

Munslow Parish Council



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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Munslow Parish Council on 5th November 2025

Members Present: Cllrs Barbara Archer, Nigel Dobson, Val Fotheringham, Chris Meeson, Ed Povey, Stuart Rowbotham and Graham Williams. **In Attendance:** Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council).

1. **Elect a Chairperson:** Cllr Williams Proposed and Cllr Archer seconded.

RESOLVED: to elect Cllr Dobson

The Chair announced the sudden death last week of Cllr David Marston who had been a councillor for many decades – the councillors will miss him and send condolences to his family. Cllrs Williams and Meeson will attend the funeral on behalf of Munslow Parish Council. Cllrs and members of the public held a moment of reflection for Cllr Marston and Mr Stephen Williams a previous councillor who also died recently.

2. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Arnold, H Coonick (Clerk).
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Fotheringham item 7 and non-pecuniary item 9.
4. **Public Forum:** Seven members of the public were in attendance.

Member of the Public (MP)1 expressed concern about the Beambridge temporary traffic lights frequently breaking down and the dangers to residents.

MP2 also frustrated that despite the accident occurring on the 23rd July no action has been taken to repair the building. Could Shropshire Council issue a Dangerous Structure Notice? They were keen for MPC to press Shropshire Council to act.

MP3 reported that ground source heat pumps are being installed at Aston Hall and an upgraded electricity supply is required. National Grid is managing the routing of the cable. They are also proposing, under Discharge of Conditions, to replace four large floodlights with low-level sensor controlled lights to shine a gentle beam to the floor and reduce light spill. Further details will be made available to the Parish Council for distribution to interested parishioners.

MP4 and 5 were concerned about the routing and duration of the works of the cable to Aston Hall. Residents would like clarity over the scope and duration of the work and traffic management during that time. They were also concerned about The Fold at Aston Hall being converted for battery storage and had reported the issue to the Planning Enforcement Officer. They were concerned that some screening is not in line with the planning permission and the new lighting plans would create excessive light pollution.

MP6 was concerned that the electricity cable will run across an unadopted lane. They were concerned that work at Aston Hall had caused a spring to emerge potentially making it undrivable due to flooding. They were also concerned that where their view had once been of fields it was now of solar panels.

MP7 expressed concerns about the exit from Aston Munslow onto the B4365 during the laying of the cable and major disruptions to the village. The residents were fed-up with the noise of building works at Aston Hall. The route of the cable lies across a field that has surface water drainage and filter beds.

MP3 responded to the concerns about the works at Aston Hall – a. lighting – there will be a substantial reduction in the amount of lighting b. National Grid think that the work will take five days and no roads will be closed except for two to three hours when digging the road. c. if there is unlawful development then the owners' professional advisers would be liable. The owner would not intentionally go against approved plans.

The council will decide whether it is necessary to call an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the Discharge of Conditions for Aston Hall.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October, 2025.

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes and they were signed by the chair.

6. Reports

6.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford reported that the new Chief Executive, Tanya Miles had made reassurances that there would be no redundancies. They are considering three areas of overspend – adults social care, children's social care and taxi costs. They are discussing borrowing £30-60 million from Central Government to tide the council over until March. There have been some potholes repairs in the area. He had received a lot of correspondence about the traffic lights at Beambridge and is reassured to hear that building repairs are due to start soon. A number of Parish Councils have signed the Memorandum of Understanding in the hope that it will improve lines of communication with Shropshire Council. Parking fees are increasing in Bridgnorth, Church Stretton and Ludlow. He apologised for not responding to MP2's correspondence regarding the Beambridge traffic lights.

6.2. Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson reported that the redecoration work has started and they are hoping to get some funds to continue the improvements – volunteers to help with the work are welcome. Coffee mornings start on the 6th November and run every two weeks until at least Christmas.

7. Planning:

7.1. **25/03938/TCA** Tudor Cottage, Aston Munslow, SY7 9ER

RESOLVED: to support the application.

7.2. **25/04021/TCA** Millichope Cottage, Park Lane, Munslow, Craven Arms,

RESOLVED: to support the application.

7.3. **25/03932/FUL** 6 Park Lane, Munslow, SY7 9EU.

RESOLVED: to support the application.

8. Update on Action Re Beambridge/B4368 Junction: Cllr Dobson has been in touch with Shropshire Highways, Millichope and Cllr Stanford regarding this. Work is due to start on repairs on the 11th November. It has been delayed as the building has listed status and they have struggled to find contractors able to start work. Anyone who has problems at the road junction should contact the Police as they are aware of the situation. The recent contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner had advised the council to contact the Traffic Engineer at Shropshire Council. Cllr Stanford will try to arrange a site visit with the Portfolio Holder for Highways, PC Stuart Coote and Cllr Dobson to discuss speeding on the B4368 and at the Beambridge junction in particular.

9. Update on Electricity Supply to Solar Panels at Aston Hall: there are easements in place for drains from neighbouring properties that come onto Aston Hall land and the contractors hold a map of the drains. If the cable runs across that area of land, they should not disrupt the drainage systems. Once Nation Grid confirms a route then the owner of Aston Hall will share the plans with the Clerk to distribute to Councillors and parishioners. It is anticipated that the work will not begin until at least February 2026. Cllr Fotheringham suggested that communication is key and residents require clarity over plans, timings and durations.

10. Consider the Policing Priorities for the Forthcoming Six Months: there were concerns that the crime rate appears to be increasing.

RESOLVED: to set the priorities as a. Antisocial driving b. Speeding c. Thefts (farms)

11. Agree New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor:

RESOLVED: to request work on culverts and drains near Rowe Farm, verge cutting and drain/culvert clearing, Rowe Lane West and clear/clean the Bus Shelter at Aston Munslow. To report blocked drains on the length of the B4365 from Hungerford to Aston Munslow on Fix My Street.

12. Agree Attendance at the War Memorial in Munslow for Remembrance Day: Both Councillors Archer and Dobson plan to attend the service on the 11th November and will lay a wreath on behalf of the council.

13. Management of Assets

- 13.1. Decide on Repairs/Replacement of Notice Boards in Aston Munslow and Broadstone: quotes for repairs replacements were in the region of £5,000. This was not acceptable. **RESOLVED:** to remove the current Aston Munslow notice board and to install a new one inside the bus shelter. The decision on the other boards deferred to the next meeting.
- 13.2. Update on the Tree Works in the Munslow Burial Ground and Consider Management of the Ash Tree: planning had been granted and the contractor had been informed but work has not yet started.

14. Finance

- 14.1. Note May 2025 Election Recharge Fee Payable in January 2026 - £125: noted
- 14.2. Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2026-27:
RESOLVED: to appoint Mrs Rebecca Turner.
- 14.3. Review the Draft Budget: there were no further additions to the budget. To be adopted at the next meeting.
- 14.4. Authorise Payments
- 14.4.1. Reimburse H Coonick (Clerk) Stationery £10.94 and Shropshire Council Green Bin Permit for Burial Ground £56 – Total: £66.94
 - 14.4.2. D Lewis, Environmental Maintenance £190.00
 - 14.4.3. Salt spreaders £150 plus VAT
 - 14.4.4. Cllrs Povey and Archer £79 each Reimbursement for Identity Forms for Registration of Village Hall Lease.
RESOLVED: to make payments 14.4.1, 2 and 4. Item 14.4.3 – Salt Spreaders - was not authorised

- 15. Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at Munslow Village Hall**
- a. Repairs/replacement of notice board at Broadstone. b. Adopt the budget and set the precept. c. Elect a chairperson

Signed:

Date: