

Culmington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting on 4th November 2025

Members: Councillors Mr Ian Alderson (Vice chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr J Caine, Mrs J Disley, Mrs J Mear, Ms J Watts and Mrs J Williams. In Attendance: H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

Cllr Alderson chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Seabrook

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair) and Mr A Lewis. 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 7th October 2025
RESOLVED: to approve as a correct record and were signed by the vice chair.
5. **Reports from Members**
 - 5.1 Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford had sent a report: Finances still dominate the news at Shropshire Council. The interim CEO Tanya Miles was reassuring to staff last week saying that there would be no more redundancies and that the focus had to be on reducing any unnecessary spending. In the Medium-Term Financial Plan, three areas of overspend were identified Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Taxis (used mostly to transport children with special educational needs). These are all statutory services, and savings may be hard to find. The Council Leaders are in the process of seeking a loan from Central Government to keep the Council afloat to the tune of several tens of millions of pounds although Tanya Miles emphasised that this is only a short-term solution and the Council must then prove that it can manage its budget without overspends. We continue to see work on potholes. There is a particular frustration on the B4368 with the three-way lights at Beambridge. This has been taken up by Munslow Parish Council with Highways. So far, I haven't heard any more about the newly agreed speed restrictions for Culmington on the B4365. I was frustrated by the attitude of the Highways department who took the view that the safety of children and road users lies with Manor Adventure as it is a private business. I firmly rejected this position and reminded officers that the safety and welfare of all children in Shropshire is a matter for The Council wherever they are. A Council flood alert was issued yesterday for parts of The Severn, upstream of Shrewsbury. All Parish Councils in The Corvedale have deliberated and considered the MOU sent out by Council Leaders. The response has been one ranging from vocal opposition to muted acknowledgement that anything that opens lines of communication with the council has to be better than nothing.
 - 5.2 Village Hall Committee – Cllr Mear reported that a new boiler was being installed as the old one was beyond repair. There had been two very successful events recently including the charity auction and community lunch. She thanked the committee and local people for their donations and support at both events.
 - 5.3 Flood Action Group – Cllr Disley reported that some households had responded to the Environment Agency who will now review applications to see if anything can be offered. She will be attending a webinar on ground water.
6. **Update on Correspondence with Shropshire Council Regarding the B4368:** Tracey Onslow, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner is communicating with Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer about the B4368 near Manor Adventure. The Clerk hopes for an update for the next meeting.
7. **Update on Use of Farmland to Alleviate Flooding:** the clerk met with the landowner and thanked him for allowing the desilting of the pipe on his land which it is hoped will

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reduce the flooding on Seifton Lane. He is also concerned that blocked drains on Seifton Lane have not yet been jetted by Shropshire Council. At this point he would like to see the effect of the desilting and drain clearance before he considers his land being flooded.

8. **Update on the Letter to Stuart Anderson, MP re: Blocked Bridleway:** Stuart Anderson, MP wrote to Shropshire Council on our behalf and Peter Banford, Shropshire Council's Communities and Culture Manager has responded to Culmington Parish Council stating that 'I have been assured by the officer in question that the investigation into these matters will be resumed in early November.'
9. **Update on Repairs to Bus Shelter and Installation of Waste Bin:** Cllr Caine reported that the bus shelter had been repaired and painted and the waste bin installed. The tree had also been pruned. Cllrs thank Cllr Caine for his work as it had made the area look much smarter.
10. **Finance:**
 - 10.1 Notification of Election 2025 Recharge £125.00 due in January 2026: due to there being no Parish Council election, the fee is much less than anticipated as it only covers the election of the Shropshire Council Divisional Councillor.
 - 10.2 Agree the Auditor for 2026-2027: An auditor needs to be independent of the council and competent. The council considers that Ms Tavi Meeson to be both and agreed to appoint her as internal auditor.
 - 10.3 Review the Reserves Policy:
RESOLVED: to adopt the policy.
 - 10.4 Review the Draft Budget and Proposed Precept: Councillors considered the draft budget and the options to reduce the costs including reducing the clerks' hours from 5 to 4.5 hours per week and not holding a meeting in April each year. The budget will be adopted and the precept set at the January 2026 meeting.
 - 10.5 Authorise Payments
 - 10.5.1. Village Hall Rental (meeting with PCC representative) £10
 - 10.5.2. Vehicle Activated Sign Replacement Batteries: It is hoped that replacing the batteries in the sign will resolve the problem £3.99 & £46.75 (reimburse Cllr Caine)
 - 10.5.3. Clerk and HMRC Salary Oct – Dec £935.26 and Travel £20.25
 - 10.5.4. Clerks' reimbursement for Stationery and stamps £9.51
 - 10.5.5. D Lewis, Environmental Maintenance £156.75**RESOLVED:** to make the payments 10.5.1 – 10.5.5
11. **Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6th January 2026 a. Adopt the budget and set the precept for 2026-27**

Signed:

Date: