

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@astleyshropshireparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 16 July 2025 at Astley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors E Bedell, K Lloyd, H Mardell, K Sumner, D Williams and Shropshire Councillor B Mallon

Clerk: Lisa Harris

2 members of the public were present

26.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S Robinson.

27.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

28.25 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.*

The two members of the public present had come to discuss a planning application which turned out to be within Shawbury Parish. After realising this they left the meeting.

29.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 May 2025

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Bedell and seconded by Councillor Williams and

resolved (without opposition)

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 May 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

30.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 14 May 2025

- Published all relevant financial information on the website to satisfy the requirements of the Exercise of Public Rights.
- Completed AGAR supplied to the external auditor prior to the submission deadline.
- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information e.g. upcoming road works.

- Submitted an objection, on behalf of Astley Parish Council, to planning application 25/01518/OUT (Outline application for 53 dwellings and associated works in Hadnall) on the grounds of it posing a flood risk and impacting on highway safety within the Parish. Objection can be viewed [here](#)
- Spoke to Highways at Shropshire Council and asked for the removal of the national speed limit sign from the one side of the post heading down Hatch Lane away from the village. Unfortunately, was advised that it is a legal requirement for a speed sign to be positioned where there is a change in the permitted speed limit and although the speed limit in the centre of the village is 30mph, the national speed limit comes into effect on Hatch Lane. Advised that it was not a straightforward process to get Hatch Lane designated a 30mph speed limit.
- Email from a parishioner requesting a dog waste bin in Astley. Advised that unfortunately this is not something a parish council is legally allowed to provide. This would have to be a request to Shropshire Council as they are the authority that supplies and, more significantly, empties any such receptacles. I suggested making a request via FixMyStreet or if there was an issue with dog fouling, it could be reported to Shropshire Council [here](#) Stencils are available from Shropshire Council which when sprayed with chalk paint on pavements, give a warning to dog-owners of the penalty involved in not picking up dog waste.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a stencil to be trialled within the Parish to determine its efficacy.

- Emailed Shropshire Council's Highways asking for an update on the A53. Received a response that the scheme design work has now been completed, and it is with the contractor, Kier, for pricing. Cannot give a definitive timescale for when the works will be programmed in but WSP (the design consultants) will provide an update as soon as they hear more from Kier.
- SALC advised that the Government is ending support and funding for Neighbourhood Plans and requested that the town/parish councils with a current Neighbourhood Plan lobby their local MP to raise awareness of this issue. However, if a town/parish council has never produced a costly Neighbourhood Plan, as is the case with Astley, this is a moot point.
- NALC have been persistently pushing for the reintroduction of remote/hybrid meetings which were temporarily permitted during the pandemic lockdown. Their efforts appear to have paid off as the government has announced plans to amend legislation which would allow local authorities (including parish and town councils) to again hold remote and hybrid meetings.
- Shropshire Council's new Liberal Democrat administration is keen for the unitary authority to develop a "better working relationship" with town and parish councils throughout the county and as such is requesting an online information gathering survey (referred to as a "Call for Information") to be completed by 18 August 2025.
- Requested that future monthly salary and PAYE payments are made by Standing Order.

It was proposed by Councillor Bedell and seconded by Councillor Williams and

resolved (without opposition) that Standing Orders be set up and submitted to a bank signatory for authorisation. To be reviewed in 6 months' time.

31.25 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Brendan Mallon was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made to each of the Parish Councillors present and to the Clerk. Councillor Mallon was apprised of any current issues within the Parish, notably the speed reduction works on the A53. A report for the Tern Division was then presented as follows:

“Since the election I have primarily been involved in councillor induction and training, essential to understanding my role in supporting you. I have also been meeting with individual residents and gradually introducing myself to all six parish councils who are rapidly bringing me up to speed on matters of interest in their areas.

I have been active in challenging certain planning applications within the Tern Division that I consider to be inappropriate. I have objected to a 53-house development in Hadnall that faces severe problems including chronic drainage issues, road access and lack of infrastructure and services. I don't naturally object to developments if I judge them to be well conceived and supported by the infrastructure and services available, however in this case there was just too much going against the plan as proposed.

