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## **Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall**

### **25/073 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Present:** Cllrs Laura Dixon (Chairman), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Gareth Jones, Martin Ruston, Rob Trow.

**Apologies:** None

**Clerk:** Alison Utting

**Also:** SC Cllr Susan Coleman; Brunning & Price representatives Will Stelling, John Duncan, and Stuart Groves; and 9 members of the public.

### **25/074 RESIGNATION**

The Chair announced the resignation of Keith Daley from the parish council, dated 11 November 2025. She expressed thanks for his work while in the role. The vacancy will be advertised as per legal requirements. If there is no call for an election, the council can consider co-opting a new councillor at the next meeting.

### **25/075 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Gareth Jones was elected (Prop: MR, Sec: SA, unanimous).

**25/076 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Ruston declared an interest in item 25/084/c (member of Memorial Hall committee) and left the room for the duration of that item.

**25/077 MINUTES** - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of 10 September 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

### **25/078 PROGRESS REPORT**

*Any updates on planning applications* – none.

*Road surface repairs* – some potholes have been done. The surface at junction with Malthouse Lane is still bad.

*Road safety measures at Emstrey Bank* – no news. SC will chase.

*ATC (speed monitoring strips) in Atcham* – currently in place.

*Wires under notice board* – still not done.

*Bus timetable* – laminated timetable has been put up by Clerk.

*Bridge parapet repair* – This was due to be done in October. Not done. SC to chase.

*Alterations to water course and riverbank erosion* – some interesting historical information had been sent to Clerk. This to be shared via Parish Pump and hopefully encourage residents to report any incidents of deliberate damage to the police. Cllrs to see whether flotsam is still in place after current high river levels have subsided.

*Phone box maintenance* – BT engineers are scheduled to clean, inspect and repair.

*Missing coping stones on the disubridge down Cross Houses Lane* – have been reported via fixmystreet.

## **25/079 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Coleman reported that the financial situation of Shropshire Council remains extremely precarious. A loan of £60M has been requested from central government, to enable SC to reach the end of the financial year without filing S114 (bankruptcy) notices. Many councils are in the same predicament.

## **25/080 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The following matters were discussed:

A resident expressed support for the proposed village gates and bollards. They also encouraged the parish council to support the Memorial Hall as a community asset. MR asked for ideas for events and/or fundraising for the Hall. Hourly rates were discussed. A resident suggested that the 40mph signs be removed, which would mean that the village would default to 30 mph as it has streetlights. Unfortunately, the process of changing a speed limit is not that simple. During discussion, residents urged the parish council to continue to push for the speed limit to be dropped to 30mph. The Chair pointed out that next steps depend very much on the outcome provided by the ATC survey data.

A resident reported that the footpath from Atcham to Norton Crossroads is dangerously overgrown. Cllrs to investigate.

## **25/081 PLANNING**

- a) There were no new **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.
- b) The following **planning decisions** were published by Shropshire Council in advance of this meeting:

25/03050/VAR and 25/03065/VAR Residential barn conversions east of Atcham Grange. Proposal: Variation of Conditions. SC decision: Grant Permissions.

- c) Council noted receipt of the new Planning Guidance document from Shropshire Council. This will aid parish councils in their responses to planning applications, pending a new draft Local Plan.

## 25/082 ASSETS AND MAINTENANCE

- a) **Village gates** – Council resolved to purchase 4 gates as per quote from JACS at a cost of £3406.30 plus VAT including delivery and installation. (Prop: SC, Sec: RT, passed by majority).
- b) **Bollards** – Council resolved to purchase 8 square bollards as per quote from Earth Anchors at a cost of £353 plus VAT including delivery. (Prop: SA, Sec: SC, unanimous).

## 25/083 ADMINISTRATION

- a) **Policies and procedures** – Council resolved to adopt the replacement Grant Awarding Policy (Nov 2025). They agreed to consider the proposed Planning Policy at the next meeting.
- b) The councillors page on the **website** is now complete. All councillors have activated their **gov.uk email accounts** apart from SA and RT.
- c) **Training** – waiting for new training dates so that GJ can do Fundamentals.

## 25/084 FINANCE

- a) Council noted the following **payments** made since the last meeting:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
438.41	Clerk's salary, PAYE & NI	LGA 1972 s112
32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
438.41	Clerk's salary, PAYE, NI, expenses	LGA 1972 s112

32.98	Website and email fees	LGA 1972 s142
2553.05	Shropshire Council - TRO	Road Traffic Regulation Act 1986 s 72
350.00	Village Pump contribution	LGA 1972 s142
6.00	Banking fee	LGA 1972 s111

- b) Council approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) Council considered the **request for funding from Atcham Memorial Hall** committee, although no quotes are yet available. Councillors agreed that they will, in principle, do what they can to support the necessary improvements to the Hall, depending on the amounts requested and what other funding is being sourced.
- d) Councillors briefly discussed suggestions for the **annual budget**. It was agreed to increase the budget for grants and grounds maintenance, and to carry forward the earmarked amount for Vehicle Activated speed signs.

## **25/085 PARISH MATTERS**

It was noted that a new dog waste bin is being put up by the entrance to the church. This is being installed and maintained by private landowners and residents.

## **25/086 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SC – Design Guidance documents, consultation runs until mid-January.
- b) Rural Funding Digest – lots of grants available for all sorts of projects.
- c) BT – Digital Switchover – awareness sessions online in Nov/Dec.
- d) SC – Review of parking tariffs.
- e) Unity Trust Bank – Interest on savings accounts dropping from 2.25%/2.27%AER to 2.10%/2.12%AER.
- f) SC – Warm Spaces grants available.
- g) The Circuit – Alert re faulty components. MR has checked and ours not affected.
- h) **HIGHWAYS:** 17th November – Bridge inspections in Atcham, traffic lights.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.*

*The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7.30pm.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_