



MINUTES
of the Meeting held on 14th July 2025
at 7.30pm at the Everest Hall

Present: Cllrs J Lane (Chair), M Hughes, R Lloyd
Absent: Cllrs H Plumb, J Thomas

16/25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs H Plumb and J Thomas were received and discussed and it was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to accept them.

17/25-26 INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

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

18/25-26 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- (a) Messrs R Taylor and G Trew (Churchwardens) and Mr R Lewis were in attendance from St Mary's Llanfair Waterdine Parochial Church Council.
Mr Lewis opened by stating that he welcomed the Parish Council's invitation to the PCC to engage in dialogue and he believed that there were opportunities for collaboration on Nature Recovery projects involving the churchyard.
Mr Taylor echoed this and thought that such projects might be used to create quiet spaces for contemplation and peace in the churchyard that could be used by the whole community. He noted that the PCC was likely to be setting aside some money for such purposes in the near future. Cllr Lane welcomed the idea provided that, at least initially, the projects were not too ambitious.
Mr Trew explained that the PCC had reintroduced hedgehogs into the churchyard, including providing housing, as part of their own Nature Recovery work. Cllr Lane asked if road signage warning of the presence of hedgehogs might be useful: the Council had considered this last year. Mr Trew thought that it would be and Cllr Lane suggested that Council might look at this again.
It was agreed that it might make sense to try to get a joint Nature Recovery project off the ground in the Autumn.
Mr Taylor noted that the church was an ancient sacred site and an important community asset. Although the congregation regularly attending services was small, it was used by many in the community for important events, particularly weddings and funerals. It is kept permanently open for use by anyone needing a quiet space in which to sit.
Mr Trew noted maintenance of the churchyard costs upwards of £2,500 per annum and that the Council's grant last year towards the costs of grass-cutting had been very welcome; he hoped this support might continue.

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to suspend the meeting at 7.54pm. The meeting recommenced at 7.58pm.

19/25-26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) No members of the Public wished to speak.
- (b) The Clerk presented apologies from Cllr S Walmsley, the Shropshire Council Ward Councillor, who had been unable to attend the meeting. He intended to be present at the Council's next meeting in September.

20/25-26 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council meeting of 12th May 2025. It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- (b) There were no matters and actions arising from the minutes.

21/25-26 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL

No applications had been received. However, Cllr Lloyd confirmed that the person he had mentioned at the May meeting did wish to be considered. The Clerk asked that the person email him directly so that they could be sent a form for completion. Their application could then be considered at the next meeting of Council.

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to take Agenda item 23 next.

23/25-26 AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

- (a) Cllr Lane outlined information that he had gained from discussions with I Waters (the Chair of the Everest Hall Committee), A Price and F Waters, including the fact that volunteers still informally checked the status of the AED. A Price was invited by the Chair to speak to Council and offered some additional information and stressed that having a working AED unit in the village was important. Council then considered the Clerk's report and recommendations and it was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to accept the report and its proposals with the amendment that the Clerk consult A Price and F Waters before presenting the proposed future summary report, with recommendations, to Council.

22/25-26 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- (a) It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to disband the Environmental Climate Change Working Group.
- (b) Council discussed the draft Terms of Reference for a Nature Recovery and Climate Action Working Group. A number of amendments were agreed:
 - o Para 3, second bullet: amend "will include" to "may include";
 - o Para 4, third bullet: remove "and setting agendas";
 - o Para 4, fourth bullet: amend to "Notes of meetings will be made available on the Parish Council website"
 - o Amend the name of the working group to become the Nature Recovery Group (NRG).

With those amendments, it was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve and adopt the Terms of Reference and to establish the new working group.

24/25-26 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Cllr Lane reported that the former Environmental Climate Change Working Group had undertaken work on the Mound and on a strip of land in the community field next to the road. Further work on the Mound (by the new Nature Recovery working group) was planned in the near future.
- (b) Cllr Lloyd reported that Shropshire Council had done no work on the verges in and around the village over the past few months and that the growth had now reached a stage where it constituted a hazard to road users. The issue was particularly bad between Cwn Collo and Springhill. The Clerk offered to write to Shropshire Council, copied to Cllr Walmsley, asking for urgent work and to raise an incident on FixMyStreet.

25/25-26 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Clerk reported that Mr B Eastop, as Footpaths Warden, had arranged with Shropshire Council for some work to take place on a footpath near to the village; and that further work was anticipated over the coming months during which volunteers from the community could be trained up with a view to getting together a small local team to undertake maintenance work on an ongoing basis.

26/25-26 FINANCE (*financial report FR03.2025-26 was presented*)

- (a) Council noted the bank account reconciliation and balance. Cllr Hughes confirmed that he had inspected the Bank Account and that the balance on 14th July had been £8,523.27, which agreed with the bank reconciliation presented. He had also written to the Clerk confirming this.
- (b) Council noted that the following income had been received:

Source	Description	Amount
HMRC	VAT Refund (relates to 2024/25 Fiscal Year)	£81.12
Bank Deposit	Llanfair Times Cash Donations	£25.00
S Thomas	Donation in respect of Llanfair Times	£5.00
M Chadwick	Donation in respect of Llanfair Times	£10.00
Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust	Grant towards the costs of producing the Llanfair Times	£200.00
Shropshire Council	Environmental Maintenance Grant	£200.00

(c) Council noted the payment of £316.33 made on 30th June 2025 in respect of the Clerk's salary for Month 3 (June 2025).

(d) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
James McVicar	Payroll for Month 4 (inc HMRC PAYE)	£316.33

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

It was **MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to authorise the Clerk to spend up to £300 (including VAT) on procurement of a suitable replacement laptop for the Council.

27/25-26

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk presented correspondence from a company offering to provide the Council with .gov.uk email facilities. At present, the Council uses a generic domain owned by a third party provider for official staff email; and permits councillors to use their private email addresses. He explained that it was Best Practice for councils to have ownership of their own email domain and to use .gov.uk or similar generic addresses for both staffs' and councillors' official email. This is formally recommended in the *Practitioners' Guide 2025*, which had recently been published. It was also recommended in the *Guide* that councils adopt an IT Policy. He explained some of the legislative background and noted that he would be bringing the matter before Council for decision at a later date.
- (b) The Council had received an email requesting publication, on a paid basis, of an advert in its newsletter. Councillors Lane and Hughes commented that they would take the matter for discussion with those involved in publication of the Llanfair Times.

Business being concluded, the Council meeting was declared closed at 9.00pm.

Signed: _____
Chair of Council Meeting

Date: _____