

COUND PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Simon James

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@cound.org.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at 7.00pm on 21 November 2024 at Cound Moor Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors S James (Chair), R Davies, J Hall, S Green, T Roberts, R Sartain, M Smith, K Symonds and Shropshire Councillor C Wild

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Also present: One member of the public

54.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S Scott.

55.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

56.24 Public Participation Session - *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

The member of the public present did not wish to speak.

57.24 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 September 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds and seconded by Councillor Smith and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 September 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

58.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 26 September 2024

- Updated website with upcoming temporary road closures as notified by Shropshire Council's Street Works Team.
- Researched the role (if any) a parish council can play in dealing with any incidents of antisocial behaviour by dogs. Confirmed that unfortunately a parish council has no powers bestowed upon it to act in any way. In order to assist the community, a page has been created on the Cound Parish Council website regarding dog owner etiquette. The comprehensive guidance acts to remind parishioners of their responsibilities, particularly concerning The Countryside Code, and signposts them to where they can go to report an issue.
- Lloyds Bank are removing Treasurers Accounts, which currently incur no fees, and moving existing customers to Community Accounts which will cost £4.25 per month. Interest on the Parish Council's Treasurers Account is less than £4.00 per month. Initial recommendation would have been to close that account and keep all funds in the Business Bank Instant

account, which currently has no fees. However, there are rumours that the Business Bank Instant account will also be changing and will become a savings account without the facility to make payments.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate before January's meeting.

- Prepared the half year financial review and possible 2025/26 budget to be discussed at 61.24.

59.24 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Wild presented a report which covered:

- **Finance**

Shropshire Council's financial position at the end of Quarter 2 has seen a marginal improvement on Q1. Finance is still very tight, and all efforts are being made to bring down the current overspend by the end of the 24/25 financial year.

Following the Government's Autumn Statement on 30 October we are not expecting an uplift in the funding settlement. You may hear of an extra £600m for Social Care but these funds (Burdens Funding) are to cover NHS/Local Government increased National Insurance costs. Sadly, there is no burdens funding for all our third-party providers, such as providers of domiciliary care, nursing homes staff, waste etc. The companies will have to find the additional costs themselves, and they will then, in turn, approach Shropshire Council – creating a vicious circle.

- **Devolution**

The Government will be publishing a white paper at the end of this month which will pave the way for the fundamental changes they will be making to Local Government. Whilst various snippets have been released the County Council Network understands that these changes will/could include the creation of new Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and new unitary authorities signalling the demise of district councils.

It has been mooted that the role of Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished with this role being undertaken by the Mayor of the MCA. Similarly, the Mayor would become the Chair of the Integrated Health System, paving the way for Social Care (not sure if this includes Children's Social Care as it hasn't been mentioned) to also be subsumed into either the NHS or controlled by the MCA. MCA's already control transport, economic growth etc and it is being suggested that housing and strategic planning will also be part of the MCA role. The Strategic Planning function would include spacial planning i.e. the development of a regional growth plan to replace the current Local Plan that is drawn up by top tier authorities. The planning function would also determine significant applications such as wind, solar, roads and large developments.

By the December meeting will know more, we may even know which other authority(s) the Government will place Shropshire with. It isn't an opt in, it will be mandatory.

- **Shropshire's Local Plan**

We were extremely surprised and disappointed when we received the letter from the Planning Inspectorate telling us that they were halting current proceedings. They have said they will outline their reasons why in a follow up letter. It is felt that the doubling of our housing target could well have something to do with this as it has happened in two other authorities whose numbers have doubled and who were at a similar stage.

- **Government Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Meetings**

A consultation has been launched on possible changes to the rules regarding attendance at local authority meetings. This isn't really a situation where one size fits all. For upper tier authorities it would seem sensible that in general, voting members should be in the room with special dispensations possibly made in specific circumstances.

With regards to town and parish Councils some councils currently operate a hybrid system where members of the public can join remotely and ask questions if they so wish. Other councils do not or cannot. Of course, it relies on access to the internet being available and having the equipment to be able to offer a hybrid solution. Whatever your thoughts are, you might wish to take part in the consultation.

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting-at-local-authority-meetings)

60.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Roberts had performed the audit checks for the period up to 17 November and confirmed that both defibrillators were ready to use as and when required.
- Councillor Sartain gave an update on The Guildhall:
 - The winter programme for Flicks in the Sticks is proving successful with “Thelma” being screened on 22 November.
 - The “Autumnal Breakfast” had been held on Sunday 17 November. It had been very well-organised and had proved to be a popular community event.
 - Christmas wreath workshops were taking place on 28, 29 and 30 November.
 - The church is holding a carol concert on Sunday 22 December.
 - Carols by Firelight in the churchyard at 5pm on Christmas Eve.

61.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s expenses October/November	£ 70.00
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s salary October/November (inc back pay)	£ 955.54
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary October/November	£ 239.00
RBL	Donation to the Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00
Mr D Burn	Environmental Maintenance – September/October	£ 305.00
TOTAL		£ 1619.54

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds and seconded by Councillor James and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 14 November 2024

The bank was reconciled at £9,165.25, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

c) Half year accounts and review

The Clerk presented the receipts and payments account up to the end of September 2024 and a projection to the end of the year. Costs for the full year are projected to align with the budget for 2024/25. The precept to be claimed from Shropshire Council and the 2025/26 budget will be discussed in full at January’s meeting.

62.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 24/03223/FUL

Address: Birchmoor 5 The Heighways Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AR

Description: Front extension, replace existing garage flat roof with pitched roof. Ground floor bay window and first floor bedroom window to front elevation. Replace cladding to front elevation. Single storey rear extension. First floor rear extension

above existing extension.

Validated: 27 Aug 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 24/04334/FUL

Address: 24 Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AS

Description: Minor alterations to The Old Farmhouse, replacement workshop and landscaping

Validated: 14 Nov 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

b. Ref: 24/04335/LBC

Address: 24 Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AS

Description: Minor alterations to The Old Farmhouse, replacement workshop and landscaping

Validated: 14 Nov 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

No objections nor comments were recorded on the above planning applications.

63.24 To consider if any additional environmental maintenance could be taken over from Shropshire Council

It was agreed by all that the Parish Council would not take on the responsibility for any further environmental maintenance at this time in a bid to avoid substantially increasing the precept. However, if it became necessary to undertake additional work, such as the cleaning of road signs within the Parish, then community volunteers might be sought.

64.24 To consider awarding a grant to a local community event

The Guildhall Trustees had approached the Parish Council regarding a grant to support a local community event. The Parish Council has a ratified "Grant Awarding Policy" (viewable on the website [here](#)) which clearly states: "So that budgetary consideration can be taken by the Parish Council, organisations requesting a grant should submit the following [application] by 31 October of the financial year prior to the funds being required." Consequently, the Parish Council is unable to award any grants in the financial year 2024/25. Applications for the 2026/27 financial year will be accepted between 1 April 2025 and 31 October 2025.

65.24 Correspondence

None.

66.24 Future agenda items

- Update on mobile coverage within the Parish.

ACTION: Clerk to seek update from the Digital Infrastructure Officer at Shropshire Council.

67.24 Date of next meeting

Thursday 16 January 2025 at 7.00pm at Cound Moor Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 16 January 2025