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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 SEPTEMBER 2025

### EATON CONSTANTINE VILLAGE HALL

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Present: Councillors A Bain, M Corrie, S Dawes, M Thorn (Chair), W Vernon and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: 1 member of the public

#### 48.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Budgen and S Jones.

#### 49.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

#### 50.25 Public Participation Session - *a period of 20 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 3-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.*

The one member of public present did not wish to speak.

#### 51.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July 2025

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

**It was proposed** by Councillor Vernon and seconded by Councillor Dawes and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

#### 52.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 15 July 2025

- Wrote to the Rights of Way Officer on behalf of the Parish Council stating that it was in full support of the report submitted by Mr T Pritchard in 2013 and the detailed letter sent by Mr G Dawes in June 2025. It is the hope of Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council that a decision to add the track in question to the Definitive Map will now be made in a timely manner.
- As reported at July's meeting, the national speed limit sign on the road going into Upper Longwood from Eaton Constantine, has been removed by somebody and there is a presence of non-legal 30mph speed stickers in the area. Although it had already been reported on FixMyStreet, spoke to Shropshire Council about

this. There was anger and disappointment at this illegal action as the sign would now have to be replaced at a time when Shropshire Council is already experiencing severe financial difficulties without having to spend limited resources on acts of vandalism.

- Spoke to a Highways Maintenance Technician at Shropshire Council about the Eaton Constantine sign near the Village Hall which appears to have been hit by a vehicle. Advised to report via FixMyStreet, which Councillor Dawes has done.
- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information e.g. update on first 100 days of Shropshire Council's new administration.
- Responded to a parishioner's request asking for speeding in the Upper Longwood area to be put on a future meeting agenda. However, at July's meeting the Councillors were in agreement that, whilst sympathetic to this issue, it had been addressed on a number of previous occasions and both Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police had unequivocally stated that the location does not meet the eligibility criteria for a reduced speed limit to be imposed. Therefore, regrettably, this is not a parish council matter as no powers exist which would allow it to be progressed any further. A further email on this matter was received from the parishioner and again, after further consultation with Shropshire Council, this was responded to clarifying the situation. The parishioner had also contacted the Shropshire Councillor for the Severn Valley and Councillor Coleman had responded confirming that neither she nor the Parish Council had the necessary powers to move this matter forward. She suggested that the only other possible avenues for the parishioner to explore were the local MP, Stuart Anderson, and the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion.
- Investigated costings for non-statutory speed limit signs within the Parish. A single sign would cost circa £600-£700. Shropshire Council would have to approve any proposed siting locations and installation would be around 3 months after any signs are ordered.
- Contacted Shropshire Council in an attempt to ascertain what is and is not allowed to be done on roadside verges to improve local nature recovery. Recommended that a representative of the Parish Council should attend the upcoming Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Conference for town and parish councils across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Councillor Vernon hopes to attend this conference.
- The request for the quarterly parish priority list, relating to the Community Charter for local policing, had been received from West Mercia Police. Following a full discussion the priorities were agreed as being Speeding, Anti-Social Driving and Thefts (Outbuildings). "Speeding" is always listed as the number one community issue on each return.

**ACTION:** Clerk to return the completed parish priority list to Shrewsbury Rural East.

- As there is no funding available from Shropshire Council to provide any dog waste bins, a "Clean Streets, Happy Feet!" initiative has been introduced by the Dog Warden team. The aim is to remind people to pick up any mess left behind by their dog. A stencil has been supplied and the correct paint purchased. The stencils will be trialled within the Parish, if ever a need is identified, to determine efficacy.



#### **53.25 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor**

Councillor Coleman provided a brief update on matters of interest to the Parish.

