

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RUSHBURY PARISH MEETING HELD ON
20th APRIL 2025 AT 7:00PM AT RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL**

1. WELCOME

Cllr A Richards, Chairman of the Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2026.

2. PRESENTATION BY RUSHBURY SCHOOL

A group of students (Clara, Jacob, Ellis, Anna, Evvie, Clara, Sophia and Floss) accompanied by their Teacher, Kate Reeves, provided an excellent summary of their school year. It included details of their trips, clubs and activities throughout the year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr A Dixon.

4. PRESENT

Cllr A Richards (Chair), Clerk N Green, Cllr's M Lowndes, A Dixon, E Riley, F Turner, J Hartley, N Pugh.

5. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING 28th APRIL 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr Riley that the minutes of the annual parish meeting be adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr A Richards, Parish Council Chairman, provided a report on the key events from the previous year.

Cllr Richards noted that the Speed Indication devices continued to receive positive feedback and raise the awareness of speed. He stated that the Council monitor their effectiveness and will explore further opportunities.

Cllr Richards stated that the three defibrillators are maintained and checked regularly.

Cllr Richards explained that the Council has reviewed and commented on numerous planning applications. He went on to state that the Council liaises with Shropshire Council concerning the condition of the highways.

Cllr Richards stated that the Council maintains some public spaces including the bus shelters which are currently being refreshed.

Cllr Richards noted that there is some interest in biodiversity projects and the Council would be keen to support any initiatives if able to do so. He went on to state that some effort has been made to engage with Parishioners primarily via the Honeypot.

Cllr Richards stated that the Council is actively considering how to spend CIL funds and are keen to identify projects that will benefit the Community.

7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Shropshire Councillor Stanford was unable to attend, the Clerk read out a report on his behalf.

Please see appended report.

8. WAINWRIGHT TRUST REPORT

Mr M Pye presented a report on behalf of the trustees.

Please see appended report.

9. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mrs Christine Beaver presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall.

Mrs Beaver explained that a third heat pump had been installed along with a heater in the meeting room and kitchen (for hot water). Three ceiling fans had also been installed for better circulation. She noted that there was positive feedback concerning the benefits.

Mrs Beaver stated that the solar panels and more efficient heating had reduced the annual costs (£1533 in 2025 and £4675 in 2023). She thanked Chris Anstey for his assistance with the project.

Mrs Beaver noted that bookings had remained about the same but they were trying to encourage more. She went on to explain that they were replacing the curtains in the meeting room with blinds and considering the possibility of doing so in the main hall.

Mrs Beaver stated that the Pop up Pub continues to run successfully and provided a good source of income.

Mrs Beaver stated that there is an ongoing project to develop biodiversity which is being led by one of their Committee members.

Mrs Beaver concluded by thanking all of the volunteers who give their time to manage the Village Hall.

10. CLERK'S REPORT

Financial Report

Mr N Green advised the following for the financial year 2025-2026.

Opening Balance at 1 April 2024	£11,615.43
Receipts	£10,953.97
Payments	£ 9527.10
Closing Balance at 31 March 2025	£13,042.30

General Reserves £8,802.22 and Allocated £4,240.08

11. PLANS FOR 2026/27

The Parish Council will attempt to encourage more input from Parishioners. In particular the Cllr's would like to support any suggestions that come forward from the Community. They noted that there were funds in the bank that could support this. It was suggested the Honeypot and Pop up Pub could be utilised to encourage this.

12. PARISHIONERS' BUSINESS / QUESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

No Parishioners were present.

Cllr A Richards thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm.

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Chairman
Date

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL NEWS from Councillor Colin Stanford. April 2026

Our National flag, the Union Jack or Union Flag is causing controversy in our County. For patriots it represents all that is good about our Country, for others it is seen as a political weapon for extreme views. Shropshire Council has decided, or at least the Council leaders have decided, to uphold the law and remove flags that have been placed illegally on public property. I might venture to suggest that when resources for The Council and The Police are so stretched we might focus on more pressing matters such as provision of good quality social care in our rural areas and fixing our roads which are not only dangerous but an embarrassment. Some might argue that this censorship and suppressing freedom of expression. Afterall what we have called graffiti in the past, placed illegally but somehow tolerated, has bizarrely become collectable art!

Shropshire Council has officially recognised that along with over 50 other English counties it cannot meet the requirement for provision of Food Waste Collection which was required by statute from April this year. Unfortunately, the costs are too high at 3.6 million pounds and more time is needed to set up the necessary infrastructure.

Thanks to generosity of the British Heart Foundation, a new defibrillator has been installed in Corfton (to the left of the garage doors at Lower House, Lower Corfton. This cabinet is not locked so it can be accessed without a code or the need to make a phone call.

The Corvedale won two prestigious West Midlands tourism awards recently out of only 11 awards. They were Westhope Country Retreats and Acton Scott camping and Glamping site. Well deserved and great to see our area being recognised.

On Council finances, as a condition of the Exceptional Financial Support that the Council has received it has to undergo a " Finance and Governance Review" which is undertaken by an independent body

– CIPFA or Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting and will be starting soon. The Council is also working on a new Corporate Plan.

The devolution agenda, now renamed Street Scene by the Council has been started this month and 4 councils have adopted all or part of the new responsibilities on offer.

Shrewsbury and Broseley have gone for full adoption ie street cleaning, grounds maintenance, verge cutting, foot paths, public waste bins and upkeep of public spaces. Shropshire Council will retain overall governance to meet statutory duties. However, decision making and basic funding is devolved to town and parish councils taking on these added responsibilities.

Shifnal has taken “ minimal “ additional responsibility essentially maintaining lines of communication to enable partnership working and align priorities!

Oswestry has taken partial devolution which is green spaces, parks, footpaths and some environmental services

Report from the Wainwright Trust to Rushbury Parish Council

Monday 20 April 2026

The Wainwright Trust* exists to help with the external maintenance and upkeep of Rushbury School’s original buildings and outdoor areas. It also provides funds for services not normally provided by the local authority. In addition, the trust has a role in ensuring that the school maintains constructive links with the Church and upholds a Christian ethos and values. The trust can provide support for parishioners (Eaton and Rushbury) in need. An annual notice about this is placed in an edition of *The Honeypot* parish magazine.

The trust owns the original school buildings, part of the school grounds and a roadside parcel of land between the church and the school. The trust leases the premises to Shropshire Council. Most of the trust’s income comes from this lease.

There are six trustees. Current trustees are William Hotchkiss, Andrew Henderson, Anna Child, Liz Welsh, Rev’d Lisa Harper and Martin Pye. The current chair of the trust is Martin Pye.

In August 2025, the trust adopted the decommission BT telephone box situated on Wainwright Trust land outside the church and school. Over the autumn and winter periods, trustees consulted with the community about possible new uses for the box, which is listed. In May, trustees will consider the suggestions and initiate relevant works to the box so it can be repurposed while retaining its original look.

In the 2025/26 year, the trust:

- provided small grants to support local residents' higher education studies
- funded a replacement greenhouse and educational resources for Rushbury Primary School.

The accounts for the last audited year (2024/25), and subsequently submitted to the charity commission, are attached.

**There are actually two separate charities: The Jones and Wainwright Educational Foundation and the Rushbury Charity. Both charities share the same trustees and, to most extents and purposes, operate as one organisation with one bank account. However, we complete two separate financial returns to the Charity Commission, as required.*

Insurance	£	294.13
Rushbury School -early years resources	£	320.00
Bank charges	£	60.00

Closing balance @ March 31 2025
£10,807.90

Investment holdings

Value of M&G investments @ 31 March 2025	£
Rushbury charity	6,765.37
Wainwright charity	142.23
Total	6,907.60