

**EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts**

**MINUTES**

**of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall**

**122/26 - Present**

Cllr. Bruce Orme -Acting Chairman

Cllr. Colin Pugh

Cllr. M Joseph

Cllr. S Pratt

Cllr. M Pratt

Cllr. R Davis

**Apologies:** Cllr. Graham Watts

**In Attendance**

The Clerk and Corvedale Division Councillor Colin Stanford

**123/26 - Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

No declarations were made.

**124/26 – Reports**

Cllr. Colin Stanford reported that the government has made an exceptional grant of £71 million to Shropshire Council to tide it over for this financial year: it will attract interest of 5%. Cllrs Orme and S Pratt enquired how this debt will ever be paid, despite SC raising fees for everything, such as car parking, licences and council tax. Cllr. Stanford was unable to say how the debt would be repaid and reiterated that child and adult social care consumes a huge proportion of SC's income and until the Treasury increased its grant to deal with this statutory requirement, the situation would remain unresolved.

He has had a meeting with managers from the Highways Department, including Mr David Basmer a Highways Portfolio holder, and emphasised with them that the flooding in the dip at Harton Holt (Tom's Dip) must be remedied. Next time he meets them he will ask them to ensure that Closed signs are removed as soon as roadworks are finished.

The Cabinet continues to debate the eleven options about the future of the Shirehall and a decision still has not been reached.

He has been asked to become a Governor at Rushbury School.

### **125/26 - Public question time**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

### **126/26 – Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

The Minutes of the Parish Council's Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. S Pratt **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

**Vote:** Proposal approved unanimously

### **127/26 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

123/26: The Church Stretton Neighbourhood Plan was discussed briefly at the last meeting. Councillors have now had more time to study it. They are concerned at the scale of proposed development as the infrastructure in Church Stretton can't cope as it is - it is difficult to get an appointment with a doctor or a dentist. They are disappointed Scrappies is being closed and are concerned at the lack of provision for youth; the dance school has moved, the leisure centre is inadequate and expensive. It is proposed that 33% of new housing will be affordable, but given the local need it should be 50% and should have a local connection proviso. Cllr. Stanford advised SC won't have a new Local Plan until 2028. Cllr. Orme reported that he understands some house builders are unable to build new houses in England, where the average price is £300,000, and make a profit, thus some large housing building firms are selling off land which they had land banked rather than building homes.

### **128/26 - Correspondence/Communications**

Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-

1. Bundle of documents emailed to Councillors concerning the "Church Stretton Town Council's Stretton Neighbourhood Plan, Regulation 14 Consultation – Request for Comments". Comments have to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

by post to the Town Council, or by email – [support@csneighbourhoodplan.com](mailto:support@csneighbourhoodplan.com)

2. Email from Cllr. Colin Stanford attaching details of the New Asset Transfer and briefing document from Cllr. James Alderson of Shropshire Council entitled Shropshire Council launches new policy to empower town and parish councils. It is essentially a request from SC for town and parish councils to take over some of SC's services.
3. Road closure Birtley Junction to Ticklerton on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 from 09.30 – 15.00.
4. Road closure Ivy Cottage to Pheasant Cottage, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026
5. Road closure 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 between Hatton and Ticklerton
6. Road closure 21<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 between 9pm and 6am on A49 between Little Stretton area and Marshbrook
7. Road closure 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 from Mount Junction to Soudley
8. List of Parish and Town Council precepts for 2026/7
9. Emails between Clerk, Cllr. Stanford and various people at Highways in an effort to get Tom's Dip drains cleared and to obtain a map of the drains. No response from SC about the map of the drains' layout. Cllr. Stanford has been told the drain is to be jet blasted – no indication when this will occur.
10. Notification from Cllr. Orme that the "Ticklerton" entry sign by Bank House in Ticklerton is missing. although the posts remain in situ. Endeavouring without success to contact SC for a replacement. Looking at options for replacing it. Cllr. Orme to investigate a firm in Craven Arms. Acton Scott has been waiting five years for SC to replace road signs. Clerk checked back through her files and finds she contacted SC about the missing sign in May 2024 – no response.

### **Responses to Correspondence: Item 10**

Cllrs, Orme and Davis agreed to get the missing sign in Ticklerton measured, ordered and relaced. The parish council will pay for it. We have been waiting two years for SC to replace it.

### **129/26 - Highways, footpaths and environmental matters**

The two broken bridges across the stream between Eaton and Rushbury were discussed. SC will be asked again to repair them. Cllr. Joseph has noted that potholes

in Common Lane, Soudley have been circled with white paint so it is hoped they may soon be filled.

The need for a depth gauge to be installed at Tom's Dip was discussed. The Clerk will investigate what types are available.

**130/26 - Financial matters to be considered**  
**Finance Report for March 2026**

**Balance brought forward from February 2026** **£4,229.79**

**Payments to be made on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 from Precept Fund**

• HSBC bank charges	£ 1.20	
• Clerk's net salary for March 2026	£199.31	
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's March 2026 salary	£ 49.60	
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in March 2026</u>		
• <u>paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>		
• Contribution towards telephone/internet for March 2026 @ £20 p.m.	£20.00	
• 1 ream A4 paper, 1 Minute note-taking pad	£ 5.50	
• 5 x Epson 29XL compatible ink cartridges	£11.98	
• Coins for electricity at Ticklerton 16.2.26	£ 2.00	
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 16.03.26 to Hope Bowder Village Hall for PC meeting - 34 miles	£15.30	
• Total of admin. expenses	<u>£54.78</u>	£ 54.78
		£304.89
		<u>£ 304.89</u>
<b>Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to April 2026</b>		<b><u>£3,924.90</u></b>

Cllr. Joseph **proposed** that cheques/DDs totalling £304.89 be authorised for payment

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S Pratt

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

**Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council**

Environmental & Asset Maintenance Fund

bal. b/fwd from February 2026 **£593.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from February 2026 **£451.59**

**Total funds held by Parish Council following authorisation & presentation of the above cheques.**

**Precept Fund** **£3,924.90**

**Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund** **£ 593.78**

**Neighbourhood Fund grant** **£ 451.59**

**£4,970.27**

**Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.**

Cllr. Davis verified the Clerk's reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 173

**131/26 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

No matters were raised.

There being no further business to deal with, the Acting Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Ticklerton Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**SIGNED**

**DATED**

DRAFT