

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2025 AT
7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL**

138. WELCOME

Cllr Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

139. PRESENT

Cllrs A Richards – Chairman, M Lowndes – Vice Chairman, A Dixon, P Bodimeade, F Turner, J Hartley
Clerk N Green

140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr's R Madeley, E Riley and C Stevenson sent apologies.

141. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

None declared.

142. PUBLIC SESSION

None present.

143. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18TH NOVEMBER 2025

It was proposed by Cllr Lowndes and seconded by Cllr Bodimeade that the minutes of the meeting on the 18th November 2025 be adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true record.

144. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk reviewed the actions from the previous meeting as follows:-

The Clerk reported that both Shropshire Council and Stuart Anderson MP had been written too regarding the Plough Inn appeal decision. Responses had been circulated to the Councillors (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported the HSBC review was ongoing (Action Open).

The Clerk reported that the PC now has a web site address of www.rushburyparishcouncil.gov.uk and it had been circulated via the Honeypot (Action Closed).

The Clerk reported that he had purchased and installed new pads for both of the defibs and that they are in working order. It was suggested that the exact location of the defibs should be identified on the boxes. Clerk to arrange (Action Open).

The Clerk stated that he will arrange for the purchase of a new sticker for the defib box in Longville. He pointed out that due to the age of the box an exact match to the existing sticker is not possible (Action Open).

145. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Richards reported that the Clerk (N Green) had been in position since April and his contract stated he had to be confirmed in post if he had successfully completed a six month probationary period. It was agreed that the Clerk had performed his duties satisfactorily and the Chairman should write to confirm this.

Cllr Richards stated that he had attended the recent Chairs meeting and a number of issues were discussed. (1) Road conditions were the main concern and no one at the meeting could suggest anything other than to continue reporting issues via fix my street. (2) It was highlighted that should an election take place in May (2025) then the fees would be due in the 25/26 financial year. (3) The Shropshire local plan was discussed and it was pointed out that SC have until the end of January to

submit it to the planning inspector. (4) The use of SID's by PC's and that the feedback was positive. (5) There had been a notable increase in fly tipping incidents and that it was the landowners responsibility to remove rubbish.

Shropshire Councillor C Motley arrived 19:42

Cllr Motley stated that the local plan had been going on for five years and they now wanted to rush it through. She said the Gov't had made excessive allocations of house building requirements and that if they bump it up to 2000 properties then they won't have the land supply which currently stands at 4.6 years. She also discussed the issues of cost and infrastructure when building in rural areas.

Cllr Motley explained that they were going to make changes to the recycling centre booking system due to the complexity of the current system.

146. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Motley reported on a number of issues, as follows:-

A recent Gov't consultation has asked for views on whether local Gov't meetings should be allowed to take place online rather than face to face (in exceptional circumstances). A number of Parish Councils had responded and the SC Cabinet discussed the issue. The Cabinet felt that, as is the case now, members dialling in can participate but not vote. Cllr Motley will update the PC when a response is available.

The local Gov't funding settlement – SC had a core funding uplift of 2.84% which amounts to £12m but overall they have lost £20m due in part to the withdrawal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant (£9m). This is opposed to some larger towns (such as Blackpool) who have received a 9-10% uplift. It is unknown what funding SC will receive for social care costs. Cllr Motley highlighted that it appears rural authority areas are losing out to urban areas and that SC had begun a consultation for £8.5m of new saving proposals. These included moving to a three weekly general waste collection and switching off some street lighting. Some care providers had contacted SC and stated they cannot pay the NI increase and asked SC to fund it.

Devolution – Under the Conservative devolution plans authorities required a joint population of at least 500,000 to go for a devolution deal and elect a Mayor. It is possible that the new Gov't may not insist on 500,000 if an authority could demonstrate it is well run and supported. Cllr Motley explained that as SC (population 323,000) is unitary it may not be in the devolution front line as all Counties and District Councils are expected to combine into unitaries. Cllr Motley considers that the resulting unitaries are likely to have a strong rural bias which could be beneficial. However, devolution is unlikely to occur for some time because Telford do not want to join up with Shropshire and it will be difficult to identify an alternative partner.

