

SUTTON UPON TERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sutton upon Tern Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 28th January 2026, at the Festival Drayton Centre.

Present: Cllr Michael Dams, Cllr Terry Hodge, Cllr James Danks, Cllr Lauren Carey, Cllr John Lugg, Cllr Deborah Sambrook, Cllr Rachel Kilgallon and Cllr Iana Jacobson (after minute 05/26).

Clerk: Graham Bould.

Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley

Flying Officer Sam Pickett - RAF Shawbury

Steve Fulcher - Market Drayton Golf Club.

Two Parishioners.

01/26. Welcome, Public and Partner Session.

The Chairman welcomed Members, Partners and Parishioners to the meetings. Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley updated members with additional information from his recent local councillors reports for the Cheswardine Division previously circulated which included information on Shropshire Council finances and the A41. In terms of Sutton Lane and the additional bin at the Golf Club this remains work in progress, plus the problem of motorbike noise stemming from land around Sutton Lane. Steve Fulcher from Market Drayton Golf Club updated members on the event that is in the planning stages to mark a 100 years of the Golf Club. The club is also interested in exploring forms of 'self help' that address the approaches to the site in Sutton Lane and would very much want to explore ideas with others as to what could be possible. Flying Officer Sam Pickett from RAF Shawbury updated the Parish Council on the 10k airfield run on the 28th March 2026, drones, night flying and community projects. The Chairman indicated that he would email some potential dates for activity around litter picking and clearance of rights of ways across the parish for consideration. Cllr Kilgallon also enquired about localities that if information signs could be erected highlighting the low flying area and any issues related to drones.

The Parishioners present raised no particular concerns so the Chairman thanked all the Partners for their updates and comments and moved onto the next item of business.

02/26. Apologies: Cllr John Tomkinson (work commitments), West Mercia Police - PC Iain McIntosh (shift patterns), Market Drayton Town Council - Cllr Tim Manton (previous engagement).

03/26. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests and Dispensations: None.

04/26. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 26th November 2025: Cllr Hodge proposed and Cllr Danks, seconded the minutes of the 26th November 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Members agreed the minutes unanimously and the Chair signed the minutes in the presents of Councillors.

05/26. Co-options: Iana Jacobson presented herself for consideration for co-option onto the Parish Council having already circulated an extensive introduction email of the community and family activity already undertaken. Those members present unanimously agreed to the co-option.

06/26. Clerks Report.

The Clerk updated members on the contents of their report. The Chairman updated members on the recent Shropshire Together devolved services meeting with other parishes. The offer from Shropshire Council still has a number of concerns and members are not convinced by the viability of the offer as it stands. Another meeting has been organised for next month at which these concerns can again be aired. In terms of updating the draft joint statement with Stoke upon Tern Parish Council tabled at the last meeting relating to the Clive Barracks Strategic Development site at Tern Hill for the new local plan submission. The updating of the draft statement is approximately three quarters completed and the time lines have been extended in terms of the legislation surrounding the local plan by several months. The input into the narrative from both SALC, the Community Land

Trust and Keele University are key to enhancing the statement so the site stands out in terms of a future sustainable settlement. Once the drafting work has been completed the draft document will be uploaded onto the new shared members site on the web site for any additional comment and input. Members attention was also drawn to the Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Covenant as a potential way of building co-operation between neighbouring parishes around project development. The Community Land Trust has also suggested that a Community Benefit Society for the wider area would be considered. Although a reasonable suggestion it would require some dedicated engagement time which is not available at present. The joint Parish Council group looking at the position of a replacement Clerk is set to meet again on the 11/02/26, details of work so far have been placed on the shared members site.

07/26. Nature Recovery Booklet.

Cllr Dams talked members through the Nature Recovery booklet that had been circulated after the last meeting and highlighted some of the useful information within the document in terms of potential parish projects. Cllr Carey and Cllr Danks agreed to follow up contacts they have with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts locally to see if there are elements that could be developed. Cllr Kilgallon also agreed to follow up the Grove School in Market Drayton,

08/26. Web site/social media updates - including updates on costs from Hugofox on additional IT support.

Cllr Carey updated members on the progress made with Hugofox which includes all the Parish Council having access to a gov.uk email address and the shared members site on the web site.

09/25. Planning Applications.

15/04609/FUL: The Water Tower, Pell Wall, construction of a detached garage/home office/store. **No Objections**

10/26. Community Speed Watch – A529.

The project now has six people willing to undertake the training with West Mercia Police. Their names will be forwarded to the Police to start the project and training programme.

11/2. Outside bodies and any courses attended – reports: Nothing to report.

12/26. Finance and Audit Matters including the precept for 2026/27.

1. Precept 26/27: After some detailed discussions about the 26/27 precept members agreed the figures supplied by Shropshire Council at £9,795.00 which would result in a zero percentage increase on the precept for the Parish Council. Members unanimously agreed this resolution.

2. The payments set out below were agreed and cheques signed for the following Parish Council commitments. The bank statement stands at £8,065.94 prior to the commitments set out below. Members agreed that a direct debit be pursued with Festival Drayton for room hire payments.

Number	Name	Amount	Acts
100534	Festival Drayton (room hire)	£22,50	LGA 1972
100535	Shropshire Council (election fee)	£21.00	LGA 1972
DD	HSBC (October charges)	£1.00	LGA 1972
DD	HugoFox (November charges)	£11.99	LGA 1972
DD	HSBC (November charges)	£1.00	LGA 1972

13/26. Highways & Footpaths.

1. Rights of Way (ROW) Working Group update: Nothing to report, potential to involve RAF trainees
2. Bottle/rubbish clean up A529: Cllrs Dams and Tomkinson to follow through with actions before year end, potential to involve RAF trainees
3. Fly-tipping campaign: Cllrs Dams and Tomkinson to follow through with actions before year end.

14/26. Items for inclusion on future agendas: To develop joint meetings with Stoke upon Tern Parish Council.

The meeting then closed at 20.26pm

Signed:

Chairman.
Date: 25th March 2026