

Stoke upon Tern Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Phil Butters

CLERK: Mr. G Bould

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr P Butters, Cllr S Planton, Cllr S Bartram, Cllr D Moore, Cllr M Gilbert, Cllr S Burrell, Cllr K Newby and Cllr J Scott.

Clerk: Mr G Bould.

In Attendance: Flight Lieutenant Lee Morrison – RAF Shawbury, Shropshire Councillor Donna Edmunds – Shropshire Council.

2 Parishioners

51.26. Welcome, Public Session and Partner updates (extended time).

The Chairman welcomed all Members, Partners and Parishioners to the meeting with this extended part of the agenda and in doing so invited their comments.

The Parishioners present indicated that they were in attendance to listen to any updates the Parish Council may have in terms of the Dutton Close properties that have been under intense discussion over several weeks.

Flight Lieutenant Lee Morrison from RAF Shawbury highlighted the only new piece of information from the Station relating to night flying from the 13th August 2026. The other details remain the same and can be found on the Station's Facebook, Twitter and the website. Hi-vis kits can be ordered for horse riders, and any community project ideas can be forwarded in the normal way to be assessed. The use of drones and model aircraft is strictly controlled in military airspace; details can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority's website.

Shropshire Councillor Donna Edmunds then reported on Shropshire Council's financial circumstances indicating that the Council's reserves stand at around five million pounds. The Councillor indicated that they have been struggling to receive information from Shropshire Council about the recent situation regarding Dutton Close and Asylum Seekers. The member is still pressing for answers and the Parish Council agreed to send the recent email marked 'confidential' from Shropshire Council to the member's gov.uk email address for information.

The Chairman then thanked the Partners for their contributions and moved on to the next item of business.

52.26. To receive apologies for absence and any necessary approvals.

Cllr L Bearman and Cllr P Waters (leave of absence) Sgt. Liam Heathcote, West Mercia Police, North Shropshire (shift patterns).

53.26. Declarations of Interest: None.

54.26. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th May 2026.

Cllr Bartram proposed and Cllr Planton seconded the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2026 which were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman in the presence of members.

55.26. Report and update from the Emergency meeting held on the 29th June 2026.

Cllr Gilbert proposed and Cllr Planton seconded the minutes of the Emergency on line meeting held on the 29th June 2026 which were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman in the presence of members.

56.26. To receive any updates on Dutton Close – including a Parish Council FOI request.

Members of the Parish Council shared a number of pieces of information relating to the situation over the last four weeks about Dutton Close and the location by the Home Office's agents SERCO of Asylum Seekers within the newly built properties at the Close. Members placed on record their thanks to all those who have helped to have the decision reversed and particularly the efforts of the local MP The Right Honourable Mark Pritchard. This also includes the challenge to the rumours of this week in the House of Commons that Clive Barracks, Tern Hill are to be used for Asylum Seekers. The reversal of the decision for Dutton Close and the reassurance about Clive Barracks that it is not being considered has brought about a level of relief for local Parishioners. However, the questions relating to the process of engagement still remain largely unanswered; mainly, who knew what, when. These questions are/have been lodged with Shropshire Council for some answers. Members are very aware though that a core question still remains to be addressed as a matter of urgency, that of what happens to the twenty-five properties at Dutton Close next. The Chairman then suspended standing orders several times to allow for both questions and points from the two Parishioners from Dutton Close and then reconvened the meeting. Members agreed that it is vital to continue dialogue with a shared agenda with the local MP and Shropshire Council to help resolve these next steps. A third letter has also been dispatched to the owner/developer of the site to try and open a line of communication. The Parish Council for their part agreed a budget of up to £1,000 to undertake a parish wide housing survey both delivered to each household and on line to establish the unmet need for accommodation within the area. Two outstanding Parish Council items remain. The first is the ongoing support for the Parliamentary Petition launch, focusing on the Home Office providing a local duty of care for residents when sites are identified. The second is a Freedom of Information request about what information is held by Shropshire Council about the Home Office decision to use Dutton Close; additional support has been provided through SALC to address this issue. Members agreed that there is an overriding public interest in the disclosure of this information. A series of online briefings are set to continue between members of the Parish Council and senior management at Shropshire Council.

57.26. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on their report. A number of actions remain outstanding with members to resolve and will be carried forward. Members agreed to pay an additional 20 hours to cover the Clerk's time over the last four weeks necessitated by the actions at Dutton Close. The short-term problem with clearance at the old tip has been resolved today. The project now moves into the next phase and Cllr Newby agreed to help with an assessment of the quantity of sub soil required to cover the site to seed and create the wild flower meadow. Members agreed the shared costs for any advertising by Shropshire Council for the Langley Dale Play Park, but had a series of detailed questions still to be resolved prior to the signing of any heads of agreements. It was also agreed that an article would be produced for the newsletter looking to recruit a 'Friends' group for the site. The new Traffic Engineering Manager for the area, Mr Jonathan Eastwood, has agreed to attend the next Parish Council meeting to receive questions. Members agreed until further notice for Cllr David Moore to only receive calling notices posted to his home address as access to the internet and email system is not possible at present.