Cllr Richards stated that we had received concerns from Parishioners concerning the condition of the roads. He asked if there was another avenue to report these matters other than via Fix my Street. Cllr Motley stated that there were limited funds to repair the roads and that a number of personnel had been lost due to budget cuts. It was suggested that Andy Wilde who is the head of Highways could be contacted.

Action – Clerk to contact Andy Wilde concerning Lushcott Lane.

Cllr Motley left the meeting at 20:30.

147. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had no matters to raise than already discussed.

148. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION 25/00075/TPO

Cllr's discussed the application to fell an Acer and reduce the limbs on an Oak and Beech at Stanway Manor and Estate, Rushbury. There were no objections to the application and it was supported on the grounds of safety.

Action – Clerk to update Planning Portal.

149. FINANCIALS

The following list of accompanying invoices were reviewed, Members also received the latest bank reconciliation (Nov / Dec) which brought the accounts to the 31st Dec 2024 to £14,287.44. All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise these payments to be made.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	Clerk Salary (10 months)	LGA 1972 S.112	£2736.50

It was noted that the following invoices had been approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in December (No Parish meeting) and subsequently paid.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	IT data backup	LGA 1972 S.111	£7.20
2	IT data backup	LGA 1292 S.111	£7.20
3	Village hall	LGA 1972 S.133	£16.50
4	Insurance	LGA 1972 S.111	£290.70
5	Defib Pads	LGA 1972 S.111	£180.60

The Clerk stated that the web site provider Hugo Fox now required that payments were made via direct debit. As such a monthly direct debit of £11.99 had been arranged from February onwards.

150. BUDGETARY AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2025/26

The Clerk presented to Councillors the projected expenditure for 2025/26 together with a number of scenarios in relation to the Precept requirement dependent upon the items of expenditure agreed for the year.

Councillors noted the advice from Shropshire Council that to maintain a 0% increase in contribution per household, the level of Precept could be increased to £8,746.00.

Councillors considered the requirements for 2025/26 and projected expenditure. After due consideration it was decided a Precept level of £8,746.00 was to be requested.

Councillor A Dixon proposed and Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the Parish Council request from Shropshire Council the sum of £8,746.00 for the Precept for 2025/26.

Action – Clerk to submit precept request.

151. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated he had received an email from a Parishioner who wanted to highlight the fact that Openreach have won project Gigabit. The project involves the delivery of FTTP broadband to Shropshire towns and villages.

Action – Clerk to circulate via website and respond to Parishioner.

The Clerk stated he had received an email from a Parishioner concerning the icy conditions on the Gilberries Lane junction with the B4371. They were requesting assistance in getting a delivery of road salt which had been requested via fix my street. The Clerk stated that the SC website states it does not grit this lane and that members of the public should use grit from the grit bins to use on public roads and footpaths. The clerk pointed out that there was a grit bin at the other end of Gilberries Lane but the only other bins were at Rushbury Church and Rushbury bank.

Action – Clerk to enquire if grit bins could be located in Wall under Heywood and Longville and to respond to Parishioner.

Councillors discussed the recent correspondence from Atlas Tower and the potential installation of a telecommunications tower at a site in Gilberries Lane. Atlas Tower had requesting comments from the PC concerning the location and proposal. The Clerk was requested to highlight the proposal on the PC website and there was a decision to wait for a formal planning application before taking any further action.

Action – Clerk to action above.

152. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Clerk stated that Cllr Riley wanted it noted that there had been an increase in hare coursing within the Parish over the Christmas period and also an incident of fly tipping in a lay by adjacent to Blackwood Farm.

Cllr Turner stated there had been incidents of anti social driving on Stone Acton Lane every Saturday about 2.30 pm involving two small red cars.

Action – Clerk to notify local Police.

153. PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Richards stated that the Millenium Green Trust insurance had been paid by the PC in December, as agreed. He explained that the Policy is currently registered at the previous PC Clerk's address and has a number of endorsements that should be adhered to. The Clerk stated that he had attempted to alter the address but the NFU could not do this because he was not a trustee. The Clerk suggested that the policy is recorded under an address of a trustee and a copy of the policy is forwarded. Cllr Turner is a trustee and suggested the policy could be emailed to herself and the trust secretary.

Action – Clerk to forward a copy of the policy.

154. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The election (May 2025) process is to be placed on the agenda.

155. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 17th February 2025 at the Committee Room, Rushbury Village Hall.

Cllr A Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

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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.