

EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026
7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

111/26 - Present

Cllr. R Davis -Acting Chairman
Cllr. Colin Pugh
Cllr. M Joseph
Cllr. S Pratt
Cllr. M Pratt

Apologies: Cllr. Graham Watts and Cllr. B Orme

In Attendance

The Clerk and Corvedale Division Councillor Colin Stanford

112/26 - 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.

113/26 – Reports

Cllr. Colin Stanford reported on the current financial state of Shropshire Council. The Council is still negotiating with the government for a loan as it now has a deficit in excess of £100 million pounds. He circulated to councillors his intervention with Highways concerning the flooding issue at Harton Halt seeking a quick resolution to the problem. He also took up an issue with traffic lights at Stanton Lacy on the B4365. He is seeing action being taken by Highways around the parish but the weather is causing more problems: as soon as one is fixed another appears. He had attended a meeting of some local parishes when a spreadsheet setting the costs incurred by SC for the provision of services was discussed. Several anomalies

arose: for example there was a cost listed for the collection of rubbish bins in Abdon when no such service exists.

He advised that the council tax for 2026/2027 will be increased by 9%.

Discussion followed about the request for comments on SC's Stretton Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation, which had only been received yesterday so those present had only been able to have a cursory look at it. There was concern that there is insufficient affordable housing and what was proposed put too much strain on the existing infrastructure. The local dentist is now accepting new NHS patients and patients are coming from as far afield as Aberystwyth. It was agreed the matter will be an Agenda item for the next meeting, when it can be discussed fully.

114/26 - Public question time

No members of the public attended the meeting.

115/26 – Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 19th January 2026

The Minutes of the Parish Council's Meeting held on 19th January 2026 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Joseph **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 19th January 2026 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. S. Pratt

Vote: Proposal approved unanimously

116/26 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 19th January 2026

122/25/1: At the meeting on 17th November 2025 it had been agreed that the parish council will change its website host from WebOrchard to Hugo Fox.

006/26 – at the meeting on 19th January 2026 it was agreed that the Clerk will discuss with Mr Clive Martyn whether he will set up the new website or whether Hugo Fox be asked to set it up at a cost of £199 plus VAT. The Clerk has now spoken to Mr Martyn and he has agreed to create and set up the new website for £80. He has just set up the new website for Diddlebury Parish Council and the councillors there were very pleased with the result.

The Hugo Fox website will include the SC planning tracker, which was absent from the WebOrchard site, and costs £20 per month hosting fee.

Cllr. M Pratt **proposed** that Mr Clive Martyn be asked to set up the new Hugo Fox website

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. M Joseph

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

117/26 - Correspondence/Communications

020

Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-

1. Letter 21.01.26 from Connexus Group re 3 Mount View, Hope Bowdler
2. Email 19.02.16 Clerk to Andrew Keyland of Highways Dept. at Shropshire Council re urgent work need on flooded dip by old railway bridge at Harton. No reply received.
3. Email 12.02.26 from Corvedale Cllr. Colin Stanford to Andrew Keyland urging action be taken to fix the flooded dip at Harton.
4. Briefing paper from SALC re Broadband and Mobile Phone Connectivity.
5. Invitation/Agenda for Three Parishes Verge Restoration Project Conference – 10am on 13th March 2026, Sylvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton.
6. Confirmation from Mr Ray Hall that he is willing to continue working for the parish council in the forthcoming year on asset management, drain clearance, strimming etc.
7. Notification of next South Shropshire Area Local Committee meeting – Tuesday 10th March, 6.30pm at The Mascall Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow SY8 1RZ
8. Update on extensive works due to be carried on the A49 at Bayston Hill. To keep up to date email to : NoReply/A49WMids@nationalhighways.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000
9. Invitation to the Shropshire Hills Forum – Wednesday 29th April 2026 at Clun Memorial Hall, 10am – 3.30pm Book via their website: www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk
10. Briefing document about SC's UKSPF Programme, dealing with SC's economy and the availability of future government growth funding in Shropshire.

118/26– Highways, footpaths and environmental matters

118/26/1: Mr Ray Hall has confirmed he is willing to continue clearing blocked drains around the parish, and to deal with fallen trees/branches, strimming and taking care of the bus shelters

118/26/2: Councillors discussed potholes and flood issues at length. The Clerk has been writing to Highways for six years now asking for remedial action to be taken at the dip by the railway bridge in Harton, known locally as Tom's Dip. The flooding has caused damage to many vehicles and for weeks now traffic has had to divert via Eaton. Cllr. Orme had suggested some years back that the hollow at Harton Halt needed to be infilled, levelled and supplied with a new drainage system. However, councillors present felt that it just needed to have the drains thoroughly cleared on a regular basis. Mr Ray Hall had indicated it was too large a job for him. Cllr. S Pratt felt it needed a digger as the chances are the drains are blocked with all manner of debris. Cllr. Pugh advised that for years Darby Lane had flooded by Whitefields Farm. The new owner of Whitefields Farm has had a digger in and removed masses

of debris and the road no longer floods. A response is awaited from Highways as to what, if any action, they will take at Tom's Dip..

Since 2021 the parish council has been asking SC to repair the two footbridges crossing the stream along the route of FP 0527/27/1, from Eaton heading towards Rushbury. Neither bridge has any decking and thus both are unusable. This is inconvenient for all walkers including those staying at Eaton Manor. Given the amount of rain recently the stream is too deep to wade through. Eaton Manor do not feel that they can repair/replace the missing decking, although the bridges are on their land, as it could give rise to health, safety and liability issues. It was agreed the parish council will approach the Footpaths Team again at SC.

119/26 - Financial matters to be considered

119/26/1 – Finance Report for February 2026

Balance brought forward from January 2026 **£4,684.90**

Payments to be made on 16th February 2026 from Precept Fund

• HSBC bank charges	£ 0.80		
• Clerk's net salary for February 2026	£199.11		
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's February 2026 salary	£ 49.80		
• Information Commissioner (Data Protection Reg. Fee)	£ 52.00		
• Hope Bowdler Village Hall Committee – hall hire	£ 40.00		
• Ticklerton Village Hall Committee – hall hire	£ 75.00		
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in February 2026</u>			
• <u>paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>			
• Contribution towards telephone/internet			
For February 2026 @ £20 p.m.	£20.00		
• Stationery: Index file dividers, notebook, pens	£ 4.00		
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile			
16.02.26 to Ticklerton Village Hall for PC			
meeting - 32 miles	£14.40		
Total of admin. expenses	<u>£38.40</u>	£ 38.40	
		<u>£ 455.11</u>	<u>£455.11</u>
Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to March 2026			<u>£4,229.79</u>

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

<u>Environmental & Asset Maintenance Fund</u> bal. b/fwd from Jan. 2026	£593.78
<u>Neighbourhood Fund</u> – balance b/fwd from January 2026	£451.59

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

Precept Fund	£4,229.79
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£ 593.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	£ 451.59
	<u>£5,275.16</u>