The other applications I am opposing are the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sites near Uffington (25/00531/FUL) and Upton Magna (25/01638/FUL). The health and environmental effects of a fire at these facilities could extend well beyond these immediate locations and I would recommend reading the objections, including my own, to understand the implications. In essence, in the short history of these facilities, a significant trend in catastrophic fires has emerged. The fires are impossible to extinguish, and a devastating fallout cloud of toxic gases and harmful heavy metals can be carried many miles away. Neither site complies with the guidance of the National Fire Chiefs Council with poor site access for the emergency services to quickly attend and stop the fire spreading through the rest of the battery containers. Both sites are immediately adjacent to the A5 (and also the A49 at Uffington), meaning an incident is likely to cause chaos on the A5 and thus severely delay the response from Shropshire Fire and Rescue units. As I say, I would recommend reading the statements on the Shropshire Planning Portal.

Finally, I would draw attention to the proposed new partnership between Shropshire Council and the Town and Parish Councils. The Town and Parish Council are being consulted and the survey is now live until the middle of August. The majority leadership of Shropshire Council are very keen to push this initiative forward so I would urge you all to participate in the survey so we can hopefully establish a mutually beneficial new relationship.

Brendan Mallon
Councillor for Tern”

b) RAF Shawbury

No report was available at the meeting but it has since been received:

- **Night Flying** - The current period is planned to continue until 25 July. 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.

- **Helium Balloons** – There has been a recent occurrence where party type helium balloons drifted across the airfield. Such occurrences could endanger aircraft as well as ultimately being a hazard to wildlife. We would ask that if events are being held locally involving helium party type balloons that precautions are taken to prevent their inadvertent release.
- **Upcoming Events** - The RAF Shawbury Families Day will be held on Friday 22 Aug. This event is not open to the public and due to the airfield works there will be no flying displays, although there may be a flypast.
- **Airfield Works Programme** - The airfields work programme is progressing well and should be complete by the end of 2025.
- **Hi-Viz for Horse Riders** – Our latest stock of high visibility kit was taken up very quickly and has been distributed. See 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 2025.
- **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 Summer Edition (2025 Edition 2) 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 and there is no guarantee we can provide a course to assist.
- **RAF Shawbury Contacts and Website**
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
Website: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/>

32.25 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses June/July	£ 89.23
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary June/July	£ 832.84
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary June/July	£ 208.20
Shropshire Council	Joint energy cost 2025/26	£ 276.88
TOTAL		£ 1407.15

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

resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 9 July 2025

The bank was reconciled at £16,102.71, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

33.25 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 25/01538/TCA

Address: Poplars Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: Fell 3no. Leyland Cypress (T1-T3) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 23 Apr 2025

Status: No Objection

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

b. Ref: 25/01661/FUL

Address: 5 Albrightlee Barns Albrightlee Shropshire SY4 4FA

Description: Single storey extension and internal remodel

Validated: 2 May 2025

Status: Granted

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

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 25/02047/FUL

Address: Haughmond Villa Ebrey Wood Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DD

Description: Erection of single storey orangery

Validated: 13 Jun 2025

Status: Awaiting decision

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

No comment or objection was made to the planning application for consideration.

34.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Bedell:
 - Reported that checks had been performed on the defibrillators and confirmed that both appliances were ready to use as and when required.

- Had attended the recent Lord-Lieutenant's Garden Party held at Orleton Hall in Wellington and had had a most enjoyable afternoon.
- Been asked by a parishioner whether a road safety mirror could be installed at the Ebrey Lane T junction due to concerns regarding safe egress onto Ebrey Wood Road (what3words prime.amps.consonant). Parishioner was prepared to pay for the mirror. Councillor Bedell had to advise that unfortunately Shropshire Council is no longer accepting applications for highway visibility mirror due to national guidance that the "erection of mirrors in the highway is not considered to be in the overall interests of road safety." (see meeting minutes March 2025). Councillor Bedell will speak to the landowner to trim back the relevant hedges to improve the visibility splay.
- Councillor Mardell:
 - Had attended the online briefing on SaTH's Hospital Transformation Programme. Participants were informed that the project was progressing well and the intended outcome is increased efficiency and an overall better hospital experience for staff and patients alike.
- Councillor Sumner:
 - Attended the Village Hall Committee Meeting the previous week, acting as the Parish Council liaison. They are looking to start work on extending the car park. Bookings during July and August are quite slow but the regular quiz nights are fairly well attended and bring in a steady income. The next quiz night is on 19 September. A winter Frost Fair is being planned for late November. Would welcome any ideas for fundraising and community events. Marketing of the venue is being considered.

35.25 Highway matters

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

36.25 Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

37.25 Future agenda items

- To consider making a donation towards the repair of the church clock.

38.25 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall

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

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 17 September 2025