

Minutes of the Annual Community Meeting for Atcham held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: APC Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chair), Stephen Cook, Keith Daley, Gareth Jones, Martin Ruston. SC Cllr Susan Coleman. 2 representatives of Brunning & Price. 2 members of the public. Minutes taken by the Parish Clerk, Alison Utting.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all present.
2. **Minutes** of the last ACM, held on 8th May 2024, had already been approved (10/07/2024).
3. **Parish Council:** Cllr Dixon gave the report for 2024-25 (separate document).
4. **Shropshire Council:** Newly elected SC Cllr Susan Coleman greeted those present and thanked everyone who voted for her. She declared her intention to serve the community to the best of her ability and received updates on various current matters. She looks forward to attending Atcham Parish Council meetings.
5. **Other reports:** Cllr Martin Ruston shared an update on the Memorial Hall and answered questions. He reported that bookings are coming in steadily, with regular use for NHS meetings and training boosting daytime bookings. Help has also come via some marketing training delivered recently (LT). The committee is compiling a list of some major renovation and maintenance work that will need doing soon.
6. **Parking issues** An update from Tom Fletcher (Brunning & Price) was read out. Main points:
 - Car park application – Now in a position where none of the consultees are objecting. Waiting for response from case officer. Decision likely to go to SC Planning Committee. Following recent elections, committee dates may have to be rescheduled.
 - Car parking attendants – Usually run with 2 attendants, but for the last few weeks they had none (one resigned, one on sickness absence). Recruitment process underway.
 - "For the avoidance of doubt, we do not encourage anyone to park on Malthouse Lane; but Atcham residents need to understand that customers are legally allowed to. I know this causes huge frustrations locally, but the attendants have zero authority to change that outcome if customers choose to

park there. They are not the Police or Traffic Wardens – we just try and manage flow and find spaces if there are any within our car parks.”

It was asked whether there is provision for staff parking, as some seem to be using main car park? Yes, they are paying for use of land at the farm but there may be valid reasons for some employees on some shifts not to be using that area.

It was asked whether any extra parking provision was planned for the pub’s birthday celebration weekend? Yes, the Paradise field will be open for parking.

When will TRO (double yellow lines etc.) be installed? We believe this will be done with other highway works on 10th July.

7. **Speeding on Emstrey Bank** We are hoping that the double white lines and permanent ‘no overtaking’ signage will be put in place soon – Cllr Coleman to follow up. In the meantime, the temporary signs are getting overgrown. Clerk/RT to try to sort this.

8. **Any other matters** of community concern:

- Speeding in village – Parish Council is awaiting the implementation of an ATC survey (strips across road) to monitor traffic volume and speed. This has been requested from Shropshire Council Highways. The data – if it confirms that speeding is a problem – will then allow us to request more frequent speed monitoring by West Mercia Police mobile units and also allow us to proceed with purchasing new Vehicle-Activated Signs (VAS).
- Rural crime (esp. theft) – A concern was raised that the rates are soaring locally. Police are trying to do more patrols. WMP to continue to be invited to parish council meetings. Parish Council to possibly consider renewed Smart Water scheme.
- Recent cancellation of scheduled roadworks – This was done at extremely short notice, which caused significant inconvenience to residents who had planned around it. No formal notification of the cancellation was sent to residents.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed:

Date: