



MINUTES

of the meeting held on Monday 16th March 2026
at 6.30pm at The Pavilion

Present: Cllrs J Lane (Chair), G Knowler, R Lewis, R Lloyd, H Plumb and J Thomas
Absent: Cllr M Hughes

67/25-26 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr M Hughes and accepted by a unanimous vote.

68/25-26 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.

69/25-26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) None.
- (b) Cllr Sam Walmsley, the Shropshire Council Ward Councillor, presented the following report:

The government has approved Shropshire Councils application for £190m Exceptional Financial Support. This is a loan facility, and Shropshire Council will use as little of it as possible. The approval of EFS means that SC can deliver all spending needed this financial year (to end of March 2025). It also means that a balanced budget can be produced for 2026-27. This budget was signed off in a full Council meeting (all Councillors) at the end of February.

A core principle of the new budget is that it is realistic. This has meant the removal of £10s of millions of aspirational savings which had been included in recent budgets (but never achieved) and the pausing of a number of capital projects (e.g. Sundorne Sports Village). The headline element of the budget was a 9% increase in Council Tax. This is an essential step towards putting the council on a sound financial footing, but there is still much work to be done.

In the same Council meeting the North-West Relief Road was officially cancelled. Conversations with government about whether past spending (approx. £40m) on the project will have to be repaid by SC are ongoing.

At a local level, I met with the local highways officer and looked at a number of roads in the Llanfair Waterdine area. He said that the Cwm Collo road is in his top 5 list of concerns – it is at the point where resurfacing is required. Unfortunately, it won't be done in the 2026-27 financial year but he is pushing for it in the 2027-28 financial year. In the meantime, pothole filling, drainage clearance and so on will be done to make it more useable for normal vehicles.

70/25-26 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council Meeting of 19th January 2026. It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve them as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- (b) Council noted the minutes of the Council Meeting of 16th February 2026. It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve them as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

HIGHWAYS

- (a) Councillors noted that the Council's new grit bin had been installed in the carpark of the Everest Hall but that it had still not been filled. Cllr Walmsley pointed out that the bin had not been registered with Shropshire Council and that, therefore, it would not be filled by SC Highways. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Cllr Walmsley asking for the bin to be registered and filled. Councillors also noted that a private grit bin had been installed close to the pathway to the Church.
- (b) Cllr Thomas put forward the idea that road maintenance work might be supplemented by and integrated with land management schemes for controlling water flow onto roads, such as the building of leaky dams. Cllr Walmsley said that he was aware of a number of schemes; these were usually driven by independent trusts. Cllr Thomas said she would explore the idea further and report back at a later date. Councillors noted that an elderly resident's bins are not being collected as Veolia has claimed that the road to the property concerned has become impassable. Cllr Walmsley stated that this is an example of a wider issue, with Veolia refusing to collect bins from a number of other properties in the wider area for similar reasons -- some of which SC Highways believes are unfounded. He is pursuing the broader issue and will include the concern raised.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Lane reported on a SALC South Shropshire Area Committee (SSAC) meeting that he had attended. Cllr Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council and Mayor of Shrewsbury, had made a presentation about Devolution and Partnership Working: Shropshire Council wishes to devolve some of its service provision responsibilities to parish and town councils in the future. There are pilot schemes now agreed with Shrewsbury Town Council, Oswestry Town Council, Broseley Town Council and Shifnal Town Council. Shropshire Council was also looking at the possibility of running pilots with "clusters" of smaller town/parish councils, although none had yet been agreed.

There was a discussion, with contributions from Cllr Walmsley and the Clerk. It was noted that the Business Model is not yet well developed and that there are significant areas of uncertainty (e.g, around liability and insurance) that still need to be ironed out; also, that it was not yet clear how "clusters" of smaller parish/town councils might operate. However, councillors agreed that this was an interesting development and that it was worth following the pilots.

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to take item 74/25-26 next.

WORKING GROUPS

- (a) *Cllr Thomas reported that the Nature Recovery Group had continued its work, with additional planting in the Churchyard and verges at The Pavilion, and that it had plans to plant saplings on the Tump.*

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to take item 75/25-26 next.

FINANCE (financial report FR08.2025-26)

- (a) Council noted the bank account reconciliation and balance. It had not been possible for Cllr Hughes to access the bank account and confirm the bank balance.
- (b) Council noted the income received. Council witnessed Cllr Lane hand over £20 to the Clerk, representing cash donations he had been given towards the costs of producing the *Llanfair Times*.
- (c) Council ratified the contractual payment of the Clerk's salary for month 11 (February 2026).
- (d) It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the following payments:

Payee	Description	Amount
James McVicar	Re-imburement for payment of Council's annual Domain Name contract with 123Reg	£15.59
James McVicar	Payroll for Month 12 (inc HMRC PAYE)	£376.17
James McVicar	WFH Allowance & Mileage allowance	£46.60
Community Pavilion	Hire of room for March 2026 Council Meeting	£10.00

Council also noted the Budget Comparison, showing a total spend to date of £6,069.94, representing 84% of the 2025/26 Budget.

73/25-26 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- (a) There was a discussion on the potential establishment of a Welfare Group. It was agreed that Cllrs Lane and Knowler would arrange a meeting of various individuals and groups in the parish to discuss what they thought was required and how it might best be delivered.
- (b) Cllr Thomas noted that the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust had paid for some of the NRG planting work around The Pavilion grounds. She asked that councillors get together informally with the Trustees for a meeting to discuss working more closely together.

76/25-26 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

77/25-26

The following was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote: Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2), that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

78/25-26

CLERK'S ANNUAL APPRAISAL

- (a) The Clerk's Appraisal for 2025/26 was presented by Cllrs Plumb and Thomas and endorsed.
- (b) Council discussed the Appraisal with the Clerk.

Note: where an agenda item has been proposed by a councillor, the councillor's name is shown against it in brackets.

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