



Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall

26/058 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chairman), Stephen Cook, Gareth Jones, Glen Perks, and Martin Ruston. Cllr Cathy Ritchie arrived late (during item 26/061) due to a PC training commitment.

Absent: Cllr Rob Trow

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Susan Coleman, Stuart Groves (B&P), 2 members of the public.

26/059 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Gareth Jones declared an interest in item 26/065(a), as he is an employee of the applicant.

26/060 MINUTES - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 23 June 2026 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

26/061 PROGRESS REPORT

Road resurfacing and line painting: Mostly complete. Clerk to ask Highways about the remaining marking at the junctions, and ask for removal of temporary signs.

Village gates: These have now been installed. Feedback welcome, as are any suggestions for whether residents would like to see further signage or planters added.

Safety measures at Emstrey Bank: The double white lines have been installed. Cllr Coleman to follow up about whether any further signage is pending, to replace temporary 'no overtaking' signs. The ongoing campaign for a speed reduction on this stretch of road is currently on pause as we wait for the outcome of the Salop Leisure planning application.

Vehicle Activated Signs: Jason Hughes (Street Lighting & Traffic Signals Manager at SC) has approved removal of the existing defunct signs and replacement with new units by the Parish Council. We now await his department's removal of the old units.

Bin emptying (Old Bridge and layby): This has been done, but not as often as it needs to be, especially during summer months when they need weekly emptying. Cllr Coleman to raise this with SC/Keir. Councillors and residents are encouraged to continue reporting overflowing bins (with photos) via FixMyStreet.com.

Phone box: Clerk still trying to get the maintenance jobs done by BT Openreach.

River matters: The planned session with the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, and riparian landowners, has been put back because of full agendas (planning applications) and will be planned for the autumn.

Cllr Ritchie noted that work has begun on the local **upgrade to Broadband services**.

26/062 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Coleman reported that the unitary council continues to face significant financial challenges. It is regrettable that the Meole Brace Park & Ride service will be ending in November. Having analysed data, the council found that user numbers do not support this particular service. The date for the service ending is a direct result of the contract renewal date.

Cllr Coleman also said she had greatly enjoyed the Atcham Fete and thanked all who made it happen.

26/063 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

Car park application – Why did Cllr Jones take part in the discussion and vote on the previous application, ref. 25/008(a)? Cllr Jones responded that this was an oversight. Why was the 40mph restriction agreed for Cross Houses lane just months before the pre-application for the car park was submitted? Cllr Coleman responded that the two events had no connection, the restriction having been campaigned for by Berrington Parish Council with clear objectives unrelated to any future planning application.

Vehicle access for Bramble Cottage, Malthouse Lane – Access for guests staying at the cottage is impossible at weekends, particularly Sunday lunchtimes, due to inconsiderate parking on the lane. Cllr Dixon said that the parish council is very aware of the problems. Review of the existing TRO will be on September agenda. Property owners are free to install advisory parking signs on their own property walls/fences, if that helps. B&P are doing all they can to alleviate the problems.

It was resolved to bring the following item forward on the agenda. Cllr Gareth Jones left the room for the duration of the following item.

26/064 PLANNING

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

26/02360/FUL Proposed car park south of B4380, Atcham

Many details of this application had been discussed at the Annual Community Meeting in May (see Minutes). The following matters were clarified with the help of Stuart Groves:

Lighting of Old Bridge – This would be decided by Shropshire Council/Historic England and would definitely be sympathetic to the setting.

Car park lighting – To be low level rather than on columns as much as possible, using PIR so that lights only activate when someone is in the car park. Light pollution to be kept to a minimum.

Security – There will be a gate, which will be locked outside of pub hours.

Customer use only – The car park will be run by Euro Car Parks using ANPR. This has been used effectively at other B&P businesses.

Will there be CCTV on the car park? – It has not been decided yet.

Will there be access to the beach? – No. The beach is on private land and the car park would be fenced to prevent access.

Would car park attendants be kept on? – Yes.

What would the arrangements be for staff parking? – Current use of The Grange for parking to continue as long as possible. If that was not available, they would discuss options for staff parking, probably using the rear car park.

Would the rear car park continue to be used for parking, or might outdoor events happen there? – The intention is to use it for parking, no events planned. They would hope to increase the availability of disabled parking spaces close to the building, encouraging general parking at the new site.

Would there be EV charging on the new car park? – No, there are already two EV charging points in the rear car park.

Is B&P confident that 62 spaces is sufficient to meet the need? – Yes. That was the purpose of the detailed traffic surveys carried out.

After discussion, APC resolved to support the application with the following comments:

Atcham Parish Council supports the application. The majority of parish councillors fully support the proposal, primarily as it is much needed to relieve the parking problems within the village and there is no alternative plan available. Residents have been battling inconsiderate and dangerous parking within the narrow lanes of Atcham for years and have repeatedly approached the Parish Council seeking solutions. The parish council feels that this proposal, amended to reduce visible impact and blend into the environment, is a well-considered approach and an improvement on the previous proposal.

Some reservations have been expressed by residents, with some concerns raised about the visual impact and worries about possible anti-social behaviour on a site that has already seen ASB incidents in recent years. But overall the parish council feels that this

is a sympathetically designed proposal to help alleviate ongoing problems that affect both residents and visitors to the village and that have a significant impact on the built and natural environment in and around Atcham.

(Prop: MR, Sec: SC. 4 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.)

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

26/065 SHROPSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Councillors agreed responses to the current survey.

26/066 FINANCE

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

Amount	Details	Power to spend
461.22	Clerk's salary, PAYE, NI	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
300.00	Parish Council insurance 2026-27	Employers' Liability Act 1969. LGA 1972 s111
45.00	Training (CR)	LGA 1972 s111
3900.36	Village gates	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1986 s 72
7.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

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

Amount	Details	Power to spend
TBC	Clerk's salary, PAYE, NI, expenses	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
170.08	Streetlight electricity 2026-27	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301
47.00	Data Protection fee (ICO)	Data Protection Act 2018
141.12	Microsoft annual fee	LGA 1972 s142
130.00	3-part Planning Training (CR)	LGA 1972 s111
7.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

Council also noted receipt of the Environmental Maintenance Grant of £750.00

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

26/024 CORRESPONDENCE - Nothing of note.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____