Culmington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 6th October 2026

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mr Ian Alderson (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr John Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mr Adrian Lewis, Mrs J Mear and Mrs J Williams. **In Attendance:** Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

26/103 **Receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Ms J Watts

26/104 **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None

26/105 **Public Involvement Session:** A member of the public (MP1) reported that the Keep Shropshire Beautiful Campaign which opposes the Solar Farm at Norton have been distributing fliers, posters and banners. They have 2,000 signatures opposing the development. They had asked ILOS (the developer) for a public consultation which they refused, however a lot of people attended the exhibition at the same time and asked questions which ILOS answered but in the view of the member of the public not comprehensively. They could not confirm the route for the construction traffic. Onibury Parish Council have written to Shropshire Council to object to the development and asked why an Environmental Assessment was not required in February this year. Another member of the public (MP2) reported that she had written to the council in 2024 about speeding and was concern that there had been no changes since then. She was particularly concerned about the western entrance to the village. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a member of the public raising concerns again about the speed of traffic along the B4365 particularly as children need to walk along the road to their school bus stop. The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council are planning to install speed check strips on the road and dependent upon the results make changes in the financial year 2027-28.

26/106 **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st September 2026

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair.

26/107 **Reports from Members**

a. Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford reported considerable online interest in his reports on the proposed Solar Farm. He has visited the site with Stuart Anderson MP, Cllr Josh Dickin and the farmer Mr Robert Alderson. He is concerned that the planned National Scheme of Delegation will make it easier to prevent developments like this being called into committee by councillors. The Shropshire Hills National Landscape comment is neutral; however, he has reminded them that it will affect the view from the National Landscape. He has also asked Flounders Folly for their view. Regarding Shropshire Council, finances remain difficult, they have only spent £90 of the £120 million loan. The Shire Hall will be sold. CIPFA reports that the council is in dire financial straits but are taking the right actions. He has noted that Highways are doing a lot of work locally. There has been a lot of feed back on the rally which will be discussed by Shropshire Council.

b. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that the works to replace the drainage system has been completed and Mr Lines and the committee are pleased with the work. The committee hope to start the extension in the Spring. Bookings to hire the hall have increased and yoga will be restarting. They now have a skittle alley so league games can now be played in the hall and the first night will be the Fish and Chip night on the 20th November.

c. Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that there had not been a recent meeting of the FAG. However, the Shropshire Flood Forum meeting had been well attended, and they are trying to get a stronger voice to influence at higher

levels. They recently met with a PhD student from Liverpool University researching flood groups. There is a FAG meeting in November.

26/108 Planning

a. 26/03169/FUL Erection of a detached open front car port. Russet Lodge Manor Orchard Culmington SY8 2DN
RESOLVED: to support

b. 26/02940/FUL 21 Burley, Craven Arms, SY7 9LW Erection of single storey side extension
RESOLVED: to support

c. 26/03349/LBC - Replacement of 17 windows with timber framed double glazing, infilling of rear porch, replacement of flagstones and conversion of rear lean-to to plant room (retrospective). Culmington House, Culmington, SY8 2DB.
RESOLVED: to support

d. 26/03595/AG1 Prior Approval for the erection of two new agricultural buildings for hay and machinery storage. Brooklyn Farm, Culmington, SY8 2DA – Noted.

e. Consider the Recent Public Exhibition for the Proposed Solar Farm at Norton and Decide on Comments to the Developer: the council has not received a response from Shropshire Council planning team about why an Environmental Assessment was not required. Cllr Stanford will follow this up. The Clerk reported there has been another email from a local business objecting to the development. The exhibition was discussed.

26/109 Update on Expression of Interest to Provide Streetscene Services – Verges – an expression of interest was registered but nothing further has been received from Shropshire Council. Councillors have noted an email from SALC with information about the legality of Shropshire Council handing over these services.

26/110 Consider the Grievance Policy
RESOLVED: to adopt the policy.

26/111 Finance:

a. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: expenditure and income is in line with budgets. As of the 26th August 2026 the bank account held £10,898.25.
RESOLVED: to accept the report and Cllr Disley signed the bank reconciliation.

b. Consider Donations: to make an increase in the budget for donations to £300 which is acceptable as there is likely to be an underspend of over just over £300 for the year and there is £3,518.82 in reserve.
RESOLVED: to donate £250 to Ripples to assist with the purchase of a new printer.

c. Consider Items to be Included in the Budget for 2027-2028 – to consider further donations to Ripples in the budget.

d. Authorise Payments: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 1087 £140 H Coonick (Clerk reimbursement) inks £11.98
RESOLVED: to make the above payments including £250 to Ripples.

26/112 Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on 3rd November 2026 a. privacy concerns regarding AI glasses

Signed: (Chair) Date: