

## MINUTES OF THE NASH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm

Clerk: Angela Vint

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**PRESENT:** Peter Stubbs (Chair), Stuart Lapper (Vice Chair), Griselda Beaumont, Liz Troman, Clare Morris, Mark Beaumont

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Vint (Clerk); James Morris, member of the public; Bobbie Matulja, Church Warden, and Janet Spiller re. Item 2025/20 Public Participation

MINUTE	ITEM	ACTION
2025/17	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr A. Verth	
2025/18	<b>Declarations of Interest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cllr M Beaumont re. item 2025/28 planning application for land at Shear Cross</li></ul>	
2025/19	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> <p>It was resolved unanimously that the minutes of the council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January be approved as a correct record as proposed by Cllr Stubbs and seconded by Cllr Lapper</p>	
2025/20	<b>Public Participation: Nash Church Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Chair congratulated Mrs Matulja and Mrs Spiller for all their hard work in securing funds of just under £0.5m to restore Nash Church, including sourcing 20% of match funding and thanked them for the update</li><li>The proposal has had to demonstrate commitment to four key principles, namely<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saving heritage</li><li>- Protecting the environment</li><li>- Inclusion, access and participation</li><li>- Organizational sustainability</li></ul></li><li>The “Grow a Spire” tree planting sub-project will not be funded due to the issue of legal ownership of trees, but other sub-projects will continue including siting bat boxes, some of which the Chair kindly offered to donate</li><li>It is hoped building work will commence Feb/March 2026 and be completed by end 2026. The church will be closed while the roof is off.</li></ul>	<b><u>Cllr Stubbs</u></b>
2025/21	<b>Chair's Items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Chair thanked Cllr Lapper for all of his hard work in his time as a councillor, including leading on getting many of the parish's potholes fixed</li><li>Key points from the Chairs' Network meeting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Shropshire Council does not have a housing plan in place to deliver the target it has been set by central government</li><li>- Failure to produce and implement a robust plan will result in the county having overspill from the Black Country imposed on Shropshire</li><li>- As part of this, the PC is likely to be asked to designate greenfield and “grey-field” sites in the area, grey-field being a new term to denote under-used land and buildings in towns and cities</li></ul></li></ul>	
2025/22	<b>Clerk's Report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Objection filed on Manor House planning application. Enforcement notice issued subsequently by Shropshire Council and the planning application has been withdrawn.</li></ul>	

- Defibrillator batteries replaced, with thanks to the Village Hall Committee for funding. Advised to provide for replacement of pads and batteries every 2 and 4 years respectively and to budget £120 p.a. to cover these costs from 26/27 onwards.
- Precept request for £4150 submitted and acknowledged. Showing as 5.4% increase on household council tax bills.
- Motion tabled at SALC Area Committee 24<sup>th</sup> Jan at invitation of Chris Melling, Executive Officer, regarding impact of uncertain election costs impacting on smaller parish councils' ability to budget accurately and set precept accordingly for FY 25/26. The motion was not supported, consensus being that councils should set precepts above rate of inflation with contingency in mind to fund future elections.
- Baroness Hodgson, parish resident and great supporter of the PC, tabled 4 Parliamentary Questions raising the issues of increased costs and their impact on smaller parish councils and local democracy to which the following answers were received:

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of reports that the statutory costs for parish council elections have risen by up to 80 per cent even without a contested election; and, if so, why they consider this has come about. (HL5114)

Tabled on: 24 February 2025

**This question was grouped with the following question(s) for answer:**

1. To ask His Majesty's Government why the deadline for payment of parish council election costs has been brought forward into the same year as the elections; and what assessment they have made of the implications of this change for the ability of parish councils to accurately predict their budgets. (HL5115)  
Tabled on: 24 February 2025
2. To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possibility of changes to costs for parish councils putting some councils into deficit; and any resultant effects on local democracy. (HL5116)  
Tabled on: 24 February 2025

**Answer:**

**Baroness Taylor of Stevenage:**

The costs of any local elections are to be met locally. Elections (whether to principal local authorities, or to parish and town councils) are administered by returning officers, who recover their expenditure of the election from the principal authority. The principal authority may then, if it chooses, require the parish council in turn to meet those costs. It is for each principal authority to decide whether to require payment for all or part of the cost of a parish election or by-election, and to set deadlines for this payment. Parish councils are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient income to meet their costs and can do so by charging a precept on council tax. We recognise that parish councils do not take the decision to increase precepts lightly.

To ask His Majesty's Government whether, and if so why, they are advocating for parish councils to change to 'gov.uk' domain names and associated email addresses for councillors; and what assessment, if any, they have made of the cost of such a change. (HL5113)

Tabled on: 24 February 2025

**Answer:**

**Baroness Jones of Whitchurch:**

The Government has advocated for Parish Councils to use .gov.uk domains for their websites and email accounts although there is no legal obligation to do so. This helps councillors to use government branded email for official business, have additional security benefits and meet legal obligations such as Freedom of Information and Data Subject Access Requests.

The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has helped to lower the cost of buying .gov.uk domain names and has set up the Parish Council Domains Helper Service

	<p>to support councils, which choose to move to .gov.uk. The department also works with the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local County Clerks to support their efforts to professionalise the Parish Council sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair thanked Baroness Hodgson on behalf of the parish for raising the profile of these issues and for her continued interest and support.</li> </ul>											
2025/23	<b>Councillor Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>											
2025/24	<b>Financial Matters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Payments made since last meeting:</b> £ 513.28 Clerk's salary Q4</li> <li>£123.20 HMRC</li> <li><b>Financial balance:</b> <b>£ 4440.45</b></li> <li><b>Payments for approval:</b> £172.80 Scribe</li> </ul> <p>The payment of £172.80 for continued subscription to the Scribe accounting package payable on 1<sup>st</sup> April was approved unanimously.</p>	<u>Clerk</u>										
2025/25	<b>Appointment of Auditor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of Kevin Adams approved unanimously at cost of £75</li> <li>New internal auditor to be sourced for FY 26/27 due to Kevin Adams retiring</li> </ul>	<u>Clerk</u>										
2025/26	<b>VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to the timing coinciding with elections and the appointment of new councillors, the PC will not be undertaking any events, but offered full support and attendance at the commemorative event being organized by the Parochial Church Council</li> </ul>											
2025/27	<b>PC Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those councillors wishing to go forward were given candidates' packs and reminded that all nomination papers must be handed in, in person as follows:</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Venue</th><th>Date</th><th>Deposit Times</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Helena Lane Day Care Centre, 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow SY8 2NP</td><td>Friday 14th March</td><td>9.15am – 4.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Friday 21st March</td><td>9.15am – 4.30pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Friday 28th March</td><td>9.15am – 4.30pm</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Venue	Date	Deposit Times	Helena Lane Day Care Centre, 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow SY8 2NP	Friday 14th March	9.15am – 4.30pm	Friday 21st March	9.15am – 4.30pm	Friday 28th March	9.15am – 4.30pm	
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2025/28	<b>Planning Applications:</b> <b>Erection of a building for the storage of agricultural machinery for an agricultural contracting business</b> LOCATION: Land At Shear Cross, Nash, Shropshire APPLICANT: Mr M Beaumont <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council supports this application and comment to be filed accordingly</li> </ul> <b>Reference: 25/00820/VAR (validated: 18/03/2025)</b> Address: Golden Lion Inn, Lion Lane, Clee Hill, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3NJ Proposal: Removal of Condition No.3 (occupation of dwellings) pursuant to planning permission SS/1/00/10998/F Applicant: Hugh And Wendy Hughes	<u>Clerk</u>										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The council objects to this application on the following grounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original planning permission was granted along with its restrictions to support the operation of the property as a licensed premises.</li> <li>For many years the property has only been used as a private dwelling, and we understand it has never been de-licensed. As a result, the continued development or the removal of restrictions could never support the business.</li> <li>Lion Lane is an unadopted road which Shropshire Council waste collection service refuse to traverse due to safety issues and therefore does not allow for increased traffic caused by further dwellings.</li> <li>It does not comply with planning policy for the area, providing neither affordable housing nor in-fill housing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Objection and supporting comments to be filed accordingly</li> </ul>	<b><u>Clerk</u></b>
<b>2025/29</b>	<b>Meeting dates for 25/26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Parish Meeting Tues 13<sup>th</sup> May (must be within 21 days of election)</li> <li>Tues 8<sup>th</sup> July</li> <li>Tues 9<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov</li> <li>Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026</li> <li>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> March</li> </ul>	
	<b>Meeting closed at 20.00 hrs</b>	
	<b>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 7pm</b>	