

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT
7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL**

55. WELCOME

Cllr Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

56. PRESENT

Cllrs A Richards, M Lowndes, E Riley, R Madeley, P Bodimeade, N Pugh, J Hartley.
Clerk N Green.

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr F Turner, Cllr A Dixon.

58. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

None disclosed.

59. PUBLIC SESSION

None present.

60. MINUTES OF THE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21st JULY 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Madeley and seconded by Cllr Riley that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 21st July 2025 be adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

61. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Richards stated that a number of Parishioners had contacted him about the logs placed adjacent to the roadside outside the Plough Inn. He reiterated that it had already been reported to Shropshire and they stated it was not their responsibility.

Cllr Richards stated he attended the recent SSALC meeting but due to poor attendance the meeting was cut short.

Cllr Richards stated that he had volunteered to be the Parish Council representative on the Rushbury Village Hall Committee. However, he explained that he would like support from other Councillors to attend when he was unavailable. He stated that there had been a lot of work completed within the last 12 months with regards to solar panels and heat pumps. More work was planned with regards to the heating, lighting and hot water.

Action – Clerk to circulate RVH meeting dates.

62. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk stated that he had updated the Planning Portal as required.

The Clerk stated that he had prepared a Reserves Policy for consideration.

The Clerk stated that he had requested an item is placed in the Honeypot regarding potential project ideas that Parishioners may have.

The Clerk stated that he had emailed Cllr Stanford regarding the condition of the Longville Arms.

The Clerk stated that he could not identify any public rights of way over the Plough Inn parking area.

63. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Stanford was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a report (appended to minutes) which was read out by the Clerk.

64. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr's considered the planning applications detailed below:

Reference: 25/03125/TCA (validated: 15/08/2025)

Address: The Old Rectory, Rushbury, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7EB

Proposal: Fell 6no. Ash (T1, T3-5, T7-8), 1no. Hawthorn (T6) and 1no. Cherry (T11), remove 1no. fallen Willow (T2) and prune back to boundary fence 2no. Field Maple (T9-10) within Rushbury Conservation Area

The Cllrs did not consider the application required comment.

Reference: 25/03268/FUL (validated: 15/09/2025)

Address: Rushbury Manor, Rushbury, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7EB

Proposal: Installation of solar pv panels and air source heat pump

The Cllrs discussed the application and unanimously supported it on the basis it benefitted the environment due to its renewable energy use.

Action – Clerk to update planning portal.

The Cllrs noted the decision regarding the planning applications detailed below:

Reference: 25/02298/FUL (validated: 23/06/2025)

Address: Wenlock Edge Farm, Meat Processing Unit At, Edge House, East Wall, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DU

Proposal: Replacement of fire damaged farm shop

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 25/02314/FUL (validated: 23/06/2025)

Address: Bramley Farm, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DZ

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and replacement windows.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 25/02209/FUL (validated: 18/07/2025)

Address: Fegg Farm, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6EG

Proposal: Erection of agricultural building over existing manure store

Decision: Grant Permission

65. FINANCIALS

The following list of accompanying invoices were reviewed; Members also received the latest bank reconciliation (July Aug) which brought the accounts to the 31st August 2025 to £17,848.42. All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payments that have been made or were to be made.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	IT	LGA 1972 S.111	£7.20 x 3
2	Village hall	LGA 1972 S.133	£16.50
3	Web Site	LGA 1972 S.142	£11.99 (direct debit)
4	Ground Main	HA 1980 S.96	£375.25 x2
5	Clerk Salary	LGA 1972 S.112(2)	£700.30

The Clerk stated that he had circulated a document detailing how CIL monies could be spent.

The Clerk and Cllr Richards signed the CIL Neighbourhood Fund Agreement and CIL Annual Monitoring Form.

Action – Clerk to forward the forms to Shropshire Council and post on Web Site.

Cllr Riley suggested that some of the CIL money could be expended on a Bus Shelter situated on Morgans Field, Rushbury Road, Wall under Heywood. He explained that at present a number of the students at Rushbury School are collected from that location.

Action – Clerk to make initial enquiries to establish who owns the strip of land adjacent to Morgans Field where the shelter could be located.

The Cllr's then discussed the condition of the bus shelters at Wall and Longville. It was agreed that they would be inspected to assess any work that may be required.

Action – Cllr Bodimeade to inspect the shelter at Longville, and the Clerk to inspect the shelter at Wall.

