Leebotwood & Longnor

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th July 2025

1. Chairs welcome. Councillor R Reynolds was away on holiday. Councillor R Lawrence chaired the meeting in her absence.
2. Present Councillors R Lawrence, A Holt, P Pardoe, E Williams, O Williams and S Willocks. Also, present Lorna Pardoe clerk to the Council and Shropshire Councillor C Naylor. Apologies were received from Councillor N Medlicott and R Reynolds.
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests. There were none declared at this point of the meeting.
4. Council to agree minutes from 13th May 2026 meeting. It was agreed that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting, Proposed by Councillor E Williams, seconded by Councillor A Holt and agreed by all members present.
5. Shropshire Councillor to report. Councillor C Naylor spoke of the proposal to suspend the Meole Brace Park & Ride service to the town Centre.
   Councillors were most concerned that the decision had been made. Councillor Naylor said he has tried repeatedly to access the figures showing the reasons for the decision but to date has received no response.
   Councillor R Lawrence raised the point that the new Football Stadium was built with the proviso that there would be allowance for overflow parking to be had at the Meole Brace Park and Ride park. Where will the supporters of the football park if the park and ride is removed.

   Shropshire Councillor C Naylor reported; Meole Brace Park and Ride – Many of you will have heard of the proposed 'suspension' of this service. I wasn't consulted on this, and have been trying to get more details of current usage and costings. But no luck yet. I'm also trying to clarify if this is a permanent closure, or a suspension as the press release said. I'd welcome your comments:

   whether you/neighbours use this or not

   · Whether you'd use Oxon as proposed instead

   · suggestions you might have to reduce costs/promote usage

The context is that government has cut Shropshire's bus grant by several hundred thousand pounds, so there had to be cuts somewhere. It's said that Meole Brace loses £300 a day, but I haven't seen any figures for this.

The Parish Council may want to email the Cabinet Member Cllr Rob Wilson to express their objections, particularly if Oxon isn't seen as a credible alternative.

Potholes – I continue to chase, and I'd welcome feedback on progress locally. I understand pretty much all our reactive pothole repairs have been switched to Shropshire-based Multevo, and there's signs of better quality work, eg on Frodesley Lane recently. They also seem to have done a little more in Longnor – but why they've not tackled it properly I can't understand. The main county-wide contract with Keir runs out early 2027 and is being reviewed currently.

Rally – As you may have seen, I was very disappointed by Council's approval of the closed section route through Pulverbatch – where it goes through the middle of a working farm, and where the Parish Council has consistently objected, and dozens of residents have written in protest. And the Council in writing said they'd block the Rally there!

Meanwhile Acton Burnell Parish Council, and Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council, have welcomed the Rally, so I've supported you in that and backed the Rally as a whole. I'm meeting the Rally Organiser here next week to help local liaison and we might be able to get them to your September meeting if useful – or to set up a separate conversation. I've recently been identifying really poor roads locally (eg by Chatwall, and Ruckley/Causewaywood) and am urging the Rally – if this is a problem for their cars – to put pressure on Highways to get these fixed before the event. Advice/other suggestions welcome.

Leebotwood VAS/Crossing – I've asked whether the Council has any VAS they could lend temporarily, I'm told not. If you decide to go ahead with a mobile VAS as previously discussed I still think this is a good idea and am happy to help if useful. I have put our A49 route manager Joe in touch with Simon d'Vali who can try to get CIL funding for us but don't have an update just yet.

Litter bins – as previously flagged, emptying bins is part of that Keir contract, and they have received a warning following recent failures. They changed their emptying system back in April, without checking with councillors. If you see any that still need emptying please report on Fix My Street, if nothing happens send me the reference number. And/or email me,

pref with a photo and a 'what three words' location. I've had to empty one dog bin myself, if desperate I might do more…

Local council-owned property - The Council's new Finance & Improvement Scrutiny Committee, which I now chair, meets again 13th July to look at the Council's draft Medium Term Financial Plan, proposing how we deal with our financial problems longer term. One of the routes is Asset Disposal, which we will have a briefing on in September. I'm happy to feedback if useful. If you're aware of any council-owned property locally – fields, buildings – that may be unused or forgotten please say.

6. Public Session. There were no members of the public present.
7. Update on Mobile VAS for the parish. The clerk has been in touch with the Police and Crime Commissioners representative and we still have had no response stating whether or not we have been successful in our application for the funding.
   It was agreed to wait until the September meeting and then review it at that meeting.
8. Update on provision of wi-fi in the village Halls. Councillor Holt explained that he had been in contact with a representative from Vodaphone and they were looking into the matter for us and it sounded quite hopeful.
9. Council to review and re-adopt the following policy documents
   - Standing Orders
   - Financial Regulations
   - Financial Risk Assessment document
   - General Risk Assessment documents
   - IT Policy
   - Freedom of Information Policy
   - Public Participation at meetings
   - Equality Policy
   - Complaints Policy and Procedures
   - Civility and Respect
   - Document Retention Policy
   - Clerks and Councillors Protocol

   It was agreed to readopt the above documents "en bloc" as members and the clerk felt that they were still relevant and appropriate for the Parish Council.

   Proposed by Councillor E Williams, seconded by Councillor A Holt and agreed by all members present. Councillor R Lawrence signed the sheet to state that this had been done.

10. Planning

- Previous planning applications;
- Ref: 26/01622: Ful
  Church Farm Leebotwood. Siting of slurry store.
  Awaiting decision
- Ref:26/01334/FUL
  Lawley Farm, Longnor
  Garage, Outbuilding and Workshop.
  Refused permission 24 June 2026
- New Planning applications. At the time of preparing there are no new applications.
- Ref: 26/02549/VAR
  Ref:26/02545/LBC
  Address;29 Walkmills Leebotwood Shrewsbury
  New single storey extension, alterations to windows and doors (including replacement of existing windows), removal of existing outbuilding and existing conservatory, and various alterations.
  After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council agreed in principle but would leave the decision to the officers who have more expertise in listed building consents.

11. Financial matters.
    - Council to accept the Bank Reconciliation as presented by the clerk, It was agreed to accept the Bank Reconciliation as presented by the clerk proposed by Councillor E Williams, seconded by Councillor A Holt and agreed by all members present.
    - Council to agree to pay the accounts as presented by the clerk. It was agreed to pay the invoices due as presented by the clerk along with two late received after the financial papers had been sent to members.

Bank	Charges	4.25
D/D	Hugo Fox	11.99
S/O	L Pardoe	423.09
D/D	Hugo Fox	20.99
	Charges	4.25
D/D	Hugo Fox	11.99
S/O	L Pardoe	423.09
D/D	Hugo Fox	20.99
FP	SALC	45.00
FP	L Pardoe	51.00
FP	Longnor Village	18.00
FP	D Malley	79.20
	Subtotal	1113.84

- Council to note that Notification of receipt of Exemption status has been received from External Auditors. This was noted by all members present.

12. Parish Matters -Members to report any Parish matters. Councillor Holt asked if the Parish Council had any powers to get people to cut back their hedged to their boundaries. The clerk explained that the Parish Council had written to some residents in Longnor a couple of years ago which had little or no effect. Hedges are the responsibility of the householder. We can ask them to cut them as it is an offence to obstruct the footpaths or highways. She would draft a letter for circulation to the residents. Another councillor asked if they could be asked to cut back to their boundary walls as over the last 40 years or so the hedges have encroached onto the road by some 3 feet making it unsafe for people walking through the village of Longnor. A piece would be out in the parish newsletter reminding people that the nesting time is coming to an end and they can now cut their hedges back.

13. Clerks report on any item not covered on the agenda

The Shropshire Local Transport Plan for 2027 to 2037 has a workshop on Tuesday 28th July for people to attend. The clerk has sent the relevant e-mail to members and if they wish to attend, they can book via the link attached.

The clerk has chased the footpath and bridge people about the missing bridge and the state of the footpath. They have acknowledged that they will look into this but did not say when this would be.

The clerk briefly outlined the recent training session on AI within the workplace.

14. Report on the state of the defibrillator. The Clerk and Councillor R Lawrence had both checked the defibrillator independently this month.
15. Date and time of next meeting It was agreed that this would be held on Monday 14th September 2026 at Leebotwood Village Hall.
16. The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20.45 pm.