

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@astleyshropshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 21 January 2026 at Astley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors K Lloyd (Chair), H Mardell, S Robinson, K Sumner, D Williams

Clerk: Lisa Harris

No members of the public were present

64.25 Apologies for Absence

Councillor E Bedell and Shropshire Councillor B Mallon

65.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

66.25 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.

67.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 November 2025

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

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

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 November 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

68.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 19 November 2025

- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information.
- Submitted objections to planning applications [25/03521/FUL](#) and [25/03904/FUL](#).
- Emailed Shropshire Council Highways asking for an update on the A53 speed reduction scheme. Received a response that the work has now commenced with directional signs currently being replaced. It was still hoped that the scheme would be completed this financial year.
- Advised Elections at Shropshire Council of the immediate resignation of former Councillor Robert Peate. The legal public notice of the casual vacancy was published by both Shropshire Council and Astley Parish Council on their respective websites. Once the requisite period had elapsed, the Electoral Registration Officer confirmed that a by-election would not be necessary, and the Parish Council could now co-opt into the vacancy. An

advert has been placed on the website.

- Reported the broken sign in Upper Astley on FixMyStreet. Notified by Shropshire Council that the repair has been scheduled. Received an email from the parishioner who originally advised of the issue expressing thanks for registering the broken sign.
- Transferred the £200 donation towards the repair costs of St Mary's Church clock and received a note of thanks from the Treasurer of the PCC.

69.25 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Brendan Mallon was unable to attend but had submitted the following report to be read in his absence:

- **Shrewsbury Station Gyrotory**

There is as yet no permanent resolution to this problem although there have been suggestions that the emergency services will be permitted to enter the cycle lane, with the bollards removed, which sounds safe....

According to traffic data we have accessed from Shrewsbury Moves' Telraam system, year-on-year, traffic on Castle Foregate travelling at 6 mph or less has increased by 657% and across town by 128%. Despite installing a new cycle lane alongside the existing cycle path, two-wheeled traffic on Castle Foregate is down 31%, Wyle Cop 29% and Smithfield 33%. So clearly something has gone very wrong here.

I submitted a question to the Full Council meeting last month, seeking clarification on what data or modelling has been used to justify these works and the works to come under the 'Big Town Plan' and whether their assumptions are still valid. The response from the Administration, as well as from the Shrewsbury BID (Business Improvement District) has been to claim that these works were nothing to do with the Big Town Plan, or 'Shrewsbury Moves'. Having extensively studied both documents it would seem otherwise with both the gyrotory being very much in line with the Chester Street 'Traffic Loop' and the Castle Gates Cycle Lane (incorporating the infamous floating bus stop) also clearly part of these plans.

- **Uffington and Upton Magna Battery Energy Storage Site (BESS) Proposals**

Uffington PC, local campaigners and I were all very disappointed by the approval of that planning application last month, however events on the national stage have developed to our advantage with regard to this and the upcoming Upton Magna proposals.

On the 8 December 2025, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) announced a moratorium on all new BESS sites. This is due to an oversupply of BESS applications already in the system constituting four times the capacity required by 2030 and sufficient to meet requirements all the way out to 2035. As such, they have issued a list of sites that have been 'protected', that is sites that can be commissioned in 2026 and into 2027 and therefore will be permitted to be connected to the National Grid. All other sites must wait until 2035 to be connected. Neither Uffington nor the proposed site near Upton Magna are on that protected list.

While this near ten-year moratorium may dissuade investors and developers pursuing these applications further, we are now concerned about the possibility of developers getting permission, starting token development within three years and then leaving a building site for six years or so before working to completion. Clearly we don't want to see this in our local landscapes. I am working to get further clarification on council policy, although the planning department have already stated that they do not consider this to be a material planning consideration.

- **The Future of Shirehall**

At the last Full Council meeting in December, the administration attempted to rush through a motion to approve the complete demolition and mixed-use redevelopment of the Shirehall site. My colleagues with support from other parties managed to achieve a temporary stay on this motion, pending a rapid, cross-party ‘Task and Finish’ group to assess the relative merits of the options to partially or completely retain the site, with questions over the relative costing estimates supplied to us... While aesthetically the Shirehall complex is not everyone’s cup of tea, this is a purpose-built facility that is structurally sound (despite some vague claims to the contrary) and could be commissioned with relatively light refurbishment. By contrast, the Guildhall is too small, doesn’t have a suitable Council Chamber and is in need of investment in structural refurbishment (it leaks a lot!), despite being a much younger building. I would welcome your thoughts on what the future of Shirehall should look like.

Brendan Mallon
Councillor for Tern

b) RAF Shawbury

No report was available at the meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to contact RAF Shawbury and request that, in order to maintain a relationship between the base and the local community, a report is received for future parish council meetings.

70.25 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s expenses December/January	£ 77.75
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s salary December/January	£ 859.52
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary December/January	£ 214.80
Shropshire Council	Election charge May 2025	£ 125.00
TOTAL		£ 1277.07

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 January 2026

The bank was reconciled at £11,730.39, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

c) Budget and Precept 2026/27

The Clerk had prepared a proposed budget for 2026/27. This was considered in detail, as were the various precept options.

