

Culmington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 3rd February 2026

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mr A Lewis, , Ms J Watts and Mrs J Williams.

26/013 **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mrs J Mear and Mr Ian Alderson

26/014 **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None

26/015 **Graham Donaldson, Rural and Business Crime Officer, Wildlife Crime Coordinator, West Mercia Police** – postponed. Mr Donaldson will be invited to the Annual Parish meeting in May.

26/016 **Public Involvement Session:** No members of the public were in attendance

26/017 **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2026
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as a correct record and they were signed by the chair.

26/018 **Reports from Members**

- I. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford reported that a loan to assist the council in this financial year from central government had not yet been agreed. The central government settlement, despite Fairer Funding, was less than expected. The Council had received a rating of amber in the recently published government assessment of road maintenance by county. He is involved in the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is working to ensure that all departments take health into account when making decisions. They have started with planning, trying to ensure that new developments consider the needs of disabled and older people. He is also a member of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is working with Telford and Wrekin. Councillors asked why the council had received less from the government via the settlement – Cllr Stanford reported that the way that deprivation is measured does not recognise the different needs in rural areas such as the need for car ownership. There are also no large businesses with Shropshire which would pay high levels of rates to the Council which impacts the council's income.
- II. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear had sent her apologies. The Clerk reported that work had begun on the drainage problem, but it was unclear what the solution was at the moment. There are plenty of events planned.
- III. Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that at the recent meeting they had a report from the Slow the Flow Project. There are various projects planned to install leaky dams, scrapes and the reinstatement of ponds. They are considering holding another public event to update progress. The work at Burley has finished which will assist areas further downstream. Those who are going ahead with the Environment Agencies Protective Barrier Scheme will need to sign up shortly. The drain jetting remains reactive rather than proactive which is frustrating.

26/019 **Highways**

- I. Update on the Request for a Reduction in the Speed Limit on the B4365 at Culmington: the Clerk has contacted Shropshire Council's Highways Engineer with no response. She will continue to request an update.
- II. Update on Actions to Improve Road Safety on the B4368 Near Manor Adventure: The Clerk has contacted Shropshire Council's Highways Engineer with no response. She will continue to request an update.

Culmington Parish Council

III. Update on Repair to the Vehicle Activated Sign and Cellular Connectivity: Cllr Caine reported that the sign was ready to be sent to the new company FEWZED to be assessed for repairs. The cost of a new unit would be in the region of £2,000 as the solar panel would not need to be replaced.

26/020 **Street Naming:** 26/06947/NEWDEV PROPOSED STREET NAME: 7 New Dwellings and 3 Barn Conversions at Culmington Farm, Culmington: The councillors considered that a name which was more locally relevant would be preferred. The Clerk would contact Mr Norton for comment before responding to the application.

26/021 **Update on the Partnership Working Research Group Workshop Session:** The Clerk reported that she had attended the session which discussed the devolution of non-statutory services presently provided by Shropshire Council (SC) to the town and parish councils in 2027-28. SC presently spends £3,490.82 on grounds maintenance, bin emptying, carriageway and footway cleaning in Culmington Parish. Councillors were not clear about what grounds were being referred to or whether £3,090.39 worth of carriageway cleaning had occurred in the last year. At this point SC are developing a process to assist councils to take over the services and further work, and collaboration will be needed before the next financial year. For the parish council to take on this work precepts would need to rise in future years.

26/022 **Review Complaints Policy and Procedure:**
RESOLVED: to adopt the policy and procedure.

26/023 **Finance:**

- I. Agree Recipients of Grants: deferred to the next meeting
- II. Authorise Payments:
 - a. Shropshire Council (Election Fee May 2025) Inv 7364270 £125
 - b. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 924 £218.50
 - c. Culmington Village Hall Rental Inv 140 £150

RESOLVED: to make the above payments.

26/024 **Nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, being held on 12th May 2026:**
RESOLVED: to contact the nominee to ensure they are willing to be nominated and make the nomination if they are willing.

26/025 **Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2026:** a. devolution b. Emergency Plan and Emergency Contact List c. Consider the Amalgamation of Police Services

Signed:

Date: