

**Minutes of No Man's Heath & District
Parish Council Meeting
held at Cholmondeley Coronation Hall
at 7.00 pm on Thursday 2nd July 2026**

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr David Lithgow Smith
Cllr James Crossland Cllr Kathryn Collings Cllr Peter Guildford
Cllr Tim Harrop Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith Cllr David Pegram
Cllr Stephen Roberts Cllr Michael Voisey Cllr Sheila Whyte
Clerk - Mrs Ruth Shackleton
Members of the Public and Parish – Nine members of the public attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. CASUAL VACANCIES

CWaC has advised that the Council can proceed to co-opt to fill the two casual vacancies.

The Council considered co-opting Sheila Whyte.

RESOLVED:- That the Council co-opt Sheila Whyte to fill one of the casual vacancies.

Proposed by Cllr D Lithgow Smith and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

At the end of the meeting, Cllr Voisey announced his resignation from the Council. The Council expressed their thanks for his service and support during his time on the Council.

The Clerk is to notify CWaC of the additional vacancy. Subject to there being no request made for a by-election, the Clerk is to advertise the two vacancies and commence the co-option process to fill the available seats.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised by residents:-

- Overgrown hedge at the top of Cross o'th'Hill (Cllr Collings informed the meeting this has been reported to CWaC and is being dealt with).
- Drainage Concerns at 62-64 Cross o'th'Hill:- the Council has already been reported to Planning Enforcement at CWaC. Cllr Roberts is to follow this up with CWaC officers.
- Malpas Community Minibus:- thanked the Council for their donation.
- St Chads Church / Bickley Church:- talked about the community coming together. Cllr F Lithgow Smith informed the meeting that there is to be a village walk later in the year along the Sandstone Trail where the kissing gates have been installed and suggested working with the church to host the refreshments.
- Remembrance Sunday Service at Bickley Church:- it was suggested this ought to be more of an event in the parish with the Council's involvement.
- Parish Concerns:- the Council has received an email regarding several matters in the village including:- concerns at the building site off Back Lane and highways issues.
- Development on Back Lane, No Mans Heath:- the Managing Director of the company of the new housing development attended the meeting to address

concerns previously raised by the Council with CWaC. The concerns included site health and safety, damage to road signage, and highway-related issues. He offered to liaise directly with Cllr Harrop regarding the resolution of these matters and provided his contact details should any further concerns arise.

- Speeding:- ongoing concerns were raised; the Council advised they are limited as to what they can do and requested that more residents volunteer to take part in the Speedwatch scheme.
- Ward Walk:- the Clerk has contacted Ward Cllr Williams to arrange a ward walk to discuss the various concerns raised especially regarding what can be done to improve road safety.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:- that the minutes for the Parish Council meeting that was held on Thursday 14th May 2026 (previously circulated) be accepted as a true and proper record.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr F Lithgow Smith.

6. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

6.1 Accounts:-

RESOLVED:- that the Council approve the accounts as previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr

Guildford and seconded by Cllr Collings.

6.2 Online Banking:-

The online banking is now activated.

6.3 Payments:-

Method	Payee	Amount
Online	Running Costs	£ 67.80
Online	HMRC Quarter 1	£ 492.82
Online	Coronation Hall – room hire	£ 30.00
DD	ICO - Data Protection Fee	£ 49.00
Chq	Shropshire Inflatable Hire (summer event)	£ 249.00
Chq	J&S Exotics animal experience (summer event)	£ 75.00
Online	Penny Exchange Band (summer event)	£ 480.00
Online	Cllr Collings – reimburse costs for summer event	£ 112.78
Online	Cllr D Lithgow Smith – reimburse costs for new map	£ 21.99
Online	Then Media – website	£ 31.80
	Invoices Paid:	
Online	Penny Exchange Band (summer event) deposit	£ 120.00
Online	P J Hellmers - install kissing gates (this is to be reclaimed from United Utilities)	£ 720.00
Online	Signs of the Times - stickers and signs for kissing gates	£ 439.20

6.4 Receipts:-

Precept: £19,500.00

VAT Refund: £2,203.73

Members Budget (for Summer event): £600.00

6.5 Bank Account:-

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 31st May 2026:- £37,073.85

Balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 31st May 2026:- £ 7,896.14

(CIL / NHB funds available - £14,157.18; Events Working Group ringfenced funds - £2,034.80; Parish Council fund available - £28,778.01.

RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to authorise £40.00 towards the cost of an acrylic sheet for the ordnance survey map.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

RESOLVED:- that the Council accept the above payments and accounts as circulated.

Proposed by Cllr Pegram and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

6.6 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):-

The annual CIL report detailing how CIL funding was spent during the 2025/26 financial year has been submitted to CWaC and has been published on the Parish Council website.

7. **WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES**

New Website:- an order has been placed with Then Media to develop the Parish Council's new website. Initial proofs are expected this month. Councillors are invited to send any suitable photographs to be considered for inclusion on the new website. A new email address ending in gov.uk is to be set up for both the Clerk and the Chairman.

8. **PLANNING**

8.1 Planning Register / Updates:-

The Council noted the planning register and the observations as previously circulated.

Planning Enforcement:- suspected planning breaches at Cross o' th' Hill Road have been reported to CWaC's Planning and Highways departments. A response is awaited.

8.2 Planning Infrastructure:-

The Council discussed holding a Parish Meeting on 22nd September to discuss Planning Infrastructure matters. The Clerk is to contact the Head of Planning to confirm the date.

8.3 Application:-

26/01763/FUL - Mixed-use forestry and sustainable eco-retreat comprising tourist cabin accommodation with associated facilities, landscaping, parking and access at Land At Moss Wood Red Hall Lane Bickley Malpas –

RESOLVED:- that the Council submit the following concerns to CWaC Planning:-

- Concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed development on local wildlife.
- Concerns regarding the potential increase in traffic and the resulting impact on the local highway network.

Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr D Lithgow Smith.

9. **POLICE CLUSTER MEETING**

The Police Cluster meeting took place on Thursday 25th June, the notes are due to be circulated.

10. **HIGHWAYS**

The highways update meeting with CWaC took place on 19th June.

Concerns were raised regarding overgrown hedges at junctions with the A41, which are affecting visibility. The Clerk is to report the matter to CWaC and request that the hedges be cut back.

11. **COMMUNICATIONS**

11.1 Edge Noticeboard:-

The Clerk has instructed C Bennett to carry out repairs of the Edge noticeboard.

11.2 Parish Council surgery:-

Cllr Collings suggested the introduction of monthly parish surgeries to encourage more engagement with residents and providing an informal opportunity for members of the community to raise local issues and learn more about the work of the Parish Council.

The Council agreed to introduce monthly parish surgeries, to be held on a rota basis and attended by two parish councillors, or, one parish councillor and the Ward Councillor where available. Surgeries will be held, weather permitting, at locations throughout the parish, with the initial venue proposed to be outside the shop in No Man's Heath.

It was further that a suitable portable, weatherproof gazebo with side panels be purchased to support the initiative.

Cllr Pegram agreed to co-ordinate the rota.

11.3 Council Banner:-

The Council consider the draft design prepared by Cllr Collings for a Council banner for use at the fete and monthly surgeries.

RESOLVED:- that the Council place an order for a Council banner at a cost of £65.00.

Proposed by Cllr Collings and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

12. **EVENTS WORKING GROUP – SUMMER EVENT**

Cllr Collings provided the following update regarding arrangements for the forthcoming summer event:-

Planning is progressing well.

It was noted that ticket sales for the evening event have slowed. A total of 103 tickets have been allocated to date, including complimentary tickets for volunteers and children.

The deposit for the band has been paid.

There are a variety of attractions and stalls have been confirmed, including craft stalls, an inflatable castle, football shoot-out, wine / water table, children's lucky dip, Parish Council information tent and an exotic animal display.

