

# ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: [astleypc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:astleypc@hotmail.co.uk)

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## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 7.00pm on 20 November at Astley Village Hall

**Present:** Parish Councillors K Lloyd (Chair), E Bedell, H Mardell (Vice-Chair), R Peate, K Sumner, D Williams, Shropshire Councillor L Picton and Flt Sgt A Foxall

**Clerk:** Lisa Harris

### 51.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S Robinson.

### 52.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) Councillor Peate declared a pecuniary interest in 58.24 and would therefore temporarily leave the meeting while the relevant planning application was discussed.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

**53.24 Public Participation Session** - *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

No members of the public were present.

### 54.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 September 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

**It was proposed** by Councillor Mardell and seconded by Councillor Williams and  
**resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 September be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

### 55.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 25 September 2024

- Updated website with relevant news features and the Christmas Carol Concert event being put on by RAF Shawbury. Overhauled the page on dog owner etiquette.
- The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 has finally been agreed and the increase is to be backdated to April.
- Lloyds have allowed parish councils with a budget of under £25,000 pa to hold a "Treasurers Account" which incurs no fees. However, commencing January 2025, Treasurers Accounts will cease to exist and will be replaced with a Community Account for which there will be a monthly charge of £4.25 with additional charges for certain

transactions.

- Chased WSP for an update on the A53 speed reduction and received a response saying “We will be commencing the legal statutory consultation for the proposed 50mph speed limit shortly, but we are awaiting a date.”
- Spoke to Planning at Shropshire Council to see what the delay is with a decision on planning application 24/02095/FUL (Shrewsbury Selfstore). Advised that additional reports had been requested of the applicant. These had now been received and a decision should be forthcoming.
- Prepared the half year financial review and possible 2025/26 budget to be discussed at 57.24.

## 56.24 To receive reports from

### a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Picton presented a report which covered:

- **Finance**

Shropshire Council’s financial position at the end of Quarter 2 has seen a marginal improvement on Q1. Finance is still very tight, and all efforts are being made to bring down the current overspend by the end of the 24/25 financial year.

Following the Government’s Autumn Statement on 30 October we are not expecting an uplift in the funding settlement. You may hear of an extra £600m for Social Care but these funds (Burdens Funding) are to cover NHS/Local Government increased National Insurance costs. Sadly, there is no burdens funding for all our third-party providers, such as providers of domiciliary care, nursing homes staff, waste etc. The companies will have to find the additional costs themselves and they will then, in turn, approach Shropshire Council – creating a vicious circle.

- **Devolution**

The Government will be publishing a white paper at the end of this month which will pave the way for the fundamental changes they will be making to Local Government. Whilst various snippets have been released the County Council Network understands that these changes will/could include the creation of new Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and new unitary authorities signalling the demise of district councils.

It has been mooted that the role of Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished with this role being undertaken by the Mayor of the MCA. Similarly, the Mayor would become the Chair of the Integrated Health System, paving the way for Social Care (not sure if this includes Children’s Social Care as it hasn’t been mentioned) to also be subsumed into either the NHS or controlled by the MCA. MCA’s already control transport, economic growth etc and it is being suggested that housing and strategic planning will also be part of the MCA role. The Strategic Planning function would include spacial planning i.e. the development of a regional growth plan to replace the current Local Plan that is drawn up by top tier authorities. The planning function would also determine significant applications such as wind, solar, roads and large developments.

By the December meeting will know more, we may even know which other authority(s) the Government will place Shropshire with. It isn’t an opt in, it will be

mandatory.

- **Shropshire's Local Plan**

We were extremely surprised and disappointed when we received the letter from the Planning Inspectorate telling us that they were halting current proceedings. They have said they will outline their reasons why in a follow up letter. It is felt that the doubling of our housing target could well have something to do with this as it has happened in two other authorities whose numbers have doubled and who were at a similar stage.

- **Government Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Meetings**

A consultation has been launched on possible changes to the rules regarding attendance at local authority meetings. This isn't really a situation where one size fits all. For upper tier authorities it would seem sensible that in general, voting members should be in the room with special dispensations possibly made in specific circumstances.

