

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 2nd September 2025

Present: Councillors Mr Ian Alderson (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr John Caine, Mrs J Disley, Ms J Watts, Mrs J Williams. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mr M Seabrook, Mrs J Mear. Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council).
2. **Declarations of Interest Relating to this Meeting:** None
3. **Public Involvement Session:** No members of the public were in attendance.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2025
RESOLVED: that the minutes were correct and were signed by Cllr Alderson.
5. **Correspondence - Speed of Traffic on the B4368** a letter had been received from a member of the public about the speed of traffic and dangerous overtaking and the risks of turning onto the road from side turnings.
6. **Dominic Byrne, Head of Centre, Manor Adventure:** reported that he had been working on improving the safety of both children and vehicles entering, exiting and crossing the B4368. In the past the centre had paid for the double white lines. Applications to install school flashing safety lights to improve the safety for children crossing the road had been refused by Shropshire Council. All coaches are advised to enter the centre via the exit, but they do not always follow the guidance given by the centre. Staff escorting children all wear high visibility jackets. Dominic reported that the company had recently acquired a new site on the Isle of Wight.
7. **PC Stu Coote, West Mercia Police** reported that the highway signs in that section of road were faded and, in some cases, overgrown. He would support flashing safety lights being installed. As a result of reduced funding the police are struggling to do as many speed checks as previously. The section of road from Clay Lane to Medley Park track was not suitable for speed checks. The Clerk will try to arrange a meeting with Nick Newton Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer, Dominic Byrne and herself to look at options to improve the situation on this stretch of road. PC Coote reported that there had been arrests for incidents of Rural Crime and Operation Whitebeam was continuing.
RESOLVED: Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the MP and Shropshire Council Corvedale Councillor about the reduction in policing budgets and the effects on Rural Crime and speeding.
8. **Consider Updating the Place Plan to Include Reduction of Speed on the B4365 and B4368:**
RESOLVED: to add the reduction to 30mph on the B4365 in Culmington Village and buffer zones of 40mph towards the west and beyond Clay Lane to the Place Plan. The results of the meeting Nick Newton will be brought to a future Parish Council meeting for consideration and inclusion in the Place Plan.
9. **Reports From Representatives**
 - 9.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford had sent the following report: Council finances remain very challenging and concern over Leisure Centres as it appears that the Council will no longer support the facility in Cleobury Mortimer and fears are mounting about the future of Much Wenlock Leisure Centre. Work on our roads continues with the introduction of two Multihog vehicles. A task and finish group has been set up to scrutinise the highways repair contracts with Keir to address the very many concerns we all have about the slow progress on pothole work and resurfacing. The Keir contract expires in February 2026. It is very clear that under the current contract the Council has little control over what work is prioritised by Keir. Town and parish councils have been asked to feedback on areas of responsibility currently managed by The Council that they may want to take on. My impression from most parish councils in The Corvedale is that individually they are too small to undertake any work that is currently managed by The Council. However, I am starting to hear that in some areas there is interest in

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parish councils forming clusters either with other parish councils or with neighbouring town councils. Without wanting to dampen enthusiasm there are inevitably going to be questions about budgets, contracts, lines of responsibility, tendering processes and legal cover for liability and requirements of health and safety etc.

- 9.2. Village Hall Committee– The Clerk reported that there had been a successful flower show, the Beefy Boys would be returning on the 7th September followed by an evening of entertainment. The annual tractor run, and a promises auction are planned for October.
- 9.3. Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that there had not been a FAG meeting since July and have not had an update on progress from the Slow the Flow team. Shropshire Council's drain clearing team had been to the area today and should clear the drains quarterly. Letter from the Environment Agency to properties at risk of flooding have been updated as they impact the overall spending on flood prevention which was not clear in the original letters.
- 9.4. South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Byng report on the meeting on the 2nd July: Eddie West, Planning Policy Manager for Shropshire Council gave a presentation. He explained the procedure for producing the new local plan. The government has set a target of building 1990 new homes per year for the next 20 years! This is 980 more per year than the previous target. Work must be started on the new Local Plan by the end of 2025 and then there will be 2.5 years before it is adopted. A Green and Grey Belt Review must be done and an Economic Growth assessment. Landowners are being asked what sites they have available before land is allocated for building. The first consultation on the draft plan will probably be in October 2026 re site allocations. In 2027 the final draft plan should be available for the public to comment. There are 6,500 planning permissions not yet developed but some of these are in the process. It is important that we report anything we are not happy with to the Scrutiny committee and keep Colin Stanford informed. There was also general discussion on matters regarding various Parish Councils. One was that it was thought Solar Farms should pay more to communities for the installation and that they should have to pay for the disposal of the solar panels at the end of their life. There is a national policy re Wind farms but not solar farms. Should we press our M P to bring this matter up in Parliament? The Deputy Leader, Alex Wagner is to be invited to speak at the next Local meeting

10. Flooding

- 10.1. Update on the Application for a License for Desilting Seifton Brook: Shropshire Council have decided that as the desilting is general maintenance that a license will not be required.
- 10.2. Update on the Desilting of the Brook on Mr Turley's Land: The work on Mr John Turleys land to desilt the pipe exit has been completed which should improve the drainage in Seifton Lane.
11. **Response from the NHS to the Letter re Ludlow Hospital:** a response from the Parish Council's letter dated the 10th February had now been received from the NHS Integrated Care System stating that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had met with Ludlow Town Councillors in March and reiterated that the ICB is not closing the hospital and 'our commitment is and will continue to be the development of wider services based on the needs of the population of Ludlow and surrounding communities.' Noted.
12. **Thank you from All Saints PCC and Culmington Village Hall for Grants:** Noted. Cllr Byng reported that the PCC application to the Lottery had been turned down, but they will resubmit the application with some alterations. They have raised £17,000 with further promises totalling £20,000.
13. **Consider the Response from the Land Registry re: Culmington Village Hall:** Defer
14. **Note the Tree Preservation Order relating to Land to the East of B4365, Culmington TPO 2025 Order Number: SC/00530/25:** Noted

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- 15. Update on the Review of the Telephone Box:** The representation by Culmington Parish Council to the review has been successful and the response from BT agreed that the mobile coverage is inadequate and they will retain the telephony and kiosk.
- 16. Update on the Request to Add a School Bus Stop at Seifton:** The School Transport Contracts Coordinator has agreed to add an additional collection point at the Seifton Lane junction, and the parents have been informed.
- 17. Update on the Blocked Bridleway:** Cllr Owen (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure Shropshire Council) has offered to attend a future meeting to discuss the issue.
RESOLVED: to invite Cllr Owen to the next meeting.
- 18. Agree a .gov.uk Email Account for the Parish Council:** A new assertion on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is that Parish Councils must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain.
RESOLVED: to purchase an email account for the council via Hugo Fox.
- 19. Review and Adopt Policies:** Information Technology, Disciplinary, Dignity at Work, Retention of Documents Policy:
RESOLVED: to adopt the above policies.
- 20. Authorise Payments**
- 20.1.** Hugo Fox – Single Email Account - £2.49 +Vat per month.
 - 20.2.** Note Settlement of NJC Pay Agreement for Clerk for 2025-26
 - 20.3.** H Coonick and HMRC, Salary July-Sept £963.86 and Travel £18.45
 - 20.4.** D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 813 £80.75
- RESOLVED:** to make the above payments.
- 21. Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th October 2025 a. Consider the Response from the Land Registry re: Culmington Village Hall b. Update on the Blocked Bridleway.**

Signed:

Date: