

BERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Henry Carpenter
Henrycarpenter@berringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Lisa Harris
Clerk@berringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 2 July 2026 at Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses

Present: Parish Councillors H Carpenter (Chair), H Eccles, S Hess, C Morris, A Yeomans and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Also present: 4 members of the public

51.26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Abbott and M Rathbone.

52.25 Co-option of new councillor

The Casual Vacancy had been advertised on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards. One application had been received and as the applicant met the eligibility criteria to become a parish councillor, the vacancy could be filled by Mr James Adney.

It was proposed by Councillor Carpenter and seconded by Councillor Eccles and

resolved (without opposition)

that Mr James Adney be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Mr Adney then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk and joined the other councillors at the table.

ACTION: Clerk to advise Shropshire Council's Monitoring Officer of the co-option. Councillor Adney to then complete the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form online within 28 days of receiving it. Clerk to also set up Councillor Adney with a .gov.uk email address.

53.26 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests.

54.26 Public Participation Session – *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

Mr James Healey advised that he still hadn't received a response from West Mercia Police regarding the Community Speedwatch scheme. Having submitted an application for grant funding in respect of possible solar panels on the roof of The Chapel Community Centre, he had received acknowledgment of the submission from Great British Energy (GBE).

A member of the public expressed her disappointment regarding the announcement of the withdrawal of the Park & Ride service from Meole Brace. She had signed the petition attempting to overturn the closure and encouraged other parishioners to do the same. The

petition can be found here <https://www.change.org/p/overturn-the-closure-of-meole-brace-park-and-ride>

55.26 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 June 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Carpenter and seconded by Councillor Eccles and
resolved (without opposition)

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 June 2026 be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed accordingly.

56.26 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 4 June 2026

- The "village gates" have now been installed in Cross Houses.
- Ordered a replacement noticeboard for Cross Houses petrol station. Awaiting delivery and will then arrange installation.
- An email had been received from the asset management company representing Pitchford Solar Park. An enquiry was made as to whether a decision had been made on how this year's Community Benefit payment would be allocated.

ACTION: Clerk to respond advising that the money was being spent on the restoration of the original village pump in Berrington - an historical asset which has fallen into a state of disrepair and parishioners are delighted that it is to be restored to its former glory.

- The English Devolution and Community Engagement Act 2026 has inserted a new section 32A into the Localism Act 2011 which provides that, while details of all property in the area of their Authority in which a Councillor has an interest (including their usual residential address) must be disclosed to the Monitoring Officer, the register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests published by the Authority must not include the usual residential address of a Councillor unless they specifically request that it is published. Shropshire Council is therefore currently in the process of removing councillors' home addresses from the published register to ensure that this is completed before 29 June 2026. This amendment is designed to enhance privacy and security for all council members.
- Having researched bank accounts that offer a higher rate of interest than what is currently being paid, Lloyds Bank has offered a Fixed Term Deposit Account. This would earn up to 2.75% AER interest. After a full discussion

It was proposed by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Eccles and
resolved (without opposition)

that the sum of £60K would be transferred from a Commercial Instant Access Account to a Fixed Term Deposit Account for a period of 12 months.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange the transfer as soon as possible.

57.26 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Councillor Coleman's report focussed on the continuing desperate state of Shropshire Council's finances. Savings need to be made, and further cuts seem likely to non-statutory services. She stated that she was surprised and disappointed to learn about the closure of the Park & Ride service from Meole Brace and had spoken to the Portfolio Holder for

Transport & Regeneration about it, expressing her concerns. She was advised that the existing contract with Arriva Midlands ends on 31 October 2026 and Shropshire Council can only afford to retain two of the three current routes. The service from Oxon is the most heavily used (due to its links with Royal Shrewsbury Hospital), followed by the service operating from Harlescott. Therefore, the decision had been made that the Meole Brace Park & Ride would be the service that would cease to operate on 1 November 2026. Councillor Coleman ended by saying that a decision was due shortly on the proposed development of 55 houses to the east of Ridout Road but at the moment it wasn't known whether the decision would be made by the Planning Committee or delegated to the Planning Officer.

58.26 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Morris gave an update on the tree situation in Cross Houses. Had not heard anything further from Greenbelt regarding the trimming of the chestnut tree near the play park but she is aware that the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and it is nesting season so this will delay things. Regarding the sap-producing sycamore trees overhanging the carpark behind the first row of houses in The Chestnuts as you turn off the A458, Shropshire Homes is getting a contractor quote to carry out the required works.
- Councillor Hess reported that:
 - the goal nets on the Brompton playing field are no longer fit for purpose and require replacing. It was agreed by all that the nets should be replaced.
 - ACTION:** Councillors Morris and Hess will measure the size of the goal posts and will advise the Clerk, who will then purchase replacement nets.
 - the shelter on the playing field requires repainting.
 - ACTION:** Clerk to contact Mr Richard Purslow to enquire if he is interested in undertaking this paid job
- Councillor Eccles advised that for over a year now he had been campaigning to get the path to Cantlop Mill made passable. Shropshire Council has acknowledged the issue but it is being passed from department to department and is now back with Highways, although this will never be a road. Councillor Coleman is on the case to ensure that the matter doesn't fall into a black hole and will speak with Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership team who support the work of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) - a volunteer initiative that helps manage and maintain over 5,500 km of the county's public rights of way.

