

Stoke upon Tern Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Phil Butters

CLERK: Mr. G Bould

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Butters, Cllr S Planton, Cllr S Bartram, Cllr D Moore and Cllr J Scott.

Clerk: Mr G Bould.

In Attendance: Flight Lieutenant Lee Morrison – RAF Shawbury

5 Parishioner.

36.26. Election of Chairman: Cllr P Butters duly moved, seconded and unanimously agreed

37.26. Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr S Planton duly moved, seconded and unanimously agreed

38.26. Election of other offices/committees and outside bodies.

1. **SALC Northern Area Committee:** Cllr Bearman.
2. **Planning Committee:** Cllrs Planton, Bartram, Newby and Bearman.
3. **Audit Working Group (Autumn zoom meeting):** Cllrs Bartram, Bearman and Gilbert.
4. **Highways Working Group:** Cllrs Newby, Scott and Gilbert.
5. **Parish Hall Management Committee:** Cllr Planton (substitute Cllr Butters)
6. **Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Covenant:** Cllr Planton (substitute Cllr Gilbert)

39.26. Declarations of Interest: None.

40.26. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th March 2026: Cllr Bartram proposed and Cllr Planton seconded the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th March 2026 which were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman in the presence of members.

41.26. Clerk's Report: The Clerk updated the Parish Council on their report. The following actions were then agreed, Red Lion AVC no further action; Parish Hall support, Cllr Butters to support Cllr Planton in terms of a business planning approach to future investment in the Parish Hall. Cllr Gilbert agreed to ride the Ollerton to Peplow bridleway and test out the issues with the wicket gate and horse passage. Shropshire Council have agreed in principle the transfer of the Langley Dale play site to the Parish Council. Once any formal paperwork is forthcoming for the transfer a meeting will need to be called with parishioners from Langley Dale to look at how the site is managed and developed. The Chairman agreed to action the situation relating to new emails and Cllr Scott is developing a Parish Council IT policy. The actions of the highways working group were also noted. There have been no applications for a replacement Clerk; this would also be discussed at Sutton upon Tern's meeting next week, to agree next steps for the Officers of each Parish Council to raise the provision of a potential locum clerk with SALC.

42.26. Updates- Local Plan/Place Plan, Tern Hill including a Community Benefit Society: The time frames from Shropshire Council have now been published to respond to the new local plan requirements. The Community Partners group, chaired by SALC, has agreed that the Market Drayton and Rural Parishes Covenant group help with adding community value to the draft document. Cllr M Dams the Chair of Sutton upon Tern and Cllr S Planton Vice Chair of Stoke upon Tern are leading that

work stream. The Clerk attended a meeting to form a Shrewsbury & District Community Land Trust to try and understand the process of the establishment of a Community Benefit Society. This meeting was sponsored by the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Shrewsbury Branch. North Shropshire is disadvantaged as no such group exists as a potential sponsor as in Shrewsbury. After a brief discussion the Chairman suggested that an approach be made to Muller via Keele University to help sponsor some research graduates to develop the proposal. Members agreed to support the Chairman in his efforts to develop such a package.

43.26. Shropshire Together – devolved services update: Members received and agreed the draft paper for a devolved service around environmental maintenance in a Rural Parish, focused on rural infrastructure, to be presented to the joint meeting on the 17th June 2026 with neighbouring parishes. This would enable a focused discussion on the need to increase the Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) by up to five times as much to £5,000 (quintuple) at 50/50 match. This would also allow for any contracting of services with the Town Council. Members then debated the existing state of the infrastructure within the parish. Anecdotally, members agreed that the infrastructure was inadequate. Members also agreed to a proposal that Keele University be approached to undertake a piece of work as part of a post graduate environmental degree to research the infrastructure across the parish and this to be shared with neighbouring parishes.

44.26. VAS data update – Eaton upon Tern & Wistanswick: Members received an update on both Eaton upon Tern and Wistanswick VAS data. The results are broadly in keeping with previous data in that 99% of movement are within the 0-40 mph banding. The Parish Council now has alternative contractors to contact, the details of which have been provided by Shropshire Council since the original contractors have gone into administration. Members agreed that action can now start to engage a contractor to re-locate the Wistanswick sign to the second location within the settlement.

45.26. Report back on Rural Crime meeting: The Chairman indicated that his report would be circulated after this meeting for members to view and comment upon.

46.26. Cemetery Development: Members were updated on the projects going forward within the cemetery. The bespoke bench has been commissioned along with a 'welcome sign'; the rear hedge and pear tree would be reduced by half in June 2026. A site visit has been held with the Probation Service Community Payback Teams to improve the natural burial side of the cemetery once the surviving meadow flowers have been identified from last year's planting with individual canes. The hedge along the rear and right side will also be cleared of unwanted vegetation to identify any areas for under-planting.

47.26. Newsletter & Notice Boards: Cllr Bartram updated members on the June 2026 deadline for the next newsletter and the new arrangements appear to be working in terms of the notice boards

48.26. Planning Committee reports – including TPO at Land East of Warrant Road: Members accepted the planning committee minute of the 10th April 2026 and then agreed the Notice and Provisional Order for the Shropshire Council (Land east of Warrant Road, Tern Hill) TPO 2026 (Ref: SC/00581/26), with **No Objections**.

49.26. Financial Matters - including Cemetery fees for 26/27 and internal auditing for 25/26.

1. Members approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 as set out by the Clerk for external audit submission.

2. The Parish Council agreed the following items of expenditure set out below (as amended) to be paid through the internet banking facility with HSBC; the invoices signed by two qualifying signatories and dated.

ICCM (membership)	£110.00	LGA 1972
Heartwood of Bridgnorth Ltd (bespoke bench deposit cemetery)	£773.16	LGA 1972
Zurich Municipal (insurance)	£306.03	LGA 1972
Great Dawley Town Council (internal audit)	£100.00	LGA 1972
Clerk's expenses (expenses)	£121.10	LGA 1972
Clerk's Salary Q1 (salary)	£1,820.10	LGA 1972
HMRC Q1 (PAYE)	£435.40	LGA 1972
Dave Probert (footpath clearance & bus shelter clearances)	£3,095.00	LGA 1972
Sarah Planton expenses (printing of plans)	£7.50	LGA 1972
Hugo fox (April emails)	£29.99	LGA 1972
Hugo fox (January subscription)	£23.99	LGA 1972

50.26. To agree any items for a future agenda: None.

Date of the next set of meetings: Wednesday 17th June 2026 (devolution meeting plus Special Planning Parish Council at 7pm prior), Wednesday 15th July 2026 7.30pm PC meeting and Wednesday 19th August 2026 (joint meeting with Sutton upon Tern PC) all at the Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairman:

Date: 15th July 2026.

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