

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 7th July 2026

Present: Councillors Mr Matthew Seabrook (Chair), Mr Ian Alderson (Vice Chair), Mrs Carol Byng, Mr John Caine, Mrs Jayne Disley, Mr Adrian Lewis, Mrs Jo Mear and Mrs Joy Williams.
In Attendance: Heather Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

- 26/071 Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Ms J Watts. Cllr C Stanford (Shropshire Council)
- 26/072 Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** Cllr Byng declared an interest in item 26/079 as she is a member of the Parochial Church Council.
- 26/073 Public Involvement Session:** Three members of the public (MofP) were in attendance.
MofP1, Mr Darren Tustin, reported on the activities of the campaign group 'Keep Shropshire Beautiful' which is opposing the proposed solar farm at Norton. They are not against green energy but oppose solar farms being built on agricultural land. The 138 acres at Norton has been farmed for 50 years without chemicals and a recent survey found eight skylark nesting sites and barn owls have been monitored on the site for the last 20 years. They are concerned that Shropshire Council did not consider it was necessary for an Environmental Assessment earlier this year. The group are also concerned that the roads to access the site will not cope with the construction traffic, the runoff may increase local flooding and there is a potential for an increase in thefts. This development may put a viable farm out of business and threaten food security. The group have set up a website and have support from the Campaign for Rural England and Stuart Anderson MP has raised the issue of using good agricultural land for solar panels with government ministers.
MofP2 asked if the Clerk could visit them to look at Seifton Brook which borders their property. It was agreed that the Clerk would visit them. They were also concerned about when the green bins would be collected due to recent cancellations of the service due to hot weather. Councillors advised that this was Shropshire Council's issue, but it was understood that the green bins would be collected this week.
- 26/074 Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd June 2026
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair.
- 26/075 Reports from Members**
a. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford has sent a report: There will be road disruption around Cardington this Summer to correct the work undertaken at Grove Farm junction. I am pleased to report that I have been elected as a Vice Chair of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. I attended Rushbury CoE Primary School, and it is fantastic to hear how much amazing work goes on there not least when our rural schools feel threatened. The future for Rushbury appears very secure. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan has been refreshed focussing on Financial Sustainability and Recovery. Shropshire Council Cabinet are to debate the future of The Shirehall next week following a recent "options appraisal" and an independent report. Bus services supported by the Council have also been reviewed and changes reflecting low numbers and costs, leading to the loss of the Park and Ride facilities at Meole Brace and Ludlow Eco Park. Library Services are also being scrutinised although at

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present there have not been any recommendations made but clearly for our area it is the Mobile Library Service that needs protecting.

- b. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that they are getting quotes for repairs to the drainage system, and they hope to start the extension soon. They have a very enthusiastic team, and they have sold all thirty-two tables for the Ball which is raising money for the extension and the Teenage Cancer Trust.
- c. Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that there is a FAG meeting tomorrow so she will report to the next Parish Council meeting.

26/076 Consider Shropshire Local Plan Consultation: the questionnaire was considered and the only issue that was particularly relevant to the parish council was the section on Community Characteristics. The council considered that it supports the statement but note that in the past there have been instances where Shropshire Council has not used this as the starting point and have not listened to the local community or parish council.

RESOLVED: for the Clerk to complete the relevant questions.

26/077 Update on the Proposed Solar Farm at Norton: the council have received a letter from ILOS, who are the developers of the proposed solar farm at Norton Estate, outlining their plans. There will be a Community Information Event at Onibury Village Hall between 3-7pm on Tuesday 15th September. The Parish Council discussed the report from the campaign group made during the public session of this meeting. There were also concerns that the campaign website had recorded the support of Culmington Parish Council.

RESOLVED: to write to Shropshire Council asking them to reconsider their decision not to require an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed site. To request that the campaign remove the reference to Culmington Parish Council from their website.

26/078 Consider Entering an Agreement with Shropshire Council to Assist the Funding for Ludlow Library

RESOLVED: to defer to the next meeting.

26/079 Planning: [26/02268/FUL](#) All Saints Church, Culmington, SY8 2DB Proposal: The erection of a mower equipment/storage building

RESOLVED: to support the application.

26/080 Consider a Request for a Donation to Acton Scott Heritage Farm: council did not consider that this donation would directly benefit parishioners.

RESOLVED: to inform Acton Scott Heritage Farm that the council will not be donating.

26/081 Update on the Vehicle Activated Sign Repair – Cllr Caine reported that he has installed the repaired sign and it was working well. The repair invoice of £712.80 including VAT had been paid as agreed at the meeting on the 3rd March 2026.

26/082 Adopt the Website Accessibility Statement

RESOLVED: to adopt the statement

26/083 Consider the Options for General Data Protection Regulation Training:

RESOLVED: those councillors who have certificates of completion of training to provide a copy to the clerk. The remaining councillors will inform the clerk when they wish to be enrolled on the training

26/084 Finance:

- a. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: As of the 26th May 2026 the bank account held £12,040.17. Expenditure was within budget except for a small overspend on donations and an overspend on Repairs and Replacements for the Vehicle Activated Sign repair which will be covered by reserves as agreed at the meeting on the 3rd March 2026.

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RESOLVED: to accept the report and Cllr Disley signed the bank reconciliation.

- b. Note Payments Received: Since 1st April, the council has received £6,381.94 and the previous year's VAT will be claimed in August
- c. Authorise Payments: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) £140, H Coonick, Clerk (Reimbursement Microsoft 365 and hall rental) £35.16

RESOLVED: to make the payments

26/085

Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on 1st September 2026 a.

Consider Entering an Agreement with Shropshire Council to Assist the Funding for Ludlow Library b. Update on the Closed footpath at Seifton Batch. c. Flood Action Group Councillor Report d. Discuss the Expression of Interest to Shropshire Council to Provide Streetscene Services

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: