

CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU

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Minutes of the meeting of Craven Arms Town Council held on Tuesday 28th April 2026 commencing 7.00pm held at Craven Arms Community Centre

Councillors:

Cllr D Mills (Chairman) Cllr R Pitt (Vice-Chairman), Cllr N Stephens,
Cllr R Conway, Cllr N Carter, Cllr D Evans, Cllr J Fuller, Cllr T Willetts, Cllr E M Carter, Cllr J Rickson
Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

136/25 Apologies:

No apologies

137/25 Members of the Public:

The Local Police were present to provide an update on local issues highlighting, Anti-Social Behaviour, use of Electric Bikes, issues with the security of Carven Arms Hotel.

Shropshire Councillor J Dickin reported on Shropshire Council matters highlighting the demolition of the Housing Association Houses on Station Drive Craven Arms, the delayed works on the Onibury Bridge and the closure of the pre-school.

138/25 Declarations of Interest:

C E Williams declared that he had an interest in the grant application submitted by Empathy for Special Children and left the meeting when this was discussed.

139/25 Minutes:

The Town Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2026 and they were duly signed by Chairman

140/25 Matters arising from the Minutes:

Following the resignation of Mrs S Demos after issuing a Notice of Vacancy for a Town Councillor no one had come forward requesting an election, so the Town Council were now able to co-opt to the vacancy.

141/25 Chairman's Items:

Cllr D Mills reported that he would be standing down as Chairman at the next meeting as he may shortly be leaving the area. Cllr D Mills will remain as a Town Councillors until he moves.

142/25 Amenity Items:

- a) **Craven Arms Playing Fields** – No items to report
- b) **Craven Arms Flooding Scheme** – Cllr R Pitt had helped resolve a flooding issue for a resident in Watling Street Craven Arms.
- c) **Other Amenity Items** –
The Clerk to arrange for repair of bus shelters and to enquire about the provision of bus timetables.
The Litter Picking Group organised by CAVE had undertaken litter picking in all of the streets of Craven Arms to coincide with the National Litter Picking Week.

143/25 Highways Items

Works to improve the shop frontage near the Clun Road roundabout pedestrian crossing was still outstanding due to drainage concerns which will need to be resolved Shropshire Councillor J Dickin, and the Clerk will pursue the matter.

144/25 Financial Items:

The Clerk had produced an Income and Expenditure Statement which showed that the Council had balances of £298,941.37 on the 28th April 2026 following approval of the expenditure listed below, and a statement of the balances held in the appropriate bank accounts to comply with the Council's investment policy. The Town Council approved the Statement and the accounts for payment.

Payments April 2026	Goss	VAT
SALC	1,256.17	Subscription
G Morris	1,230.00	Amenity Work
K Adams	490.00	Internal Audit Fee
C E Williams	706.80	Disbursement
Inland Revenue	395.65	Tax and NI
Water Plus	218.89	Water Rates
Hugo Foxe	23.89	Website
Eon	210.87	Electricity Charges
Barclays Bank	8.50	Bank Charges
D Campbell	228.00	Grass Cutting
CAPFA	14,000.00	Management Fee 2026/27

The Town Council approved a grant of £2,000 to the Carven Arms Community Gardens for the provision of a Community Shed this will be met from the Neighbourhood Fund Grant Provision.

The Town Council approved a grant of £763 to the Craven Arms Bowling Club for the provision of a defibrillator provided it is sited where it is available for public use this will be met from the Neighbourhood Fund Grant Provision.

The Town Council considered a grant application of £3,000 from Empathy for Special Children toward the running of a Community Café this was deferred for six months to ensure that the project that has just been started becomes sustainable.

145/25 Planning Items:

No Planning applications.

146/25 Reports from other organisations to which the Town Council has a representative:

No reports from Outside organisations

147/25 Water Quality Quinney Brook and the River Onny Craven Arms:

Concern had been raised by Cllr T Willetts concerning the water quality of parts of the Quinney Brook and the River Onny which is often used by Children for Swimming.

The Clerk had reported the matter to Severn Trent Water and following a visit by a River Ranger which included attending the confluence of the Quinney Brook and the River Onny at The Grove, just north of Craven Arms, as well as the weir downstream at Halford. Visual inspections were undertaken and water quality sampling was carried out.

Both rivers were observed to look generally clear, with no evidence of scum, discolouration or indications of sewage pollution. Ammonia and phosphate readings taken at the confluence and downstream were within expected ranges and did not indicate a pollution issue.

At the weir at Halford, some foam was noted gathering in sheltered pockets just downstream of the structure. Based on the assessment on site, this appeared to be natural foam caused by the mixing action of the weir rather than anything sewage-related. Immediately upstream of the weir, small amounts of algae and other plant debris were observed floating on the water surface, which is not uncommon at this time of year.

Taking all of this into account, our assessment is that the conditions observed are most likely linked to natural and seasonal factors associated with warmer weather, rather than any failure or issue with wastewater infrastructure. There are no assets in the immediate area that would suggest an alternative cause.

Severn Trent Water want to be clear that they do not take concerns raised by the local community lightly. Our River Ranger team would be very happy to meet with the Council representatives on site, should that be helpful, to talk through what was observed and to discuss any ongoing concerns directly

The Town Council will schedule a site meeting if additional concerns arise.

The Clerk will contact Severn Trent to confirm how many times effluent was discharged into the river in the past year.

148/25 Next Meeting

Next Meeting Tuesday 26th May 2026 – Annual Public and Annual Meetings of the Town Council commencing 7.00pm

Chairman