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

Resolved

that the precept claim for 2026/27 remains at £10,155. Astley Parish Council has worked hard to keep operational costs as low as possible and therefore this is the same precept as was claimed for the 2025/26 financial year. It is noted that due to being in dire financial straits, Shropshire Council is asking all town and parish councils to take over the responsibility for any services they feel they could adopt and increase their precepts accordingly in order to fund. This is demonstrated by Shrewsbury Town Council taking over

services such as street cleaning in the town and therefore having to increase their precept by 94%. It is likely that any road signs in the Parish that require replacing in the future, will need to be funded by the Parish Council precept.

ACTION: Clerk to apply to Shropshire Council for a precept of £10,155 by the 31 January deadline.

71.25 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 25/03904/FUL

Address: Walton Cottage Ebrey Wood Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DE

Description: Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extensions

Validated: 17 Oct 2025

Status: Refused

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

b. Ref: 25/04014/DIS

Address: Church House Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Discharge of Conditions 3 (Materials), 4 (Roof Construction), 5 (External Joinery), 6 (Brick and Bond), 7 (Roof Construction), 8 (Roof Materials) and 9 (External Fittings) of planning permission 25/02862/LBC

Validated: 24 Oct 2025

Status: Granted

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

c. Ref: 25/04012/DIS

Address: Church House Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Discharge of Condition 3 (Bird and Bat Boxes) of planning permission 25/02861/FUL

Validated: 24 Oct 2025

Status: Granted

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

d. Ref: 25/04075/TCA

Address: 22 Astley Court Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DG

Description: Fell 2no Cherry (T1&T2), trim back to previous pruning points approx. 1m hedge of Leylandii (H3) & fell 1no Pear (T4) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 30 Oct 2025

Status: Consent By Right – Trees

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

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 25/03521/FUL

Address: Shrewsbury Selfstore Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 3DB

Description: Proposed industrial/commercial development and all associated works

Validated: 06 Oct 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

b. Ref: 25/04026/FUL

Address: 2 Model Cottages Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BW

Description: Creation of a new access from the main classified highway to and from newly installed driveway

Validated: 18 Nov 2025

Status: Pending Consideration (Refused since agenda published)

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

c. Ref: 25/04738/FUL

Address: Wildwood Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4AA

Description: Erection of a rear extension, construction of a new porch, and loft conversion with associated works

Validated: 16 Dec 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

d. Ref: 25/04886/FUL

Address: Land To The East Of Heathside Bings Heath Astley Shropshire

Description: Proposed agricultural building for storage of agricultural equipment/machinery and fodder for livestock

Validated: 05 Jan 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

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

It was agreed that a neutral position would be taken on planning application 25/04886/FUL with a comment submitted to Shropshire Council that while Astley Parish Council does not object in principle, assurance is sought that a condition be imposed on any approval to ensure that this is not a precursor to a possible future application changing this proposed building on agricultural land into residential property.

ACTION: Clerk to submit comment on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal.

72.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Bedell (update provided by email as unable to attend meeting):
 - Checks had been performed on the defibrillators and both appliances were ready to use as and when required. The Circuit has been updated.
 - Had been in contact with Mike Blakemore and Michelle Docherty, directors of Condoover College Limited (CCL), who wished to extend their thanks to the residents of Bings Heath

for their patience and understanding whilst the building works were being carried out at Greenfields. They apologised profusely for the recent disturbance caused by a large digger which had been working unacceptably late. They explained that this was not a contractor employed by them but was work being performed by a utility company and they had received no prior notice that this would be happening. In order to try and help with safety on the A53 in that area, they would be applying to have school warning signs erected at the location. If permission was granted by Shropshire Council then CCL would fund the works.

- Councillor Sumner:
 - Attended the recent Village Hall Committee Meeting, acting as the Parish Council liaison. They are still looking to extend the carpark in April and currently seeking clarification on whether planning permission is required. Health & Safety measures were being introduced such as event risk assessments if they were going to run an event themselves and the first aid kit on site had been updated. Councillor Sumner will be supporting this work. They are working on the website to promote the venue. The next quiz is scheduled for 20 February and the Spring Fair will provisionally take place on 16 May.
- Councillor Lloyd:
 - Two planning applications relating to trees in the Astley Conservation Area had been posted on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal since the agenda had been published. One of the applications concerned trees on her property and it was regrettable that this application (submitted by her contractor) had been validated too late for inclusion on the agenda.

It was agreed (without opposition)

that it was unnecessary to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss these applications further.

73.25 Correspondence

- Email received regarding speeding on the A53. Clerk advised that as the road is managed by Shropshire Council and it is the only authority with any jurisdiction over it, then the resident needed to contact Shropshire Councillor Brendan Mallon as parish councils just do not have any powers to deal with such matters. Astley Parish Council has reached the limits of what it can do having campaigned tirelessly to get a speed reduction on the A53, with work on the scheme now started and hopefully will be completed before the end of the financial year.

74.25 Future agenda items

None.

75.25 Date of next meeting

Monday 2 March 2026, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8 .02pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 2 March 2026