

LLANFAIR WATERDINE



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the Meeting held on 22nd September 2025
at 7.30pm at the Everest Hall

Present: Cllrs J Lane (Chair), M Hughes, and R Lloyd
Joined during **Item 30:** Cllrs H Plumb and J Thomas
Joined following co-option during **Item 32:** Cllrs G Knowler and R Lewis.

Absent: None

28/25-26 APOLOGIES
No apologies were received.

29/25-26 INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

- (a) No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were made by those present and none had been received.
- (b) No requests for Dispensation had previously been received and none were presented.

30/25-26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) None of the members of the public who were present wished to speak.
- (b) Shropshire Ward Councillor Sam Walmsley give a long and detailed report.
On the upside, there has been significant progress in tackling potholes, though many remain; and the backlog of Highways work has been reduced. The new Administration has shifted emphasis away from the previous focus on encouraging all interaction to take place through the council's website and has reduced average wait times for telephone enquires to 8 minutes. "Local Hub" sessions have also been initiated where council officers travel to centres around the county to talk to residents and answer questions.
On the downside, it is now clear that the council's finances are in a much poorer state than had been realised by the incoming Administration. The previous Administration had committed to unidentified savings in order to balance the 2025/26 Budget. However, upon further investigation these have not been found; and even were all reserves to be used, the council is now estimating an overrun against the Budget of c. £0.5 million, largely driven by overspends in Adult and Child Social Care. There is an urgent need to find in-year savings in order to avoid issuing a section 114 Notice, which is effectively a declaration of bankruptcy.
The council is looking at ways in which, in the longer term, Child Social Care costs might be better controlled by bringing some of the provision back in-house; but the lead-times for re-establishing such services are significant.
The council is now, in the light of positive responses from the consultation with parish and town councils, actively looking at a number of pilots whereby responsibilities for some services could be devolved to local councils, with funding being shared. Shrewsbury Town Council is in the vanguard, having already taken over devolved responsibility for Streetscene in Shrewsbury. Once details around Health & Safety responsibilities and insurance have been clarified, the council is hoping to announce other pilots over the next 12 to 18 months. Cllr Wallmsley noted that similar schemes are being trialled in Devon and Oxfordshire.
Finally, Cllr Walmsley said that he was aware of some problems, both in Llanfair Waterdine and elsewhere, where Veolia had refused to collect refuse from households because of the poor state of the approach roads. He would welcome being made aware of any such problems as this was a matter of concern.

31/25-26 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council Meeting of 14th July 2025, It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

32/25-26 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL

Two parishoners had submitted applications to be considered for co-option to the Council. All councillors confirmed that they had received and read the applications. The Clerk advised that, since there were 2 vacancies and 2 candidates, it would be appropriate to consider each application in turn and to move to a vote. It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that Gail Knowler be co-opted as a member of the Council. It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that Richard Lewis be co-opted as a member of the Council.

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to suspend the meeting at 8.05pm. The meeting recommenced at 8.09pm.

Cllrs Knowler and Lewis having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, they were welcome by the Chair to the meeting.

33/25-26 AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) (report GR01.2025-26)

- (a) The Clerk presented the report, which had previously been circulated to councillors. The Chair thanked the Clerk for his work on the matter since the last meeting and for the thoroughness of the report. Councillors asked for clarification on whether volunteers would still check on the AEDs if they were to be moved into the Council's ownership. The Clerk responded by saying that these details still needed to be worked out but that he saw the role of volunteers as being critical to the success of any AED scheme. Volunteers currently act as the The Circuit 'Guardian' for the Everest Hall AED and he hoped that they would continue in this capacity and also take on responsibility for any new AED at The Pavilion. Cllr Thomas asked whether councillors could be held personally liable in the event that a legal case were brought against the Council regarding AEDs that it provided and maintained. The Clerk replied that the Council is, by statute, a corporate body and that councillors are not personally liable for its decisions or actions. He offered to write to Council with the relevant legal reference. Cllr Knowles wished to know what might happen were someone to attempt to bring a case against the Council for negligence or damages arising from the provision of public access AEDs. The Clerk replied that he could take legal counsel on the matter on behalf of the Council if required. However, advice on the British Heart Foundation's website was that the courts had not, to date, looked favourably on such cases and that none had succeeded. The Clerk also pointed out that the Council held Public Liability Insurance. Following further discussions, the Clerk offered to look at the basis for the BHF's statements on its website and to send the information to councillors.
- (b) It was **MOVED and RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept the following recommendations from the report:
- that the Council take overall responsibility for the provision of AEDs within the parish, including maintenance and running costs, over the next 12 months;
 - that the Council immediately purchase an additional AED to be deployed at The Pavilion contingent on the receipt of grants from the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust;
 - that an earmarked reserve be set up to cover AED maintenance and running costs, with appropriate annual provisions being made starting in the 2026/27 Budget;
 - that, as funds permit, the Council agrees with the Clun Valley AED Scheme for the current AED sited at the Everest Hall to be transferred to Council ownership;
 - that the Council promote an annual community event to raise awareness of the AEDs in the parish and to familiarise residents with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an AED;
 - that the Council conduct a formally review annually, with the results being shared with the community at the Annual Parish Council Meeting; and that this include an assessment as to whether additional AEDs are required.
- It was **AGREED** unanimously that the status of public access AEDs provided by the Council would be reported and reviewed under a standing business item at future