58.26. Updates- Local Plan/Place Plan, Tern Hill including a Community Benefit Society.

The joint statement has been submitted to Shropshire Council to influence the next stage of 'scoping' within the time frame set for responses for the local plan. In the document within the statement at section nine, which the Community Land Trust helped shape, is highlighted how a Community Benefit Society could develop with stake holders. The document is housed on the web site for members to view. A request has also been made to Shropshire Council to 're-start' the Task Force group for the site and to include all of the partner stakeholders the Parish Council has been working with so far on the joint statement.

59.26. Shropshire Together – devolved services update.

Members have already received the notes from the joint meeting held with other local councils in the wider Market Drayton area. The next scheduled meeting is set for Tuesday 6th October 2026 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The main topic for the meeting is the progress Market Drayton Town Council has made with reference to a devolved service package from Shropshire Council. The main action from the meeting is for local councils to progress the online Expression of Interest (EOI) form from Shropshire Council. Subject to members seeing the set of questions the recommendation is to complete the online form.

60.26. VAS data update – Eaton upon Tern & Wistanswick: Members received an update on both Eaton upon Tern and Wistanswick VAS data. The Eaton upon Tern data remains static in terms of speeds. The Wistanswick data has higher 'arriving' speeds at the new location evidenced from the first month's data. This situation will be monitored over the coming months when data comes available, briefing the Police and Highways at Shropshire Council for help if the situation does not improve.

61.26. Cemetery – update and improvement works: Members were updated on the projects going forward at the cemetery. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed off with the Probation Services Community Payback Team to undertake improvements under/around the hedge lines, including the cutting of the meadow side of the site and scarifying circular areas ready for wild flower seeding in the Autumn. The remainder of the headstones have been agreed, paid for and will be erected over the next few months.

62.26. Newsletter & Notice Boards – including options for Ollerton's notice board.

Members agreed a 'notice board protocol' that all old notices should be removed when new information is posted. Members further agreed that after discussions and agreement with the Eaton upon Tern Community Champions that the smaller recently refurbished notice board be moved from Eaton upon Tern and located at Ollerton as that notice board there is beyond repair. That a larger five by three wooden notice board which is available be refurbished and located at Eaton upon Tern.

63.26. Planning Committee report – 17th June 2026: Members accepted and agreed the planning committee minutes of the 17th June 2026.

64.26. Highway matters – working with Keele graduates on researching highway infrastructure.

Members agreed with the Chairman that this item be carried forward in order to receive an update from Keele University on the potential workings and costs of any graduate input to the condition of the highway infrastructure across the parish.

65.26. Reports from outside bodies – Parish Hall: Cllr Planton reported that there have been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

66.26. Market Drayton & Rural Parishes Community Covenant updates.

Cllr Planton reported that the last few meeting of the Community Covenant had focused upon the submission for the local plan and the strategic significance of Tern Hill. A fulsome submission has therefore been made in support of the site with the Community Covenant requesting statutory consultation rights in the future. The meeting then discussed how best to advise the Community Covenant of how to engage with the other Parish Councils within the catchment area. After some discussion it was suggested that those members already involved from local councils sign a collective letter/email addressed to all the Chairmen of those Parish Councils not involved. It would be beneficial if members of the Community Covenant can attend one of their meetings this year to talk about the sub regional significance of the group as it grows in status in terms of the potential for decentralised services.

67.26. Financial Matters.

1. The Parish Council agreed the following items of expenditure set out below to be paid through the internet banking facility with HSBC; the invoices signed by two qualifying signatories, dated and two additional non-signatories to sign off on the papers for the reconciliation with the bank statement.

Zurich Municipal (insurance)	£32.57	LGA 1972
SALC fees:	£860.00	LGA 1972
Shropshire Council (energy costs)	£532.42	LGA 1972
Allsorts Design & Print Ltd (newsletter)	£229.40	LGA 1972
Heartwood of Bridgnorth (final payment for bespoke bench/sign)	£1,023.16	LGA 1972
Cost cutters (2 picnic benches)	£1,407.86	LGA 1972
Highline Electrical (structural survey)	£384.00	LGA 1972
Treeman Tree Specialist (tree/hedge reductions cemetery site).	£984.00	LGA 1972
Highline Electrical: (VAS sign relocation at Wistanswick and three street lighting repairs from the structural survey)	£1,253.93	LGA 1972
Clerk (reimbursement of skip hire £274.20, expenses £137.42)	£411.62	LGA 1972
Wistanswick Institute (grant for paint & materials)	£250.00	LGA 1972
DM Payroll Services Ltd (payroll)	£62.40	LGA 1972
David Probert (position picnic benches/remove replace gate post)	£565.77	LGA 1972
ICO (fee)	£47.00	LGA 1972
Hugo fox (May emails)	£29.99	LGA 1972
Hugo fox (June subscription)	£23.99	LGA 1972
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Hugo fox (June subscription)	£23.99	LGA 1972

50.26. To agree any items for a future agenda: ROW/footpath – Warrant Road; an issue of planning conditions; members agreed to refer to the Chair of the Planning committee to investigate and action.

Joint meeting 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th August 2026 with Sutton upon Tern PC all at the Parish Hall to 'closer joint working'. Parish Council meeting 16th September 2026

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman:

Date: 16th September 2026.

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