The Clerk presented a draft Reserves Policy which had been produced as a result of the audit recommendations. Cllr Lowndes questioned if the Council needed to identify the sum of money for each reserve category. However, it was considered that this sum would change from year to year. Therefore, it was agreed that the Council would aim to maintain a reserve of between six to nine months of the annual budget. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the policy, proposed by Cllr Lowndes and seconded by Cllr Bodimeade.

Action – Clerk to implement Policy and post on web page.

66. POTENTIAL PROJECTS

It was noted some potential projects had already been discussed during the meeting. Cllr Lowndes suggested that the PC should await for any responses from the Honeypot article. Cllr Riley said that he thought it was important the PC demonstrate that is doing something with the monies it receives and holds in reserve.

67. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated that a letter had been received from a student at Rushbury School concerning a potential wildlife project in partnership with the PC. Cllr Hartley stated she would liaise with the School to progress the matter.

Action – Cllr Hartley to progress.

The Clerk asked the Cllr's if they wished to complete the crime survey received from the OPPC. Cllr's delegated the responsibility to Cllr Dixon.

Action – Clerk to email Cllr Dixon with details.

The Clerk stated that Mr Pye from the Wainwright Trust had written. He wished to obtain the PC's thoughts as to how the local Community could best be involved with regard to the 'adopted' BT box in Rushbury. Cllr Bodimeade suggested it could be used as a book exchange and went on to suggest the Honeypot could be used in the first instance along with the School due to it's proximity.

Action – Clerk to respond to Mr Pye.

The Clerk presented a Memorandum of Understanding that Shropshire Council had invited all Local and Parish Councils to sign. Cllr Lowndes pointed out that the MoU states that some responsibilities could be transferred to the PC and the report from Cllr Stanford suggests the same. The Cllr's agreed that they would not sign the MoU until more details were available and that it was not really relevant to PC's in it's current form.

68. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Nothing raised.

69. PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Bodimeade stated that he had again raised the issue of the traffic sign outside barn conversions in Longville. No response had been received.

70. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Bush shelter updates, Project idea updates, Tennis court net, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Standing Orders.

71. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 20th October 2025 at the Committee Room, Rushbury Village Hall.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

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Chairman

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Date

These minutes will remain in draft format until signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Cllr Colin Stanford

Council Report September 2025

Finances

Shropshire Council continues to face financial challenges which means it's spending more money than it has. It was all set to declare itself bankrupt which would result in external administrators and no doubt consultants coming in to find savings and cut services to balance the books. This is something that has been fought off for some years and feels unjust as Shropshire has historically been underfunded by Central Government because the funding formula favours inner city areas rather than the very rural counties where it actually costs more to provide services. This is particularly true in Shropshire where deprivation is often hidden and we have a disproportionately older and isolated population. At a local level we have sadly seen Cleobury Mortimer Leisure Centre have its council funding cut and Much Wenlock Leisure Centre is under threat once more.

Last week Shropshire Council Cabinet agreed to “ declare a financial emergency (*why is everything an emergency these days!!*) and direct the Chief Executive (in conjunction with the Council Leader) to instruct all officers to take emergency action to reduce all non- essential spending between September and March.” They also agreed to set up an Independent Improvement Board to help with cost reduction.

Devolution

Devolution is in the air once more which is odd as NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin is being subsumed into a bigger grouping including Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent creating a geographical area stretching from the Powis border to The Peak District National Park! It's hard to understand the logic but Shropshire Council is also being pushed towards a larger group of neighbouring counties and once again Stoke on Trent has been suggested as a suitable partner. My own personal view is that most services should be managed and provided in a coherent area where geographical and cultural distinctions and identity create more accountability and better local investment.

Shropshire Council have recently asked our parish councils to consider and sign a new memorandum of understanding or agreement to look at parish councils providing services more locally. Most of us from time to time think we could do a better job of road repairs or verge cutting but the devil will be in the detail regarding transparency of contracts, legal and liability risks not to mention the dreaded Health & Safety legislation. I hope that some clusters of parish councils look to work together on this or work with neighbouring town councils. From what I hear there is some enthusiasm matched by even more scepticism.

Shropshire Local Plan

The plan is still open for submissions until 2nd October

The 'Call for Sites' provides an opportunity to promote land for consideration as a potential allocation for development in the next Local Plan for Shropshire. It is open to landowners, site promoters, businesses, organisations, developers and any other interested parties.

Sites can be promoted for a range of uses, including but not limited to large-scale sustainable urban extensions or new settlements, mixed-use development, new housing, new employment, new retail and leisure, renewable energy generation, and mineral working.

The next Local Plan for Shropshire will need to respond to the Government's new mandatory housing targets. At some point in 2026 the preferred sites will come forward and be considered by Town and Council Parish Councils on what their communities want.