- As part of its Best Start in Life mission, the government have announced that funding has been confirmed for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for the next three years. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), HAF provides eligible children and young people with free access to holiday activity during the three main school holidays. The programme is aimed primarily at children and young people aged 4 to 16, in receipt of benefits related free school meals (FSM). Children meeting wider eligibility criteria can also access the programme. Since 2021, Shropshire Council has successfully worked in partnership with organisations from across the county in the private, voluntary, and public sectors to deliver Shropshire HAF. HAF has huge benefits for participants, including healthier eating and reduced food insecurity; increased physical activity; participation in enrichment activities and linking families to local services. For more information on HAF in Shropshire visit <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf/>
- Shropshire Council's children's service has been rated "Outstanding" following a recent visit by Ofsted inspectors.
- Shropshire Council declared a financial emergency at last week's Cabinet meeting. The Leader, Heather Kidd, said the Council was struggling to provide essential services due to a lack of funding from central government and blamed rising demand and the cost of providing social care for its worsening financial position. She cited one social care case as costing the Council £1m. It is £18.2m over budget in providing adult social care, claiming it has seen an increase in complex cases being transferred to the local authority from health services. The aim of declaring a financial emergency is to reduce all non-essential spending between now and March 2026. If no alterations are made the Council will overspend its budget by the end of this fiscal year by just under £900,000. This is not permitted to happen and would need Shropshire Council to issue what is called a Section 114 notice prior to the end of March, effectively declaring itself bankrupt. This would result in government taking action and appointing commissioners to take control. Non-statutory services would cease at this point.

#### **54.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors**

- Councillor Dawes:
  - Despite the Parish Council increasing the scope of the environmental maintenance contract with extra cuts at visibility splays, residents have reported signs being placed on hedgerows/fences at junctions within the Parish causing road safety issues. Shropshire Council's website states that licences (involving a fee) are required even for something as minor as a car

boot sale. There are lots of conditions (such as signs must not restrict motorists' visibility, the signs for an event are taken down within one week of the completion of the event) and Shropshire Council has the right to remove any authorised signs from the public highway. Therefore, for safety reasons, unauthorised signage will be reported to Shropshire Council's Street Works for removal.

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/roadworks-road-closures-and-events/application-forms-and-charges/temporary-signage-consent/>

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/xjdcqdqif/new-draft-temp-signage-guidance-notes-3724.pdf>

- Together with Councillor Jones, has been working on an Emergency Response Plan for the Parish. Draft information will be circulated to the Councillors prior to November's meeting when a decision will be made as to what will be published on the website for guidance in the event of an emergency.
- Councillor Vernon:
  - Has spoken with a couple of landowners regarding rewilding within the Parish and has had a positive response regarding taking owl nesting boxes. Will be talking to the Leighton Hall Estate about initiatives being adopted there. Hoping to attend the upcoming Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Conference to learn more about nature recovery in the county.

55.25

## Current financial matters

### a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary August/September	£ 173.56
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary August/September	£ 682.70
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses August/September	£ 63.69
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 919.95</b>

**It was proposed** by Councillor Thorn and seconded by Councillor Dawes and

**resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

### b) Bank reconciliation to 9 September 2025

The bank was reconciled at £20,790.23, being the online banking balance. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

56.25

## Planning

### 1. Decisions to note:

#### a. Ref: 25/01994/TPO

Address: Merlins Patch Leighton Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RN

Description: Crown raise to 5.2m over B4380 highway 1no. group of mixed species trees (G1) protected by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council (Land at White House Farm, Leighton) Tree Preservation Order 1995 (SA/289)

Validated: 30 May 2025

Status: Granted

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

**b. Ref: 25/02173/FUL**

Address: 1 Upper Longwood Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6SB

Description: Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension

Validated: 20 Jun 2025

Status: Refused

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

**2. Planning applications for consideration:**

None

No comments were recorded on the above planning applications.

**57.25 Correspondence**

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

**58.25 Future agenda items**

- Half year budget review.
- Non-statutory speed signs within the Parish.

**59.25 Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 7.00pm – Leighton Village Hall

Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7.00pm – Leighton Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Signed by Chairman: ..... Date: 18 November 2025