

**CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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**Minutes of the Annual Public meeting of Craven Arms Town Council held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 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 A J Willetts, Cllr E M Carter, Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

**1/26 Apologies:**

Cllr J Rickson and Shropshire Councillor J Dickin

**2/26 Chairmans Annual Report:**

Cllr David Mills presented the Chairmans Annual Report highlighting the following items:

**Local Development:** Housing Development at the old Temperance site, conversion of the old Benson Rogers Offices into accommodation, completion of houses on the old labour club site following the sale of the land by the Town Council, demolition of the flats on Station Drive, landscaping of Wilton Lodge for housing development, concerns about the future development of the Craven Arms Top Hotel where there is planning for multiple flats.

There is lack of progression the moving of the abattoir to the North of Craven Arms and development of land identified in the Local Plan.

**Highways/Street Lighting:** Resurface of Corvedale Road, improvements to the verge along Shrewsbury Road adjacent to the doctor's surgery, potholes remain an issue, the Town Council upgraded the councils' streetlights to LED lighting achieving considerable savings in energy costs.

The Town Council are pursuing Highways England to improve the verge area adjacent to the highway along Drovers Square where an improvement scheme has been promised but is dependent on Finance being available.

**Flooding:** Cllr R Pitt has been working with Shropshire Council and Severn Trent raising awareness and talking with residents on the various streams, gutters and ditches and underground pipework, alterations were made to the grating by Stokesay Hotel which has helped to relief flooding in that area.

**Grants:** The Town Council made grants to the Craven Arms Youth Forum, Craven Arms Community Gardens, Craven Arms Events Committee, CAVE, Stokesay PCC and Halford PCC, Craven Arms Community Centre, subsidising the cost of the library service.

**Amenity Work:** The Town Council provided the annual flower baskets along Corvedale Road, improvement and redecoration of the benches by the bowling green, thanks goes to the volunteer group CAVE with their litter picking, keeping the town clean and planting of the flower boxes and to the Craven Arms Events Committee for the excellent display of Christmas Lights and Trees and the running of an annual community event on the playing fields. To the Craven Arms Discovery Centre and their stewardship of the Meadow land which is owned by the Town Council and leased to the Discovery Centre for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area.

The Town Council continues to maintain the outside Gym Area, BMX Track and the Craven Arms Playing Fields which are well used by the local community.

Thanks goes to Graham Morris and his team who help to manage the Towns Amenity Area, toilets, hanging baskets, Corvedale parking/picnic area and various verges and footpaths.

To the Men's Club based at the Craven Arms Community Centre for their voluntary work in helping undertaking maintenance work at the Community Centre.

**Other Items:** The Chairman reported that he will shortly be leaving the area and after eleven years would be standing down as Chairman of the Council and thanked fellow Councillors for their support and work on behalf of the local community, the Chairman also thanked the Clerk for his valuable support and work for the Town Council. The Chairman also thanked the work undertaken by the new Shropshire Councillor Josh Dickin who attend the Town Council meetings and present a monthly written report and to the Local Police who again regularly attend The Town Council meetings to give an update on local policing matters. Finally, The Chairman reported that the future would be challenging with “Devolution” being the new watchword and the eventually passing of additional services to Parish and Town Councils.

The Town Council thanked the Chairman for his report.

**3/26 Financial Report:**

The Clerk presented the annual financial report for which had produced details of the Councils Income and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/26, the Balances and Reserves held by the Town Council at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025/26. The Clerk was thanked for his report.

**4/25 Report of Shropshire Councillor J Dickin:**

Due to other commitments Cllr J Dickin was unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded a written report providing details on local highway issues, planning issues, Flooding and Drainage, future of the local plan and other Community Matters.

**5/25 Members of the Public:**

Four members of the public were present who raised issues concerning, community directory, flooding and future Housing Development.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contribution and closed the Annual Public Meeting.