

I would like to start by thanking everyone for attending today's meeting and your support of our parish over the last 12 months. For such a small parish, we certainly seem to have our fair share of activity & issues to deal with. I appreciate members of the community giving up their time to share feedback and our welcome to you all to attend meetings continues with earnest into the 2025/2026 year.

In the last year, we have undertaken a number of projects and I have put together a short and sweet summary.

- Undoubtedly the biggest issue we have been working on is the lack of car parking facilities for patrons of the Mytton and Mermaid and ongoing problems with parking on Malthouse Lane and surrounding areas. We conducted a full parish survey and the outcome of which has meant a TRO with double yellow lines and keep clear markings, which we are hopeful will be installed very soon. Options for additional car parking and the planning application are on the forefront of our agendas and we are thankful to the ongoing cooperation of Brunning and Price in our discussions.
- As well as car parking issues, there are many concerns about speeding, the volume of traffic and the terrible condition of the B4380 through Atcham. The parish council continues to work on these issues, liaising with the Shropshire Council and their contractors and we are actively working on practical measures to monitor and reduce speed as well as continuing to push for road repairs.
- A recent large planning Application for an "outdoor hub" at Attingham Park, has caused some interesting discussions. We have been proactively working with Wroxeter and Uppington Parish Council, and took the initiative to organise a meeting inviting representatives from the National Trust to present their plans and for them hear feedback from local residents. We strongly felt that we had not been consulted as a local community prior the planning application being lodged, and strongly encourage the National Trust to be open in their discussions with the local community for the future development of the park, which is still pending planning permission from Shropshire Council.
- We have had several meetings with the representatives of the police, Shropshire Council (Traffic Engineering), and Salop Leisure, to discuss actions over our deep concerns about the frequency of serious accidents (and near misses) on Emstrey Bank, particularly at the entrance to Salop Leisure. As a result of the meetings, temporary 'No Overtaking' signs have been put up and the introduction of double solid white 'no overtaking' lines on the section of road from the roundabout to just past the Salop Leisure entrance are due to be put in place imminently. In the longer term, the introduction of a reduced speed limit is a possible safety option, which Shropshire Council will investigate.

- We have installed a new notice board near the old bridge, as another way of communicating parish council matters as well as a new Facebook page which is updated regularly.
- Boundary changes as part of the councils Community Governance Review has meant that the Sovereign Park development is no longer part of Atcham parish but will become part of Sutton & Rea Brook. We wish the residents of Sovereign Park the best of luck resolving the issues that they are facing with the adoption of their drainage, access road and the housing developer.
- Bollards have been installed at The Glebe to stop parking on the grass.
- A grant has been given to the Malthouse committee for the installation of WiFi in the village hall.

Atcham Parish Council would like to welcome Severn Valley's newly elected Councillor Susan Coleman to our meeting. We wish you every success in your new role and we look forward to working alongside you. Our previous Councillor Claire Wild retired this year. Claire has served our local community for many many years, and it is with heartfelt thanks to her for everything she has achieved and especially your affinity for rural and local issues.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Colin Wildblood, our outgoing Chairman. He left big boots to fill and I appreciated the advice he has passed on to me. Colin told me on more than one occasion that as Parish Councillors we are only as good as our Clerk, and I am indebted to Alison, for guiding us and being such a font of knowledge and experience. We are very lucky to have her.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors, Rob, Simon, Martin, Keith, Gareth and Stephen who very kindly put themselves forwards for another stint of being your parish councillors. We undertake this role as volunteers, acting in the best interests of the people we represent in the parish. Our ultimate goal is to provide the best possible outcome for all issues we face, and I am very proud of the vast experience and diversity our councillors bring to our meetings. It is my personal opinion that we run the council in a fair, business-like way, and whatever situations we face we are able to come to a majority outcome in a professional manner, which is something we should be very proud of.

Cllr Laura Dixon (Chairman)

May 2025