

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: Clerk@astleyshropshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 7.00pm on 19 March 2025 at Astley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors K Lloyd (Chair), E Bedell, H Mardell (Vice-Chair), R Peate, S Robinson, D Williams and Shropshire Councillor L Picton.

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Also present: 2 members of the public

78.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor K Sumner and Flt Sgt A Foxall.

79.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) Councillor Peate declared an interest in 85.25 but as the application to discharge conditions has been granted since the agenda was issued, this is now a moot point.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

80.24 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.*

One member of the public spoke of their concerns regarding safely exiting Upper Astley onto the A53 and also exiting Astley Lane onto the A49. A request was made that consideration is given to purchasing highway visibility mirrors to help the situation.

Mr Bill Rowland introduced himself as being a candidate standing for the Tern Division in the forthcoming elections following Councillor Picton's decision not to stand for re-election. After his brief introduction Mr Rowland left the meeting.

81.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 January 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

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

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 January be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

82.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 15 January 2025

- Updated website with relevant information – Freedom Fibre's community engagement event at Hadnall Village Hall, Avian 'flu update, and advice on winter maintenance. This advice was given following a recent request for a salt bin from a parishioner. Shropshire Council had advised that no further salt bins will be provided in the county. A new page has been created on the website under Community Information giving full details about

gritting and salting.

- Applied to Shropshire Council for a precept of £10,155 by the 31 January deadline.
- Advised internal auditor applicants of the outcome of the selection process.
- Received application packs for forthcoming elections on 1 May which were distributed at the meeting.
- Problems with new email client provided by HugoFox for .gov.uk email addresses: Spacemail has a very basic interface which lacks functionality. Clerk has many hundreds of emails dating back several years and there is no facility to sort or filter emails. This is not currently a workable situation and Spacemail have advised that they are making improvements imminently.
- Spoke to Planning Officers at Shropshire Council about incorrect assignment to Astley Parish of planning application 24/04834/FUL - Construction of 45 dwellings, vehicular access via Shrewsbury Road, school car park, public open space, landscaping and planting, associated infrastructure and enabling works. Subsequently reassigned to Hadnall Parish.
- Prepared the Parish Council's entry for next edition of Hadnall & Astley News.
- Responded to parishioner's email requesting traffic safety mirrors at the Upper Astley junction with the A53. Since the initial response was sent, further research has been conducted. Shropshire Council is not currently accepting any applications for highway visibility mirrors and its relevant awarding policy states:

"The Policy takes account of the following factors:

1. The image that a driver sees in the mirror of an approaching vehicle appears to indicate that the vehicle is straight ahead, when it is in fact around a corner.
2. Reflective glare is a danger, particularly when reflected lights of passing vehicles tend to sweep across the vision of a driver waiting in a side road, or access, temporarily dazzling him/her.
3. The image in a mirror may be obscured or distorted by rain, snow, frost or condensation.
4. It is most difficult to judge the speed and distances of an approaching vehicle from the reflected image in a mirror.
5. Mirrors are affected by wear and tear and, in certain locations, may be prone to vandalism. Any minor misalignment of a mirror will result in serious distortion of the image. In some circumstances, misalignment may result in no image of an approaching vehicle whatsoever.
6. The erection of mirrors in the highway is not considered to be in the overall interests of road safety. Even when visibility is severely restricted, it is always considered preferable for a driver to rely on his/her own direct observations in negotiating hazards, rather than rely on possibly misleading artificial aids such as mirrors."

83.24 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Picton presented a brief update which covered:

- **Budget** – The budget for 2025/26 has now been set and further savings must be made as the Government settlement had not been what was expected and

Shropshire Council ended up £28M worse off than in the previous year. The financial pressures being faced are due to the removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which previously provided funding to offset the extra costs of delivering services in rural areas, and a reduction in social care funding.

- **Local Plan** – Shropshire Council was given the choice by the inspectors to either withdraw the Local Plan or have it failed. It will therefore be withdrawn when Full Council next meets in July. Shropshire Council will go out with “a call for sites” (an opportunity for landowners, developers, and individuals to suggest areas for potential future development) but not until after the elections. Shropshire Council is vulnerable to speculative development, regardless of whether there is a Local Plan or not, as there is no 5-year land supply. Currently there is a 4.73-year land supply but hopefully with a couple of applications that have just come in, and two that have just been passed, it will increase to a 5-year land supply which would prevent the speculative development.
- **Retirement** – Councillor Picton said that it had been an honour and privilege to serve the people of the Tern Division and that she had particularly enjoyed her time working with Astley Parish Council. But that after 42 years working in the Public Service it was time for her to step down and retire.

On behalf of Astley Parish Council, the Chairman thanked Councillor Picton for her years of dedicated service. All agreed that she had been a wonderful advocate for the parish, was a constant source of help and guidance, would be terribly missed and a hard act to follow. She wished her a long and happy retirement and this sentiment was echoed by the rest of the Parish Councillors. The Clerk expressed her personal thanks to Councillor Picton for all the help and support she had received which had greatly assisted in the carrying out of her duties.

