

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th MAY 2025
AT BASCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors A Woodthorpe (Chair)
 Mrs A P R Budgen
 Mrs G Tomlins
 N Hancocks
 R Jones
 N Bardsley
 Cllr R Jones Shropshire Council
 Mrs A Howls Clerk.

Eight members of the public

The Parish Council Meeting commenced at 7.30p.m when Cllr A Woodthorpe took the Chair and opened the meeting.

66/2025 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr A Woodthorpe was proposed by Cllr N Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Mrs P Budgen. There were no other proposals. A vote was taken and all Councillors were in agreement that Cllr A Woodthorpe be duly elected as Chairman.

67/2025 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr A Woodthorpe duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman. This was then countersigned by the Clerk. Cllr A Woodthorpe thanked the Councillors for the confidence they had showed in him continuing as Chairman.

68/2025 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Applications had been received from the following:

Matthew Paul Feline, Wendy Lorraine Lowdon, Russell Thomas,
 & Frazer Brandford Purell

Cllr A Woodthorpe proposed all of the above persons and Cllr N Hancocks seconded the proposal which was agreed by all.

69/2025 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr M Feline was proposed as Vice-Chairman by Cllr A Woodthorpe and seconded by Cllr N Bardsley. There were no other proposals and all Councillors were in agreement. Cllr M Feline was duly elected as Vice- Chairman.

70/2025 COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

All Councillors signed the declaration of acceptance of Office

71/2025 DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING AND WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS. (COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE|)

The Clerk explained that the Councillors would each have to fill in their declarations electronically. She had sent them instructions of how to achieve this.

72/2025 APOLOGIES – Cllr's J H Lloyd, S Hey & Mrs C Weller

73/2025 POLICE REPORT- The Clerk stated she had sent out a newsletter from West Mercia relating to Ellesmere Rural area. No report had been received.

74/2025 DECLARATION OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST IN A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING AND WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE REGISTER OF INTERESTS. [Members are reminded that they are required to leave the meeting during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer]

Cllr Mrs G Tomlins declared an interest in Minute79/2025 (a) -25/01537/FUL-Garage extension and drop kerb at Laureston, Station Road, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

75/2025 COMMUNITY REPORT & PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Miranda Munro then introduced herself as chair of the PTA of Baschurch C of E Primary School known as the Friends of Baschurch Primary School to enable inclusivity to parents and carers.

She stated the following” We are a registered charity raising funds to enrich and support the children’s education and school experience. Last year we managed to raise funds to upgrade part of the garden to provide a sensory / quieter zone for what is a very busy and quite small playground. In addition, we funded 120 chargeable laptop lockers as well as many smaller but critical resources and experiences for the children. We are governed by our constitution which is the 2008 National Confederation of Parent Teachers Associations.

The reason for the email is a fund-raising event that we would like to organise- a colour run event. We would ideally like to host the event on the playing fields next to the village hall and I am very aware that to do so we need permission from the Parish Council as well as The Baschurch Football Club. The school is supportive of this event.

Then onto the finances. We are looking at enough powder and glasses (for safety) per child and estimate we will have 170 attend and purchase tickets. We will also need a porta-loo unless we can use the village hall outside WC.

Current cost estimate is £700 to purchase the colour run equipment minimum plus a music system and some signage which will take us to £900-£1,000 best guess at this stage. I will be looking to get sponsorship from a couple of businesses if I can to reduce this cost by 50% so we can sell tickets at an ‘affordable’ and inclusive price in the region of £6-7.50 a head whilst enabling the charity to make a decent profit. Would the parish council donate and sponsor this community event for the school anything £300-500 would make a real difference for us and ultimately mean we make more profit to put towards the below.

75/2025 (Cont'd)

The profit is going towards three items the school are after:

1. New outdoor play equipment, possibly a pirate ship for role play and imagination at play times
2. A new forest school kitchen, all of KS1 (3-year groups) use this and it's in a tired condition
3. Exterior time line graphics for the walls of the playground that are decorative and educational!

That's it from me other than a favourable request to ask the Parish Council for consent to use the playing field on 5 June after school. I understand you have a meeting on Monday and am hopeful that this could be added to the agenda. In addition, we are looking for sponsorship to help reduce the costs of the event and I understand the Parish Council have also donated to various charitable causes.

Councillors discussed the request and Cllr Mrs Budgen proposed that the school could have the use of the football field to hold the event with approx. 170 children attending. All were in agreement. Cllr Mrs G Tomlins proposed the Parish Council gave a donation of £500.00 which was seconded by Cllr Matt Feline and agreed by all.

76/2025 TO PASS A RESOLUTION TO SIGN UP TO A CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE.

This was deferred to the next meeting.

77/2025 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th APRIL 2025

Cllr N Hancocks proposed and Cllr R Thomas seconded that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025. This was confirmed as a true and correct record with abstentions and signed by the Chairman.

78/2025 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th APRIL 2025, NOT ITEMISED ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

79/2025 PLANNING

8 10pm The Chairman handed over the meeting to Cllr M Feline, the Vice Chair to deal with planning.

8.25pm Cllr Mrs G Tomlins left the meeting.

- a) 25/01537/FUL-Garage extension and drop kerb at Laureston, Station Road, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Baschurch Parish Council has reviewed the application for the proposed garage extension and installation of a dropped kerb and would like to take a neutral stance. The Council notes the following:

- **Planning Context:** it is understood that the property has been extended on a number of occasions previously. While the Council recognises the applicant's intention to use the
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proposed garage to securely store tools required for their work, there is a need to carefully consider the cumulative impact of further development on the site.

- **Impact on Street Scene:** The scale and design of the proposed extension may not be fully in keeping with the character of neighbouring properties. There is concern that the development could affect the visual appearance of the area and contribute to the overdevelopment of the plot.
- **Insufficient Detail:** The application currently lacks detailed information regarding materials, dimensions, and boundary treatments. This limits the Parish Council's ability to assess the full impact on the surrounding area and adjacent properties.
The applicant attended a recent Parish Council meeting and presented their case clearly, and the Parish Council appreciates the context provided. However, Baschurch Parish Council would welcome revised proposals that address the points above and clearly demonstrate how the development will safeguard highway safety, protect the amenity of neighbouring properties, and remain in keeping with the character of the area.

8.50pm Cllr Mrs G Tomlins returned to the meeting.

- (b) 25/01374/FUL- Proposed replacement slurry tower at The Rise, Petton Lane, Weston Lullingfields, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Cllr M Feline discussed the application with Councillors. Cllr A Woodthorpe proposed that the Parish Council support the application with the following response.

“The Parish Council supports improvements to agricultural infrastructure that ensure more sustainable and safe farm operations, provided there is no undue impact on the local community or environment.

It is expected that the new slurry tower will incorporate modern containment and odour control measures to minimise any impact on local residents and the environment.

Baschurch Parish Council assumes the development will comply fully with current Environment Agency regulations and best practices for slurry storage and management.”

This was seconded by Cllr N Hancock’s which was agreed by all. Shropshire Council to be informed.

- (c) 25/00995/FUL- Erection of two new residential dwellings at Proposed residential Development Land east of Walford Heath Nurseries, Walford Heath, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Cllr M Feline discussed the application with Councillors. Cllr A Woodthorpe proposed that the Parish Council object to the application in its current form for the following reasons:

Baschurch Parish Council has reviewed the application for the erection of two new residential dwellings at the proposed site in Walford Heath and objects to the application

1. **Scale and Design:** The Council is concerned that the proposed dwellings may not be in keeping with the established character and rural setting of Walford Heath. The scale, design, and overall appearance should reflect local vernacular architecture to avoid visual harm and preserve the identity of the area.

2. **Highway Safety and Access:** The Council has serious concerns about the proposed access arrangements, particularly due to the site's proximity to a busy crossroads. It is strongly recommended that there be a **single point of access** to the site to avoid multiple entrances near a junction, which could increase the risk of accidents. Additionally:

- i) The corner of the plot should be utilised to widen footpaths and improve visibility at the crossroads, which is currently limited.
- ii) The Parish Council recommends that a **reduction in the speed limit** in this section of the road be considered as part of the planning conditions, given the increased risk associated with development near a junction.
- iii) Children frequently wait for school buses in this area, and enhanced safety measures would provide a clear **community benefit**.

3. **Drainage and Flood Risk:** The application lacks detailed information on how surface water will be managed. The Council is concerned about potential water runoff impacting neighbouring properties and seeks assurances that effective drainage infrastructure will be in place.

4. **Impact on Local Infrastructure:** Although this is a small development, the **cumulative impact** of multiple new dwellings in Walford Heath is becoming increasingly significant. Local services such as schools, healthcare, and public transport are limited, and additional development places further pressure on this infrastructure.

5. **Overdevelopment:** Baschurch Parish Council believes that Walford Heath has already seen a notable increase in housing development in recent years. This proposal contributes further to the overdevelopment of the hamlet, changing its character and placing undue strain on local resources.

6. **Neighbour Consultation:** The Council encourages open engagement with neighbouring residents. It is unclear to what extent local feedback has been incorporated into the current plans.

Conclusion:

Baschurch Parish Council objects to the current application. The Parish Council urges that these concerns be addressed through revised proposals that ensure safer access, reduce traffic speed near the site, improve pedestrian safety—particularly for children—and demonstrate sensitivity to the character and infrastructure of Walford Heath.

This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A P R Budgen and agreed by all. Shropshire Council to be informed.

- (d) 25/01471/FUL-Installation of prescription medication dispenser and associated works at Prescott Surgery, Prescott Road, Baschurch, Shrewsbury. Shropshire.

Cllr M Feline discussed the application with Councillors and Cllr Mrs G Tomlins proposed to support the application with the following comments;

Baschurch Parish Council has considered the application and wishes to express its support for the proposed installation of a prescription medication dispenser at Prescott Surgery. The Council recognises the increasing demand on local health services and welcomes this development as a practical step towards improving patient access to medication,

particularly for those who may face difficulties collecting prescriptions during normal surgery opening hours.

