

CHURCH PULVERBATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Pulverbatch Parish Council held on Thursday 31st July 2025 in Pulverbatch Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. W. Higgins – Chairman
Cllr. L. Clarkson
Cllr. J. Conde
Cllr. P. Dawson – co-opted at the meeting
Cllr. P. Higgins – co-opted at the meeting
Cllr. J. McQueen.

Also present: Anne Wilson Parish Clerk
Cllr. C. Naylor -Shropshire Councillor
One observer

20/2026 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to note that there were no apologies of absence for this meeting.

21/2025 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and residents to the meeting.

22/2026 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with The Local Government Act 2000 Part III and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

23/2026 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Members were aware that there are vacancies on the Parish Council and were asked to consider any applications for co-option at this meeting.

RESOLVED to co-opt Paula Higgins and Pauline Dawson to the Parish Council. They signed their Acceptance of Office.

24/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

There were members of the public present.

25/2026 Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting of Church Pulverbatch Parish Council held on Thursday 15th May 2025.

It was noted that the minutes did not represent the reason for the roof lights for the neighbours of the planning application at the Old Rectory. It was the previous owners who had asked that as part of the planning permission that the roof lights were kept closed in perpetuity.

26/2026 Finance

- Payments

RESOLVED to confirm that the following payments be made:

- A. Wilson – June £243.46
- HMRC – June £58.40
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- Hugo Fox June 2025 and July 2025 reimbursement to A. Wilson £24.98
- DM Payroll Services Ltd - 1st April -30th September 2025 £72.00
- Lloyds Bank Charges 10th May – 9th June 2025 £6.25

- Bank Statement

RESOLVED to note that the balance at Lloyds as at 27th June 2025 is £5178.84.

27/2026 Planning

Members were asked to consider and note the following:

- i) Planning Applications

RESOLVED to note that there were none as at the time of writing the agenda.

- ii) Planning Decisions

RESOLVED to note the following planning decisions:

- 25/01425/FUL Oakwood New House Lane Pulverbatch
Proposed garage/workshop/storage building to replace 2 no. garages
- 25/01664/LBC & 25/1663/FUL The Old Rectory Church Pulverbatch
Conversion of an outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation
- 25/02666/LBC The Old Rectory Church Pulverbatch
Replacement of 3 No. windows on the west elevation. Works to include removal of two concrete cills and window heads to be replaced with traditional cills and heads.

28/2026 Shropshire Councillor Update

Members were asked to receive the update circulated before the meeting from Cllr. Chris Naylor, Shropshire Councillor.

I'm still interested to hear your views on how to be most useful to yourselves, and on the format/content for these reports.

As I see it my job is:

- keep you informed on major Council issues
- facilitate your engagement on relevant topics
- support you in arguing for parish concerns/funding
- help you with specific local tasks.

I hope that's roughly it. feedback welcome.

- Recent Shropshire Council developments FYI

Town and Parish Councils initiative

Led by Dep Leader Cllr Alex Wagner and Scrutiny Chair Cllr David Minnery this offers the chance for town and parish councils to tackle local concerns with support and/or funding from the Council. The thinking is that ratepayers will get better value for money – and better quality of services – than if all services are run from Guildhall. Local concerns will vary parish by parish – you will know yours better than me – but support and/or funding could help with street cleaning, ditch clearing, sign maintenance, pavement fixing, maybe even minor potholes. Parishes could employ e.g. local builders, local farmers to carry out such tasks - or indeed use volunteers. Public liability and insurance are often cited as obstacles, but it is envisaged the Council would cover these.

Right now, Alex and David are looking for expressions of interest and possible suggestions of pilots, so if interested please respond soon (cc me if poss).

- North West Relief Road/Dobbie's Roundabout

As you'll have seen the new Council is looking to withdraw from the proposed NWRR because the capital cost (varying estimates £150-200m) is unfunded, and to borrow would place a severe burden on future finances. This withdrawal isn't confirmed yet but seems likely, following meetings with DfT. My immediate response was 'let's announce plans to improve Dobbie's Roundabout, then' but I was told 'be patient'. Naturally I and the Lib Dem Cllr's along the A49 – 5 of us – will be pushing for improvements at Dobbie's.

- Local government funding

Government has announced an 8-week consultation on changing their central funding formula towards 'fairer funding' (their words). This is billed as addressing the additional financial needs facing councils with significant rural reach and high adult social care needs. It is hoped this may help Shropshire as soon as 2026/7, but there's no indication yet of the outcome.

- Pharmacy Needs Survey

This is a quote from a Shropshire HWBB notice, should councillors/residents wish to respond:

"We consider community pharmacies to be a key public health resource and recognises that they offer potential opportunities to commission health improvement initiatives and work closely with partners to promote health and wellbeing.