59.26 Current financial matters:

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Ms R Yeomans	Caretaker's salary June	£ 236.83
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary June	£ 688.62
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary June	£ 172.20
HMRC	Employer National Insurance for June	£ 66.57
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses July	£ 36.80
MAA	Donation for AED training	£ 100.00
SJF Design & Print	Printing of The Village Pump magazine	£ 350.00
WaterPlus	Monthly water charge - Chapel CC	£ 33.04
EE	Monthly WiFi charge – Chapel CC	£ 41.38
Talkmobile	Monthly mobile 'phone charge	£ 7.95

Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank account charge	£ 4.25
HugoFox	Monthly website fee	£ 23.99
HugoFox	Monthly email accounts fee	£ 20.99
TOTAL		£ 1782.62

It was proposed by Councillor Carpenter and seconded by Councillor Eccles and
resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 25 June 2026

The bank was reconciled at £128,104.82, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

60.26 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 26/01540/AG1

Address: Meadow Bank Farm Condover Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 7DB

Description: Erection of a new agricultural building to house livestock

Validated: 27 Apr 2026

Status: Planning Permission Required

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 26/01540/AG1

Address: Meadow Bank Farm Condover Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 7DB

Description: Erect a livestock shed to house younger cattle

Validated: 4 Ju 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

b. Ref: 25/04876/FUL

Address: Cliff House Berrington Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6HL

Description: Amendment to the approved cable route associated with Berrington Solar Farm (Planning Ref: 22/04355/FUL), proposing an alternative 2,220-metre underground loop-in loop-out grid connection

Validated: 14 Jan 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

c. Ref: 25/03909/VRA106

Address: 32 High Cross Avenue Cross Houses Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6LJ

Description: Variation of Section 106 Legal Obligation pursuant to S/90/227/61/90 and S/90/1102/61/90 to allow for an amendment to the discounted price

Validated: 17 Oct 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

d. Ref: 25/02751/FUL

Address: Land To The East Of Ridout Road Cross Houses Shrewsbury Shropshire

Description: Residential development for 55No. dwellings

Validated: 19 Sep 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

3. Applications received after the agenda has been prepared

None

No comments or objections were recorded.

61.26 Update on any community benefit payment relating to the Berrington solar farm

Councillor Carpenter informed the meeting that there is a document on Shropshire Council's website <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/29428/cd-176-summary-of-residents-compensation-agreement.pdf> stating that a compensation scheme was agreed between the developer and Flour not Power.

Flour not Power is a local residents' action group in Berrington who fought against Eonergy's plans for a large 44-hectare solar farm near the village. They eventually settled in December 2024, agreeing to withdraw any objections, after securing enhanced landscaping and traffic management plans. It is believed that Flour not Power attempted to secure a benefit for the Parish but Eonergy wasn't interested, which is their privilege as community benefit is purely a voluntary initiative which may or may not be offered by developers. Ultimately both parties signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) so there is no way of ever knowing what compensation was awarded.

Shropshire Council have confirmed that community benefit is not a material consideration in the planning process, so any community benefit cannot be a condition of planning permission i.e. it is not a planning issue and therefore a unitary authority would not get involved in any such negotiations. As there was more support than opposition for the application (as evidenced on the Planning Portal), even without mention of any community benefit package, then the developer may not have been motivated to offer any form of voluntary contribution to the community.

It was agreed that although it is highly likely that the matter is now closed, the Clerk would write to Eonergy to determine if there is any prospect of negotiating some form of community benefit package.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Eonergy in an attempt to reopen negotiations.

62.26 Correspondence

An email had been received from a parishioner advising that the bin on the playing field was full and had needed emptying for a number of weeks. Clerk had advised parishioner to report via FixMyStreet but following Councillor Hess' report on maintenance work required

on the playing field, had realised that this was not Shropshire Council land and therefore reporting via FixMyStreet may not be appropriate as it is private land leased by the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate how the bin(s) were previously emptied and then attempt to reinstate the emptying service.

63.26 Future agenda items

- To consider churchyard maintenance

Berrington Parish Council resolves that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1992, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item 64.26 of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.

64.26 HR matter

Various matters were discussed relating to the operation of The Chapel Community Centre.

65.26 Date of next meeting

Thursday 3 September 2026, Chapel Community Centre, Cross Houses at 7.00pm.

The Chair thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Signed by Chair:

Date: 3 September 2026