Key points of support include:

1. Improved Accessibility: The dispenser will enhance convenience for patients by allowing secure access to prescribed medications outside of regular hours, which is especially beneficial in a rural area with limited public transport.
2. Reduced Pressure on Staff: Automating part of the prescription process may help free up staff time within the surgery, contributing to more efficient service delivery.
3. Minimal Visual/Environmental Impact: Provided the installation is carried out sensitively and with appropriate signage and security measures, Baschurch Parish Council does not anticipate any significant adverse visual or environmental impact.
4. Community Benefit: The proposed development aligns with the broader aim of improving healthcare accessibility for Baschurch and the surrounding area. Baschurch Parish Council therefore supports this application and encourages its approval.
Cllr A Woodthorpe seconded the proposal which was agreed by all. Shropshire Council to be informed.

Planning Permission Granted

- 25/00704/FUL Erection of part single storey, part first floor extension to form a residential annexe at the Old Police House, Eyton Lane, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

8.50pm Cllr M Feline handed back the meeting to the Chairman.

80/2025 HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTING

- (a) Temporary Road Closure- Junction south of Stanwardine Hall to Laurel Villa junction Weston Lullingfields between Tuesday 6th May to Thursday 8th May 2025
- (b) Temporary Road Closure-Unnamed Road from Bagley to Weston Lullingfields on Friday 23rd May 2025 for road closure Rework CW patch and verge areas by Severn Trent Water.
- (c) Temporary Road Closure-Baschurch Level Crossing Station Road, Baschurch between 2200hrs until 0500hrs Sunday 19th October 2025 and Monday 20th October 2025 for Annual Testing and Level Crossing Maintenance by Network Rail.
- (d) Temporary Road Closure-Baschurch Unnamed Road through Eyton Baschurch from Monday 11th August and Tuesday 12th August 2025 to renew joint boxes by Open Reach.

81/2025 UPDATE- RAILWAY STATION

There is no update at this time.

82/2025 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk stated that the Annual Parish Meeting was to be held on Monday 19th May 2025 and the Neighbourhood Planning Group Chairman would give an update on their progress and that they are trying to consult with the public. The group will be in attendance at the Annual Village Fete to promote their intentions.

Councillors were concerned that the bin outside the Spar Shop had been removed and had more rubbish was now being distributed around the shop. **Resolved:** Clerk to write to Spar Shop at Baschurch and Blakemore's Head Office.

Councillors were concerned as to the number of road closures which were occurring in the Baschurch Parish and on dates concerned there were on many occasions no work being undertaken and disruption caused to residents. **Resolved:** Clerk to contact Highways.

Councillor Mrs W Lowdon stated a meeting had taken place between PGL staff and Councillors Mrs A P R Budgen and Cllr S Hey and herself. There were concerns raised about the timing of the coaches attending and leaving PGL and the fact that the passing places still remain inadequate. A meeting was to be arranged with Councillors and local residents in the near future hosted by PGL.

84/2025 BADGERS WAY PLAY /WHEATLANDS PLAY AREA

The Clerk stated there was still work outstanding on both Play areas that Ray Parry was undertaking in near future.

85/2025 FINANCES

- (a) Cheques for Approval – The following cheques totalling £ 7,799.71 (which includes VAT) were to be paid over the month of May. These were proposed by Cllr N Bardsley and seconded by Cllr Mrs A P R Budgen and agreed by all.

BACS 79	P. Birch Contracting Ltd (General Maintenance)	1320.50
BACS 79	P. Birch Contracting Ltd (Cemetery)	347.86
BACS 80	A Howls Salary- April	1533.20
BACS 81	Inland Revenue-April	638.15
BACS 82	P G Skips	69.05
BASC 83	SALC Subs	1555.42
BASC 84	Fencetree- Repairs Kings Drive Play area (Gate)	106.37
BACS 85	Scottish Power	334.92
BACS 86	<u>Insurance- Zurich Insurance</u>	1,810.99
BACS 87	<u>Weston Lullingfield V Hall -N H Planning meeting</u>	26.25
BACS 88	<u>Baschurch Parish Council Hire of Room 4/4/2025</u>	57.00

Resolved: Payment of the cheques was approved.

- b) Other items of expenditure for consideration

Parish Council Insurance.

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council Insurance is a long-term agreement until 1st June 2026. This was proposed by Cllr A Woodthorpe and seconded by Cllr M Feline and agreed by all.

- c) Policies & Procedures

Financial Risk Assessment 2024/25

The Clerk discussed the Financial Risk Assessment with Councillors and also the Annual Governance Statement for End of Year Accounts 2024/25. The Risk Assessment was proposed by Cllr N Hancocks and seconded by Cllr M Feline and agreed by all present.

86/2025 CORRESPONDENCE

There was none to discuss.

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87/2025 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.25pm. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7.30pm at Baschurch Village Hall.

Signed.....

Dated 2nd June 2025