

MINUTES OF THE BASCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2026
AT WESTON LULLINGFIELDS VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors A Woodthorpe (Chairman)
R Thomas
N Hancocks
Mrs W Lowdon
R Jones
J H Lloyd
F Purell
S Hey
M Feline
N Bardsley
Mrs C Weller
Mrs G Tomlins
Mrs A Howls Clerk.
Cllr R Jones Shropshire Council

Two members of the public

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The Parish Council Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

96/2026 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs P Budgen

97/2026 **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]

There were no declarations made.

98/2026 **COMMUNITY REPORT & PUBLIC QUESTION TIME-**

There were no questions.

99/2026 **REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

Cllr Jones gave the following report

Highways Meeting

Earlier in June I met with Simon D'Vali, the Interim Executive Director for Strategic Transport, alongside both the Chair and the Clerk of the Parish Council. The meeting was positive and productive, with a number of important highways and transport issues relevant to the area. Simon has agreed to come to a parish meeting in the near future and this will be a key opportunity for residents and councillors to raise their concerns directly.

Local Transport Plan Consultation

Cabinet approved in June plans to begin a public consultation on a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) covering the period 2027-2037. The plan will set out the long-term approach to managing and improving the county's highways and transport network and is a statutory requirement under the Transport Act 2000. It will also play a key role in securing future government funding and supporting the emerging Local Plan.

The draft LTP will cover a wide range of areas, including road safety, highways maintenance, public transport, rural accessibility, freight, and climate resilience. The consultation is intended to gather views from residents, businesses and stakeholders across Shropshire to help shape the final document.

Next steps and key dates:

- Pre-consultation engagement: Summer 2026
- Public consultation (6 weeks): September–October 2026
- Review of feedback and revisions: Late 2026
- Final plan adoption: Early 2027

Commissioning, procurement and contract management

Cabinet approved in June a new three-year strategy to overhaul how Shropshire Council plans, buys and manages contracts. The Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management (CPCM) Strategy is intended to strengthen oversight, improve value for money and ensure services deliver better outcomes for residents. It places greater emphasis on understanding local need, using evidence to guide decisions, and actively managing contracts to improve performance.

A key feature is a stronger focus on “social value”, meaning contracts will be used not just to deliver services, but also to support local jobs, apprenticeships, small businesses, community organisations and environmental priorities.

The strategy reflects a clear shift under the Liberal Democrat administration towards tighter control of commissioning and contract management, with a more consistent and transparent approach aimed at ensuring public spending delivers measurable, long-term benefits for Shropshire communities, particularly in the context of rising demand, tighter budgets and new procurement rules.

Shropshire Council's Next Steps Towards Sustainability

Shropshire Council has published a refreshed draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2027–2032, setting out how it intends to improve its financial position and reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The revised plan updates assumptions made earlier in the year around inflation, pay costs, borrowing costs, service demand and savings delivery. It also begins to set out how the Council intends to rebuild its financial reserves over the coming years.

The Council says that while financial pressures remain significant, early progress has been made through tighter spending controls, more realistic budgeting and the delivery of savings already identified. As a result, the Council expects that it may require less EFS than previously forecast. However, demand for services - particularly those supporting vulnerable residents - continues to rise, and the Council stresses that difficult decisions will still be required to place the authority on a sustainable long-term footing. A Financial Sustainability and Recovery Strategy has been developed to guide those decisions, with Cabinet due to consider the proposals on 8 July.

Shropshire Council Corporate Peer Challenge Update

A follow-up review by the Local Government Association (LGA) has found that Shropshire Council has made significant progress since its Corporate Peer Challenge in 2025.

The review highlighted improvements in financial management, governance, leadership and working relationships across the organisation, alongside a more positive and collaborative culture.

The LGA noted that while progress has been encouraging, the council is still at an early stage of its improvement journey and must maintain momentum, deliver planned changes and reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support from government over time.

100/2026 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st JUNE 2026

Cllr J H Lloyd proposed and Cllr R Thomas seconded that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 1st June 2026 This was confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

101/2026 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st JUNE 2026 NOT ITEMISED ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

102/2026 PLANNING

Shropshire Council Tree Preservation Ordere No SC/00586/26
TPO 2026 -Porch Cottage, Weston Lullingfields

Information had been received from the Senior Tree and Urban Forest Officer Stephen Shields attaching the copy of the Order and Notice which had been made by Shropshire Council in relation to three beech trees. Any comments to be forwarded to the Tree Team.

Baschurch Parish Council supports the making of this Tree Preservation Order and asks that these comments be treated as representations in support, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

Our comments relate specifically to the three trees identified in Schedule 1 of the Order:

T1 – Beech, on land adjacent to the road (Easting: 34211, Northing: 32575)

T2 – Beech, on the western boundary (Easting: 34211, Northing: 32572)

T3 – Beech, on land nearby (Easting: 34214, Northing: 32573)

The Parish Council considers that these three mature beech trees make a significant and long-standing contribution to the visual amenity and character of Weston Lullingfields. They form a prominent group at the approach to the settlement, are clearly visible from the public highway, and contribute strongly to the rural, well-treed character of this part of the village, which is valued by both residents and visitors.

