

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@astleyshropshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 2 March 2026 at Astley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors K Lloyd (Chair), E Bedell H Mardell, S Robinson, K Sumner, D Williams and Shropshire Councillor B Mallon

Clerk: Lisa Harris

16 members of the public were present

76.25 Apologies for Absence

None

77.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

78.25 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.

Serious concerns were raised by members of the public present about planning application 26/00188/OUT and the potential detrimental effect it could have on Astley Parish, and more specifically Albrightlee, in terms of traffic and highway safety should approval be granted for the development to go ahead.

[The next items were moved up the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman to facilitate a better flow of the meeting.]

81.25 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Brendan Mallon presented the following report:

“Shrewsbury Station Gyrotory

There is no resolution to this predicament as yet, however I have seen a recent letter from Shropshire Fire and Rescue to the Council in the wake of the recent tragic fire. They state that they were able to respond to this incident quickly, due to it being later on at night, however this would have not been possible during the current daytime traffic conditions in the Gyrotory, emphasising the necessity of a practical solution. We will continue to push for such a solution at Committee and in Council.

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

There is not much further news on either of these. Uffington PC are lobbying the Canal and Rivers Trust who own the access to the land with regards some of the poor assumes about feasibility and legality of site access both during construction and for Emergency Services. As for Upton Magna, their consultation period keeps getting extended, which

may indicate that the new national policy on BESS connections may have given pause ...

The Future of Shirehall

After a successful “Task and Finish” investigation into future options for Shirehall, the report was discussed at Full Council last week. The risks and costs of demolition and redevelopment were highlighted, and any decision will be deferred, pending future analysis of the site’s potential and the viability of refurbishment, amongst many other factors. It is vital that the best value solution is arrived at methodically.

8.99% Council Tax Rise and Exceptional Financial Support

You will by now be aware of the unprecedented 8.99% council tax rise announced at last week’s Full Council, as well as the grant of Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) of £192.8 million over this and next financial years. The EFS is a loan and thus the repayments will be an extra burden on taxpayers in coming years on top of the 8.99% which will of course compound over subsequent tax rises. While there is broad cross-party agreement that this was very much the fault of the previous administration and some of my Council colleagues and I voiced concern that more was not being done to improve income through collection of arrears and cut costs through better fraud investigation and the possibility of suspending or deferring some Net Zero measures. We identified at least £10 million in decarbonisation costs in the current financial year. That is over £90 on the average Council Tax bill or roughly half of the 8.99% increase. Other UK councils have done exactly this, yet when I raised the motion, the debate was quickly shut down.....

Battlefield Housing Development

I have been particularly impressed by the well-reasoned and researched comments submitted to the planning portal. I look forward to discussing this further tonight and I am accompanied by my colleagues, Councillors Hancock-Davis and Rowley to listen to your concerns about this development.”

Brendan Mallon
Councillor for Tern

83.25 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. 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: Refused

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

b. Ref: 26/00098/TCA

Address: Church House Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Fell 2no Oak (T1&T4), 1no Beech (T2) and 2no Norway Spruce (G3) & crown reduce by 30% 1no Maple (T5) and 1no Walnut (T6) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 13 Jan 2026

Status: Consent By Right – Trees

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

c. Ref: 26/00097/TCA

Address: Ten To Three Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Reduce to 3m in height 2no Holly Hedges within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 13 Jan 2026

Status: Consent By Right – Trees

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

d. 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: Granted

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 (notification that application has now been granted received after the meeting)

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

b. 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](#)

c. Ref: 26/00438/TCA

Address: Applegarth Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: G1 Lawson Cypress – Reduce section back to previous pruning points (approx. 2m) from 1no. group of Lawson Cypress (G1) and fell 2no. Lawson Cypress (G2) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 06 Feb 2026

Status: Consent By Right – Trees

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

NOT IN THE PARISH:

d. Ref: 26/00188/OUT

Address: Land To The South East Of Battlefield Roundabout Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire

Description: Outline application for up to 570 new homes, land for a single form-of-entry primary school, a local centre with a total floorspace of no more than 500m2 (gross) town centre uses (Class E) and additional community uses, vehicular access from the A53 through the provision of a new roundabout, enhanced footpath links, and open space, with all matters reserved other than access

Validated: 04 Feb 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

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

At January’s meeting it had been agreed that a neutral position would be taken on planning application 25/04886/FUL and a comment had previously been submitted on the Planning Portal.

After a full discussion, taking into account the strength of public feeling:

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

that a comprehensive objection would be submitted regarding planning application 26/00188/OUT.

