SHROPSHIRE TOGETHER** – Councillors agreed responses to the survey questions. No one is able to attend the Conference on 25th July.

**25/057 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS RESOLUTION** – There was no proposer for this motion.

#### **25/058 PARISH MATTERS**

- a) Cllrs to submit photos to go on the APC website.
- b) At least one of the wooden bollards on the south side of Cross Houses lane by the bridge has fallen, allowing vehicles to drive through and park on the grass. Clerk to ask groundsman to inspect the others and investigate replacement or whether another form of barrier (e.g. rocks) would be more effective.

#### **25/059 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SC – Post Elections Survey, completed by Clerk.
- b) Susan Coleman – High Sheriff visits & King's Award for Voluntary Service
- c) NALC – New edition of Local Councils Explained
- d) SALC – Training opportunity, Chairmanship Skills 2-part event (Zoom) on Thursdays 25<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025, 6pm – 9pm. Also Breakthrough Communications online training events (mostly mornings).
- e) SC – Letter to all councils from Heather Kidd (new leader).
- f) HIGHWAYS:

**Planned closure:** B4380 Emstrey (Salop Leisure) through to Tern Lodge (Wroxeter junction) Thursday 10th July between 9.30am and 4pm.

**Planned closure:** Atcham to Cross Houses lane will be completely closed from 14th to 29th July for bridge repairs (Chilton Bridge).

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.*

*The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm.*

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

Alison Utting – Atcham Parish Council

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