Beyond their visual amenity value, mature beech trees of this size and age also provide important ecological benefits, including habitat and foraging opportunities for birds, bats and invertebrates, and they contribute to local biodiversity and green infrastructure. Their scale and maturity mean they cannot be readily replaced, and any loss would represent a long-term diminishment of the area's landscape character that could not be mitigated by replanting alone.

102/2026 (Cont'd)

The Parish Council is not aware of any arboriculture, safety or structural concerns that would justify felling or significant works to these trees, and we would be concerned if development pressures or other works were to lead to their removal or damage without full consideration and appropriate consent. They therefore support the confirmation of this Order on a permanent basis and ask that this representation be taken into account in the Council's decision.

Next Shropshire Local Plan and launch of a consultation to which it is encouraging all stakeholders, including all parish & town councils and parish meetings to respond to.

After some discussion it was decided to leave the Chair and Vice Chair to put together a response to Shropshire Council on behalf of Baschurch Parish Council

Any planning applications received since 27th June 2026 or any other planning Issues. There were none.

103/2026 HIGHWAYS AND STREET LIGHTING

Temporary Road Closure. B5067 Berwick Road, Walford between Monday 7th September to Monday 16th November 2026 for Lay by closure- to support waste pipework relay from sewerage pump station by Severn Trent Water.

Temporary Road Closure- Weston Road, Weston Lullingfields between Monday 27th July and Tuesday 28th July 20216 for Air Valve rebuild chamber by Severn Trent.

104/2026 CEMETERY

Cllr J H Lloyd stated that the work in the cemetery had now been completed.

105/2026 BADGERS WAY PLAY /WHEATLANDS PLAY AREA

The Clerk stated there was nothing to report.

106/2026 ANY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

There were no new reports at this time.

107/2026 COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The following decisions were made after discussion.

Planning – Cllr's M Feline, F Purell & Mrs A P R Budgen

Finance & General Purposes- Cllrs A Woodthorpe, Mrs A P R Budgen, M Feline, J H Lloyd
F Purell.

Cemetery- Cllrs J Lloyd, Mrs A P R Budgen & Mrs G Tomlins

Footpaths – Cllrs Mrs G Tomlins & Mrs W Lowdon

V Green & Roundabout -Cllr N Hancocks

Baschurch Vehicle Activated Signs- Cllrs A Woodthorpe & N Hancocks

107/2026 (Cont'd)

Highways -Cllrs N Hancocks, S Hey, N Bardsley & A Woodthorpe

Maintenance/Infrastructure- Cllr J H Lloyd

Baschurch/Weston Village Halls- Cllr S Hey & Mrs W Lowdon

Allotments- Cllr A Woodthorpe & Mrs C Weller

PGL- Cllrs Mrs W Lowdon, S Hey & Mrs A P R Budgen

Education (Walford College & Schools)- Cllr Mrs W Lowdon, Mrs C Weller & N Bardsley

Facebook- Cllrs A Woodthorpe, R Thomas & M Feline

Village Newsletter- Cllr A Woodthorpe & S Hey

Playground Trust- Cllr J H Lloyd, N Hancocks, A Woodthorpe, M Feline & Mrs C Weller.

SALC- Cllrs A Woodthorpe, Mrs A P R Budgen & F Purell

Baschurch Junior Football Club- Cllr R Thomas & M Feline

Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr N Bardsley

Railway Station – Cllrs S Hey, A Woodthorpe Mrs A P R Budgen, M Feline & F Purell

Police Liaison – Cllr R Thomas.

River Perry Water Watch – Cllr W Lowdon

Dr Surgery Group -Cllr A Woodthorpe, N Bardsley, M Feline & Mrs C Weller

Technology- Cllrs M Feline, R Thomas & F Purell

108/2026 FINANCES

BACS Payments for Approval – The following payments totalling £16,455.55 (which includes VAT) were to be paid over the month of July. These were proposed by Cllr Mrs W Lowdon and seconded by Cllr J H Lloyd and agreed by all.

BACS229	Donation to Riley	245.00
BACS230	Railfuture Ltd- Subs	35.00
BACS231	P Birch Contracting Ltd (General Maintenance)	1320.50
BASC231	P. Birch Contracting Ltd (Cemetery)	347.86
BACS232	A Howls Salary-June	1584.40
BACS233	Inland Revenue -June	660.55
BACS234	PG Skips	60.24
BACS235	R Parry Playground Inspections	96.00
BACS236	M P Pavers Ltd -Cemetery car park	12,096.00

Resolved: Payment of the BACS were approved.

- b) Other items of expenditure for consideration - None

109/2026 CORRESPONDENCE

Boreatton Park

An e mail had been received from Ali Duffy informing Councilors of the movements of coaches in near future.

110/2026 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

There were no items of other business and the meeting closed at 9.25pm. The next Regular Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7th September 2026 at Baschurch Village Hall.

Signed.....

Dated 7th September 2026