With regards to town and parish councils, some councils currently operate a hybrid system where members of the public can join remotely and ask questions if they so wish. Other councils do not or cannot. Of course, it relies on access to the internet being available and having the equipment to be able to offer a hybrid solution. Whatever your thoughts are, you might wish to take part in the consultation.

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings)

*[Councillor Picton left the meeting after presenting her report]*

**b) RAF Shawbury**

Flight Sergeant Foxall presented the following report:

- **Night Flying** - The next night flying period is due to continue until 5 December. Night flying periods are usually for seven weeks with three weeks in between periods. There will be posts on the RAF Shawbury Facebook/X advising on the night flying periods and we are grateful for the tolerance of this essential training. There is also information on the RAF Shawbury webpage with contact details for complaints or concerns. Night flying will commence typically 30 minutes after sunset and may continue until 02:30.
- **Helicopter Liaison Group** - The Helicopter Liaison Group, previously known as the Helicopter Noise Liaison Group, administered by Shropshire Council, has now been replaced by a 6-monthly newsletter which will be distributed to all Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin town and parish councils. The first newsletter has been distributed to 180 town/parish councils. There will still be options for regional groups to be addressed by appropriate RAF Shawbury executives if warranted. Hopefully, everyone has seen the latest copy. A reminder of contacts for RAF Shawbury if there are concerns, which are also on the Station webpages on the RAF Website:

Website: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/>

Low Flying Complaints Email: [SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk](mailto:SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk)

Low Flying Complaints Telephone: 01939 251712

Engagement and Media general enquiries Email:

[SHY-EngagementMediaTeam@modgovuk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:SHY-EngagementMediaTeam@modgovuk.onmicrosoft.com)

- **Upcoming Events** - We are pleased to announce this year's Christmas Concert which will be in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on Tuesday 3 December. Entry will be free but registration for tickets on EventBrite is essential and paper or electronic copies will need to be shown to gain entry. [Royal Air Force Shawbury Christmas Carol Concert Tickets, Tue 3 Dec 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Airfield Works Programme** - The airfield's work programme is progressing well. These works will maintain the airfield operating surfaces for many more years to ensure our flying training continues. Where possible the main contractor is sub-contracting local companies to bring benefit to the local area and lower the carbon footprint wherever possible
- **Hi-Viz for Horse Riders** – Our recent restock of hi-viz has all been allocated and will be distributed over the next few days. Watch our social media posts (Facebook and X) or website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/flying-info/>, "RAF Shawbury High Visibility Campaign – Be Seen Be Safer", for further information.
- **Drones** - If anyone flies a drone/model aircraft locally we recommend checking the Drone Code which is available on the CAA website. There are restrictions near all airfields, civil and military, regarding the flying of drones and model aircraft. <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code>
- **Aries Magazine** - The Autumn edition (2024 Edition 3) is available online at the link - <https://www.rafmags.co.uk/>. Edition 4 is due to be available in early December.
- **Course Community Projects** - We are always keen to hear of new ideas for Community Projects. Typically, our trainees are available to help for a day. Please be flexible with dates as time for course projects is timetabled and we cannot easily change dates.

## 57.24 Current financial matters

### a) Payments

| Payee         | Description                             | Amount           |
|---------------|---|------------------|
| Miss L Harris | Clerk's expenses October/November       | £ 51.75          |
| Miss L Harris | Clerk's salary October/November         | £ 903.62         |
| HMRC          | PAYE on Clerk's salary October/November | £ 286.82         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |   | <b>£ 1233.19</b> |

It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd and seconded by Councillor Mardell and

**resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

### b) Bank reconciliation to 13 November 2024

The bank was reconciled at £10,899.28, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

### c) Half year accounts and review

The Clerk presented the receipts and payments account up to the end of September 2024 and a projection to the end of the year. Costs for the full year are projected to align with the budget for 2024/25. The precept to be claimed from Shropshire Council and the 2025/26

budget will be discussed in full at January's meeting.