“You are invited to contribute to a consultation to identify the views of stakeholders and members of the public on whether the current assessment addresses the necessary and important issues.

“A questionnaire has been produced to gather feedback closing on 26 August 2025. Please complete the consultation survey, which you can access by clicking on the ‘How to get involved’ tab at the top of the page. Shropshire PNA 2025 DRAFT.pdf”

- Recent Burnell Division activity FYI

Stapleton-Moat potholes

I gave the new Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr David Vasmer a tour of roads around Stapleton and Pulverbatch in June and I’m glad to say we’ve had some repair works recently. Not enough yet, and not perfect, but I trust Pulverbatch residents are benefitting from the improvements (albeit having to suffer delays and closures). An email from the Parish to Cllr Vasmer would I’m sure be appreciated, or I can email on your behalf.

- Leebotwood A49 meet

I recently called a public meeting in Leebotwood - with local campaigner Rebecca Hill and the Parish Council - to hear from the A49 Route Manager about the residents’ request for a pedestrian crossing/reduced speed limits. A49 staff backed the need for a crossing when budgets permit. They also took on board a number of local concerns re signage, lighting, road markings etc.

- Longnor 20mph

Longnor residents are understandably concerned about traffic and speed through the village. I met with the school recently who are very concerned. Highways say a 20mph limit is planned for 2026/7 but I’m hoping to bring this forward.

- Dorrington - low flying helicopter

I’ve been liaising with a Falklands Rd resident and Shawbury about low flying helicopter training route – which wakes the resident’s young child. Shawbury being helpful.

Recent Pulverbatch Parish activity

- Pulverbatch phone outage

Sadly, a council workman (apparently) cut through a fibre broadband cable while strimming the verge near Church Pulverbatch. Residents asked my help and I was able to put them in touch with right person in the council (Ben Walker) to help expedite repairs. Ben was very helpful and the Parish might like to offer their thanks too.

- Wrentnall artics problem

Local residents reported to me that articulated lorries are getting stuck on a tight bend in Wrentnall village, and invited me to see the resultant damage to walls, roads, fences etc there. Residents suggest that extra signage (pointing out that the route isn’t appropriate for artics) is needed. I asked the advice of Highways who said they would put the suggestion on their list but they didn’t seem very hopeful, due to funding constraints, and that if the Parish were able to contribute that could help expedite matters. I hope there will be a chance to consider this at the upcoming meeting

29/2026 Artic Signs

Cllr. Naylor had been chasing Shropshire Council about the possibility of artic signs for Wrentnall. Members were asked to receive any update from Cllr. Naylor and consider the possibility that the Parish Council might consider helping.

Members noted that it was felt that four signs were needed at a cost of £1000 each – possibly on the main road, at the turning for Retnol, Chapel Corner and at the Old Chapel wall. People have had a word with the companies and it is on the driver's ticket when they come this way – they cannot get back out. Although Shropshire Council acknowledge there is a problem it is long way down their list of priorities. Cllr. Naylor had brought it to this meeting for other suggestions. It was agreed that there were no spare funds at the Parish Council and Cllr. Naylor would go back and speak to Highways saying that just one sign on the main road was the most important.

30/2026 Nature Recovery

Members were asked to receive the report circulated and noted its contents:

The following actions have been agreed

- Village Hall Meadow Strip
VH meadow strip late August/September
Nature Recovery volunteers to rake cut grass
Plug plants to be planted in verge near to carpark side gate October (to add colour)
Discussion to see if we can extend the wild flower meadow/ VH field border next year
- Walkway to
Nature Recovery volunteers to scythe grass
- Sign posted Grassy Triangular Grassy Area, Top of the Town
Haven for Cuckoo Flower. Nature Recovery volunteers to scythe grass
- Grassy Verge just past Cemetery with 3 no-mow signs
Nature Recovery volunteers to scythe this area Tuesday 29th July at 6.00pm.
Make decision whether to extend area next year
- Corner of Junction from Churton up to Main Road
Wild Flower seeds already scattered; Red Campion, Yellow Rattle, Fox Glove, Daisey.
(Traffic line of sight not affected). Next year will require a 'No Mow' sign
- Entrance to Castle Pulverbatch from Habberley
Wild flower seed being sown (Traffic line of sight not affected)
- T Junction from Harold's Bank to Main Road
Wild flower plug plants planted (Traffic line of sight not affected)
- Volunteer Work Dates
Further Knapp dates for your diary (All 10.00 to 12.00)
Saturday 19th July
Saturday 26th July
Saturday 2nd August
Saturday 9th August
Saturday 23rd August
Saturday 20th September

Members were grateful and gave credit to Dave for his continued work on this. His writing up and reporting of work would be a record for the future.

31/2026 2025 Quarter 3 West Mercia Police Local Policing Community Charter - Parish Councils Rural East

West Mercia Police were asking CPPC for our parish priorities please, for Quarter 3 of 2025.

They ask that the Parish Council give as much specific information as possible about each issue, to help us tackle the problem. For example, if it's anti-social behaviour, where is it happening, when does it occur and so on.

Members are asked to note that Inspector Ben Tanfield is moving into a different role within West Mercia Police from 29 September. The new SNT inspector for Shrewsbury and the surrounding area from that date will be Insp Ingrid Tozer. Thank you for your help and support over the last three years with the Local Policing Charter and everything else besides.

RESOLVED that, noting that Church Pulverbatch is in a low crime area, that the Council agreed that their three high priorities are:

- Speeding through the village at night (although there had been cables across the road there was not enough evidence on stretches of road in the parish. Need the guns out again)
- Rural Crime
- Farm traffic – speeding tractors and the drivers on their phones

VAS – Highways are trying to find out their criteria is – Cllr. C. Naylor agreed.

Cllr. Naylor reported that CIL funding was going to be consolidated and he was going to see what the rules were so there may be money to spend in the village.

32/2026 Public Consultation - new five-year Plan for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape

The public consultation period for the draft five-year Plan for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape has been extended to 18th August 2025.

'Thriving in balance with nature' is our vision for the Shropshire Hills. This vision is built around six priority themes; nature, climate, water, land, people & place, which you can read about here [Shropshire Hills National Landscape Plan, 2025 – 2030](#).

RESOLVED that Church Pulverbatch Parish Councillors reply as individuals.

33/2026 Local Plan Evidence - Call For Sites

Members were asked to note the e mail circulated before the meeting about the Local Plan Evidence – Call for Sites and make any comments.

There had been a lean towards a greener countryside in the Local Plan. Councils are invited to come back with more areas so more houses will be built than the current number proposed for the area already. Donnington are looking for sites but the school is not big enough.

34/2026 PCC Commissioners Survey

Members were asked to comment on the annual Town & Parish Council Survey for completion and return from John Campion, West Mercia PCC circulated by e mail or decide whether they wish to answer the survey as individual councillors.

RESOLVED to note that Members filled in the survey at the meeting for submission.

35/2026 Call for Information from Shropshire Council to Town and Parishes

From Cllr. Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council has sent this call from information as per below:

This process will be led by Councillor David Minnery, Chair of the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee, with a request for responses by Monday 18th August in order to allow Scrutiny the time to prepare policy recommendations and allow cross-party discussion of the Council's direction in this area before it reaches Cabinet. I've attached David's letter and the form we are asking Towns and Parishes to fill in to this email.

A few Members have raised the fact that my letter a fortnight ago advising places to expect this request did not get to some Clerks in their Division. I've personally gone through the email list we had and updated it so that I think we now have details for the Clerk of all 153, but I'm sure that this is still imperfect for various reasons. As a result, I was hoping that you might be able to forward this email on to some contacts you might have in the Town and Parish Councils you represent. We have already asked that all Members of Town and Parish Councils are forwarded the request by their Clerk, so consider this all open and in the public domain.

We are all very hopeful that this is a significant cross-party opportunity to improve the way that Shropshire Council works and start to push for stronger partnership working. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about this process or wanted to otherwise share your views.

Members have had the information circulated by e mail before the meeting and are therefore asked to comment on that information.

RESOLVED that they had no comments at this time and would watch how this progresses.

36/2026 Youth Offer Questionnaire

Church Pulverbatch Parish Council has an extension to reply to this questionnaire and Members are therefore asked to comment on the information circulate by e mail about the Youth Offer in Shropshire.

From Helena Williams Youth Support Manager Early Help Shropshire Council:

As part of the wider Transformation and Improvement programme, our team is leading a Youth Needs Assessment and local mapping process. This work builds on the success of Shropshire becoming a National Youth Transformation Pilot area (we are one of 12 across

the Country) and is aligned with national developments, including updated statutory guidance under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 and the development of a new National Youth Strategy.

RESOLVED to note that the Parish Council would make no comment.

37/2026 Parish Matters

Members were asked to raise any matters relating to the parish under this item for consideration.

RESOLVED to note that there were no matters raised at the meeting.

38/2026 Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED to note that the next meeting of Church Pulverbatch Parish Council is on Thursday 25th September 2025.

Signed..... **Date**

Chairman