meetings.

34/25-26 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lane reported on work by the Nature Recovery Group. There had been discussions with the Parochial Church Council on creating a nature recovery area at the top of the churchyard. This has been agreed in principle and the NRG is putting together a plan for tree-planting in the area for the PCC with advice from Caring for God's Acre. There had also been further work on The Pavilion grounds, with further wild flower planting by the fence and removal of docks.

35/25-26 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Footpaths Warden had been unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk provided a brief verbal update. Work had taken place with support from Shropshire Council officers on one of the footpaths listed in the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website, including the installation of a new gate. He was now looking to recruit some volunteers to help with further work. Councillors suggested that an article be put in the next edition of the *Llanfair Times*; and also suggested using a WhatsApps group which had been set up with the name *Llanfair Fill In the Gap*.
- (b) The road up to Springhill, which is a major route out of the valley, is still a matter of concern despite the patching work done last year. The surface has deteriorated significantly in places. Cllr Walmsley offered to take up the matter with Highways but explained that the volume of incidents logged on Fix My Street was important in securing priority and he asked that the Council encourage as many people as possible to report the issue online.

36/25-26 FINANCE (financial report FR04.2025-26)

- (a) Council noted the bank account reconciliation and balance, which was stated to stand at £7,540.62. Cllr Hughes had not managed to check the balance on the account in support of the reconciliation but agreed to do so the following day and to write to Council with the result.
- (b) Council noted that no income had been received since the last meeting.
- (c) Council noted the payment of £316.33 made on 27th August in respect of the Clerk's salary for Month 5 (August 2025). Council also noted the payment of £115.00 made on 27th August in respect of the invoice from RLT Auditing for the Internal Audit for 2024/25.
- (d) The Clerk presented the 2025/26 NJC Pay Settlement and the calculation made in respect of back pay owing (£59.80). Cllr Knowles pointed out a typographic error in the report: the back pay was incorrectly stated to be from April 2024. The Clerk apologised for the error and affirmed that the back pay was from April 2025. Council noted the back pay owing and also the increase in the Clerk's annual salary to £3,915.60 (£326.30 per month).
- (e) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
James McVicar	Payroll for Month 6 (inc HMRC PAYE)	£316.33
James McVicar	NJC 2025/26 Settlement Backpay (inc HMRC PAYE)	£59.80
James McVicar	Half-yearly WFH & Mileage Allowance	£55.50
Craven design & print	<i>Llanfair Times</i> Summer Edition	£248.00

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the above payments.

- (f) Council noted the report on income and expenditure against Budget for 2025/26. The Clerk commented that the slight overrun against IT equipment, once VAT had been reclaimed, could readily be absorbed by the contingency provision.

37/25-26 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk presented an email from Shropshire Care Services Directory. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk write to SCSD requesting 3 boxes of booklets. Some of these would be distributed with the Winter edition of the *Llanfair Times* and some would be given to the Everest Hall and The Pavilion committees to be made available to users of the halls.

38/25-26 TO NOTE THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The Clerk asked councillors to note that Council had agreed that winter meetings (November, January and March) would start at 6.30pm rather than 7.30pm.

The next meeting of Council will be on Monday 24th November at 6.30pm in The Pavilion.

Business being concluded, the Council meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm.

Signed: _____
Chair of Council Meeting

Date: _____