## 58.24 Planning

### 1. Decisions to note

**a. Ref: 23/05460/FUL**

Address: Norton House Bings Heath Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DA

Description: Discharge of conditions 3 (Joinery) and 4 (bat and bird boxes) relating to planning permission 23/05460/FUL

Validated: 01 Oct 2024

Status: Granted

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

**b. Ref: 24/03259/TCA**

Address: Applegarth Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 3DB

Description: Remove failed stem and reduce back crown overhanging property by up to 2m of 1no Yew within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 24 Aug 2024

Status: No Objection

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

**c. Ref: 24/03276/FUL**

Address: Toledo Bings Heath Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DA

Description: Single storey rear extension

Validated: 27 Aug 2024

Status: Granted

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

### 2. Planning applications for consideration

**a. Ref: 24/02095/FUL**

Address: Shrewsbury Selfstore Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 3DB

Description: Proposed industrial/commercial development and all associated works

Validated: 30 May 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

*[Councillor Peate temporarily left the meeting]*

**b. Ref: 24/03985/FUL**

Address: The Firs Farm Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire

Description: Proposed Farm Building

Validated: 16 Oct 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

*[Councillor Peate rejoined the meeting]*

**c. Ref: 23/04146/FUL**

Address: Proposed Development Land North of Greenfields Bings Heath Astley Shropshire

Description: Discharge of Condition 3 (Drainage) relating to Planning Permission 23/04120/FUL

Validated: 29 Oct 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

**d. Ref: 24/04235/TCA**

Address: The Drift House Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Fell 7no Leyland Cypress (T1, T5, T6 & T8), 1no Hornbeam (T2), 1no Amelanchier (T7), 2no Silver Birch (T11&12), 1no Contorted Willow (T14) and 1no Horse Chestnut (T16), crown reduce by up to 30% and shape 1no Hornbeam (T3), 1no Laburnum (T9), 1no Silver Birch (T10), 1no Purple Maple (T13), by up to 20% 1no Twisted Hazel (T15) & reduce height by 2m of 1no Hawthorn (T4) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 6 Nov 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

No objections nor comments were recorded on the above planning applications. However, an objection was previously submitted regarding application 24/02095/FUL.

**59.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors**

- Councillor Bedell confirmed that both defibrillators are ready to use as and when required. The Circuit is updated accordingly on a regular basis.
- Councillor Lloyd expressed her thanks to RAF Shawbury for inviting her to their Annual Reception on 26 September. She had recently taken part in a webinar with Freedom Fibre. It is anticipated that the whole parish will have connectivity by March 2025. Further information can be found here [Project Gigabit North Shropshire | Freedom Fibre](#)
- Councillor Sumner had recently attended (virtually) the SALC-organised "Fundamentals for Councillors" training and had found it informative and useful.
- Councillor Williams expressed his disappointment that despite parishioners attending the September meeting to complain about the dangerous state of Astley Lane following potato harvesting, and the Parish Council subsequently escalating the issue to Shropshire Council, nothing had actually happened about cleaning up the mess. All councillors were in agreement that this was a wholly unsatisfactory situation. *[This appears to be a countywide issue as highlighted in this article [Warning issued over muddy roads after cyclist is injured](#)]*

**60.24 Highway matters**

- A53 speed reduction - see 55.24.
- A53 heading in direction of Shawbury, the first road sign after the Upper Astley turn is obscured with detritus possibly lost from passing lorries using the route.

**ACTION:** Clerk to report on FixMyStreet

- Councillor Lloyd had previously reported on FixMyStreet a missing tonnage sign close to the Astley/Haughton crossroads. Had recently received notification that this had been

investigated and the sign would not be replaced.

- Safety concerns were raised regarding the regular updating of information on the Parish Council noticeboard on the A49 at Upper Battlefield. It was agreed that permanent notices containing the most pertinent information (such as website address, clerk's email, time and frequency of meetings) would be placed there.

**ACTION:** Clerk to prepare notices.

**61.24 Correspondence**

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

**62.24 Future agenda items**

- Report on condition of bus shelter

**63.24 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 15 January 2025, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed by Chairman: .....

Date: 15 January 2025