

# BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bitterley Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Present:** Cllrs A Holman (Chair), G Dolphin, J Gatehouse, P Martin, T Millard, R J Osborne, K Parry, J Reardon-Smith, D Rogers and R Watkins.

**2025/353 Apologies:** None

**2025/354 Declarations of Interest**

- i. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None
- ii. To declare any Non-Pecuniary Interests: None

**2025/355 Public Participation:** No members of the public were in attendance.

**2025/356 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025:**  
**RESOLVED:** to accept the minutes and they were signed by the chair.

**2025/357 Shropshire Councillor Report** – Cllr Huffer was not in attendance.

**2025/358 Clerks Report:** The Clerk reported there had been only 7 nominations so an election would not be required for the Parish Council. The new Council will seek to co-opt to fill the vacancies. She met with Cllr Gatehouse and Mark Holmes from Shropshire Councils drainage team to look at the flow of water along the railway track and flooding the lane. Mark will look at trying to divert the flow before it enters the lane and ensure the drains are clear.

**2025/359 Agree the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025:** Brian Hickson – Shropshire Council's Rights of Way Officer is able to attend. The Clerk will invite the new Shropshire Councillor for the Clee Ward. The agenda will be published on notice boards, website, West of Clee Magazine, Bitterley School Magazine, Bitterley Facebook and WhatsApp Group.

**2025/360 Confirm the Expenditure of the Environmental Maintenance Grant was in Line with the Grant Conditions:**  
**RESOLVED:** to confirm that the grant had been spent in line with the conditions.

**2025/361 Agree the Contract for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor:** a new contract was agreed which will be used for future Environmental Maintenance contracts.

**2025/362 Ledwyche Liaison Group**

- i. Update on the Community Benefit Fund – Cllr Reardon-Smith reported there will be a meeting with Aukera Energy on 14<sup>th</sup> May where there will be a further opportunity to discuss the Community Benefit Fund.
- ii. Meeting with Stuart Anderson MP – Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that he and Cllr Holman had met with Mr Anderson to discuss the response from Shropshire Council's planning team regarding maintenance traffic for the sites. They also discussed the Community Benefit Fund. Mr Anderson is willing to become further involved to assist the Parish Council to ensure Aukera Energy honour their commitments.

**2025/363**

**Volunteer Groups:**

- i. Highways Group Update and Insurance: The present insurers will only cover volunteers working on highways with a 30mph speed limit. The Clerk will request quotes from other insurers who cover volunteers on roads with up to 60mph speed limits to be considered at the next meeting.
- ii. To Consider a Proposal to Plant on Verges in the Parish:  
**RESOLVED:** to purchase pollinator friendly daffodils for volunteers to plant in verges in Bitterley village and Henley Lane area with a budget provision of up to £100.

**2025/364**

**Financial Matters:**

- i. Review the Draft Annual Report including the Bank Reconciliation and Asset Register:  
**RESOLVED:** to approve the Annual Report.
- ii. Consider Adding the Clerk to the Banking Mandate as a Delegate User or View Only User:  
**RESOLVED:** to add the Clerk to the banking mandate as a delegate user.
- iii. Approve Payments:

Payee	Amount
Bulbs for Verges	Up to £100.
Hugo Fox	34.98 + vat per month
Domain	Deferred to the next meeting
Rocking Horse Media	£80
H Coonick Reimburse, Inks defib pad	£30.97 + £64.14

**2025/365**

**Consider a Motion to Put to SALC to Request that John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) Attends a Future SALC South Shropshire Area Committee to Discuss the Crime Solving Rate in South Shropshire – deferred to the next meeting.**

**2025/366**

**Consider a Photography Competition for Photographs for the new website deferred to the next meeting.**

**2025/367**

**Councillors Reports –** Cllr Holman thanked Cllr Millard for his work on distributing the SmartWater kits. West Mercia Police will now provide signs for the parish. Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that the trees had now been planted at Henley 1 site.

**2025/368**

**Action List:** Clerk to report the need for a No Through Road Sign again on Fix My Street. She will also ask Nick Newton (Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer) about the outcome of the monitoring of traffic speeds at Henley.

**2025/369**

**Items for the next Agenda:** a. Consider a Motion to Put to SALC to Request that John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) Attends a Future SALC South Shropshire Area Committee to Discuss the Crime Solving Rate in South Shropshire b. Consider a Photography Competition for Photographs for the New Website c. Ideas for Expenditure d. Insurance Quotations Review

**Cllr Holman thanked Cllrs Peter Martin, Geoffrey Dolphin and Robert Watkins for their time as Councillors and wished them well as they have decided not to stand for the next term.**

**Annual Parish Meeting: 7.00pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Annual Parish Council Meeting: 7.00pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Bitterley Village Hall**

**Signed by the Chair:**

**Date:**