[After the meeting a small celebration took place where Councillor Picton was presented with a thank you gift from the Parish Councillors personally.]

b) RAF Shawbury

Although Flight Sergeant Foxall was not able to attend the meeting, he had submitted his report in advance:

- **Night Flying** - The next period commences on 31 March and is planned to 15 May. 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 latest Helicopter Liaison Group Newsletter (No1 of 2025) has been issued and should be distributed to all Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Town and Parish Councils. There are options for regional groups to be addressed by appropriate RAF Shawbury executives if warranted.
- **Upcoming Events** - Landowners' and Rider Awareness Day will be held on 22 May. Invitations have gone out to the supporting Landowners and Horse Riders Groups.
- **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** –Watch our social media posts (Facebook and X) or website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/flying-info/>, for information on our High Visibility Campaign for 2025. Our next delivery is expected in May.
- **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 Spring edition (2025 Edition 1) is available online at the link - <https://www.rafmags.co.uk/>
- **Course Community Projects** - We are always interested about ideas for Community Projects. Usually our trainees are available to help for a day and will provide a willing workforce, but tools and equipment would need to be provided. Please be flexible with dates as time for course projects is timetabled.
- **Combat Stress and Digging History UK Request** - The charity Combat Stress have teamed up with Digging History UK to raise funds through metal detecting events. They are looking for land that they can use for their metal detecting events. If any landowners could help they can contact Combat Stress through the Engagement and Media Team at RAF Shawbury or direct to Combat Stress - rosie.gibbons@combatstress.org.uk
- **RAF Shawbury Contacts and Website**

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

Low Flying Complaints Email: SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk

Low Flying Complaints Telephone: 01939 251712

Engagement and Media general enquiries Email:

SHY-EngagementMediaTeam@modgovuk.onmicrosoft.com

84.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses February & March 2025	£ 42.75
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary February & March 2025	£ 832.84
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary February & March 2025	£ 208.20
TOTAL		£ 1083.79

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 12 March 2025

The bank was reconciled at £8,994.25, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

85.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

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: Refused

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

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 25/00391/DIS

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

Description: Discharge of Conditions 9 (Close Existing Access), 10 (Bat and Bird Boxes), 11 (Lighting), 12 (External Materials) and 13 (Landscaping) relating to Planning Permission 23/04120/FUL

Validated: 04 Feb 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

b. Ref: 25/00488/DIS

Address: Wynnstay Group Plc Astley Park Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4RT

Description: Discharge of condition 5 (drainage) relating to planning permission 24/01062/OUT

Validated: 10 Feb 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

c. Ref: 25/00503/DIS

Address: Proposed Commercial Conversion Of Barn South East Of Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire *(NB since amended on Planning Portal to be The Firs Farm Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire)*

Description: Discharge of Conditions 4 (Bat and Bird Boxes) and 5 (Lighting Plan) relating to Planning Permission 24/03985/FUL

Validated: 10 Feb 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

d. Ref: 25/00591/FUL

Address: The Old School Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Erection of a wooden gazebo with a pitched tiled roof over existing octagonal paving slabs

Validated: 17 Feb 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

e. Ref: 25/00473/FUL

Address: The Hatch Hatch Lane Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BN

Description: Alterations to existing annex to create swimming pool and games room with render and cladding added externally, extensions to existing dwelling including raising of roofline, external alterations

Validated: 10 Mar 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

By the time of the meeting, application 25/00503/DIS had been granted. Due to an initial coding issue with application 24/03985/FUL, the address had been incorrectly detailed as "Proposed Commercial Conversion Of Barn South East Of Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire". However, following the application validation, the Clerk contacted the relevant Planning Officer at Shropshire Council and queried the address. The address for application 24/03985/FUL was subsequently amended on the Planning Portal to read "The Firs Farm Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire". Unfortunately, application 25/00503/DIS is linked to the coding for application 24/03985/FUL and again the address detailed was "Proposed Commercial Conversion Of Barn South East Of Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire". Following the meeting the Planning Portal was amended and now shows the address correctly as "The Firs Farm Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire".

No further comments were recorded on the above planning applications.

86.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Bedell reported that the landowner (Mr C Jones) had done a great job in replacing smart new wooden railings on both sides of the bus shelter.
- The Parish Council wished to put on record its thanks to Mr Jones on behalf of the entire parish for carrying out this work.
- As the Parish Council/Village Hall Liaison, Councillor Sumner had attended the Village Hall Management Committee Meeting on 22 January and had submitted her report which follows.

The Village Hall Management Committee:

- is pleased to have a Parish Council liaison providing a link/support from the Parish Council;
- is looking to extend the car park, on to space where the shed was;
- is working on fundraising events. Quiz nights are successful both as a means of fundraising; and bringing the community together. The next quiz night is on 11 April;
- held a ceilidh on 8 March. Despite there being concern before the event regarding ticket sales, it turned out to be supported and a small profit was made;
- is planning a Spring fayre for 17 May;
- is continuing to promote indoor games e.g. table tennis;
- request the Parish Council checks the postcode on the defibrillator sited at the Village Hall.

87.24 Highway matters

Councillor Lloyd had reported, via FixMyStreet (ref 14169091), three raised manhole covers on the verge outside the property "Brentwood" on the A53, creating a serious trip hazard. Councillor Picton advised the Clerk who to highlight this dangerous issue with at Shropshire

Council.

88.24 Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

89.24 Future agenda items

None

90.24 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2025, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 14 May 2025