ACTION: Clerk to submit an objection on Shropshire Council’s Planning Portal detailing material considerations to explain why such a development would:

- result in further highway safety concerns within the Parish;
- be an unsustainable location with a lack of public and active transport;
- harm the landscape character and settlement separation;
- negatively impact on wildlife;
- have significant access constraints;
- severely impact the road network;
- result in the loss of BVM agricultural land;
- be an archaeological risk;
- put further pressure on already stretched schools and healthcare services.

The Chair asked to put on record, thanks to the Clerk for the research carried out into planning application 26/00188/OUT.

79.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2026

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

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

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2026 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

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

- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information.
- Submitted objection (neutral stance) to planning application [25/04886/FUL](#)
- Advised Shropshire Council of precept requirement prior to 31 January 2026 deadline.
- Carried out extensive research on planning application 26/00188/OUT in preparation for submitting comment on behalf of Astley Parish Council.
- Contacted RAF Shawbury to discuss the ongoing relationship between the base and the Parish Council. A volunteer had been found to represent RAF Shawbury at future meeting and if they were not available a report would be submitted in advance for inclusion in the minutes.
- Emailed a complaint to the Rights of Way Enforcement Officer at Shropshire Council regarding the motocross event which had taken place in Bings Heath on Sunday 25 January. Was advised that evidentiary photographs and the email would be forwarded to West Mercia Police so that it is logged as a community concern of Astley Parish Council. Shropshire Council has written to the landowner to advise that a special licence is required if public rights of way (PROW) are to be temporarily taken out of action. As authorisation was not granted by Shropshire Council then the use of motorised vehicles on these PROWs was illegal and this breach was referred to the Police for investigation. Unknown whether or not any prosecution would ensue as that falls outside of Shropshire Council's remit but the landowner will have to make right the damage to the PROWs when weather conditions allow. Also spoke to a Public Protection Officer (PPO) in Environmental Health about the noise disturbance. Legislation states that a complaint cannot be made by an organisation such as a parish council. It needs to be made by the individual(s) specifically affected, explaining the impact. The advice from the PPO was that individuals are welcome to email environmental.protection@shropshire.gov.uk but complaints are unlikely to be investigated if it's a one-off event. PPO confirmed that planning regulations allow for private land to be used 14 times a year for the purposes of holding a motocross event but PPO didn't think this particular piece of land would be used again due to the PROWs issue. A significant notice period is required to apply for the special licence and whereas the event organiser/landowner may not have been previously aware of the need to obtain Shropshire Council authorisation, they most certainly are now, and this is likely to prove a deterrent.

81.25 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

See above

b) RAF Shawbury

Although no representative from RAF Shawbury was able to attend on this occasion, the following report was submitted to be read at the meeting:

- **Night Flying** - The current period is planned until 12 March. Night flying periods are usually for seven weeks with three weeks in between periods. There will be posts on the RAF Shawbury social media channels 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.
- **Upcoming Events** – Online booking is available for our 10K Airfield Race which will be held on Saturday 28 March. <https://www.entrycentral.com/shawbury10km>
- **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 ordering kit as part of our Be Seen Be Safer Campaign 2026. We hope to have new stock in May.

- **Drones** - If anyone flies a drone/model aircraft locally we recommend checking the CAA website. The rules for flying drones and model aircraft changed on 1 January 2026. There are legal restrictions near all airfields, civil and military, regarding the flying of drones and model aircraft. See our social media posts and the CAA site – <https://www.caa.co.uk/drones/> For PCs adjacent to our airfields we would be interested in sites where Drone Notices could be displayed.
- **Aries Magazine** - The Winter edition (2025 Edition 4) is available online at the link - <https://www.rafmags.co.uk/> Edition 1 of 2026 is expected in early March.
- **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 and there is no guarantee we can provide a course to assist.
- **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

82.25 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses February/March	£ 42.75
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary February/March	£ 859.52
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary February/March	£ 214.80
Astley Village Hall	Venue hire for 2025/26 meetings	£ 75.00
TOTAL		£ 1192.07

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 23 February 2026

The bank was reconciled at £10,946.01, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

84.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Bedell:
 - Together with Councillor Williams, had performed checks on the defibrillators and both appliances were ready to use as and when required. The Circuit has been updated.
- Councillor Lloyd:
 - Reported a recent fly-tipping incident near the church wall. Councillor Williams kindly offered to remove the items and take them to the Recycling Centre.

85.25 Correspondence

- Email from a school requesting a donation towards gardening equipment used by children in their allotment area. The school is in Astley but Astley near Stourport-on-Severn. Response sent advising that this parish council is actually in Shropshire rather than Worcestershire and

provided the correct email address for Astley & Dunley Parish Council for them to contact.

86.25 Future agenda items

None.

87.25 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 May 2026, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Chair thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.13pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 20 May 2026