A £150.00 grant cheque had been received from the Co-op. It was noted that payments would be required for the exotic animal display, the remaining balance for the band and Shropshire Inflatables.

Members were encouraged to promote ticket sales for the evening event and to donate any unwanted bottles of wine for the wine / water table.

13. **EVENTS WORKING GROUP – CHRISTMAS EVENT**

13.1 To receive report and agree any action(s):-

The Council needs to agree a date for this year's Christmas Tree Switch-On event.

The proposed dates are Saturday 28th November or Saturday 5th December.

13.2 Christmas:-

The following actions will be carried out once the date for the Christmas event has been agreed:-

- To make arrangements for the road closure
- To apply for an Events Licence
- To confirm insurance arrangements

14. **KISSING GATES**

14.1 Installation:-

Cllr F Lithgow Smith provided the following update:-

It was reported that a further four kissing gates were installed by Paul Hellmers on 10 June: two on the Hampton Loop, one on the Old Coach Road at the Edge / Duckington boundary, completing a section of six gates, and one on the edge of No Man's Heath, completing the stile-free link between No Man's Heath and the Sandstone Trail.

A further nine kissing gates are currently being held by Paul Hellmers and will be installed over the coming months.

The Cholmondeley Estate is due to receive the next delivery of gates, enabling the replacement of the remaining 22 stiles on estate land between the Sandstone Trail and the A49.

It was proposed to organise an inaugural community walk in the autumn from No Man's Heath to Bickley Church and back, with the possibility of refreshments at the church. The route, approximately 2.5 miles each way, will be entirely stile-free.

In early June, Cllrs D Lithgow Smith and F Lithgow Smith met with representatives of United Utilities, which is funding the installation of the gates not being provided by the Cholmondeley Estate or individual landowners. The visit included a walk

from No Man's Heath to the Sandstone Trail to view the completed works. United Utilities was accompanied by its production company, Fuzzy Duck, which is producing a promotional video showcasing community projects funded by the company. Interviews were conducted with Parish Council representatives, and drone footage was taken of the footpaths and newly installed gates.

14.2 Map:-

Cllr D Lithgow Smith is to be reimbursed for the cost to purchase a master footpath map from OS.

15. **LITTLERS CROFT**

Cllr Collings reported on a recent meeting with CWaC regarding the provision of additional equipment for the play area.

It was noted that CWaC is supportive of the Parish Council applying for external funding to install outdoor gym equipment and has provided examples of suitable equipment. Subject to meeting the Council's required standards and regulations, installation by an external contractor would be acceptable. It was also confirmed that the equipment could be installed on a tarmac surface, avoiding the need for more costly safety surfacing.

Cllrs were advised that any new equipment installed would become the responsibility of the Parish Council as a Council asset. Responsibility for existing play equipment would remain unchanged. The Parish Council would therefore be responsible for the future inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement of any new equipment, with CWaC accepting no ongoing liability.

Cllr Collings advised that, following the Summer Fete, she would begin investigating external funding opportunities to support the project.

16. **DEFIBRILLATORS**

Cllr Collings provided the following report:-

This has been installed at the BT building on Chester road and is all up and running, a new security light has also been fitted to the building for anyone needing to use this.

17. **MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC)**

The Council considered the MJBC Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED:- That the Council approve the Terms of Reference for MJBC.

Proposed by Cllr Crossland and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

18. **FLOODING**

Cllr Roberts updated the meeting regarding the two additional gullies installed by CWaC on Old Coach Road. There may be a possible re-request of resident to maintain an over-flowing pond

19. **VENUE**

The Council considered alternative venues in the parish for future meetings and agreed to hold the November meeting at Edge Village Hall.

20. **CLERK'S REPORT**

- SWAP Fund – An application was submitted; however, the Parish Council has since been advised that it was unsuccessful.
- Ward Walk – A request has been sent to the Ward Councillor to arrange a Ward Walk.
- Annual Report – The Parish Council's Annual Report has been submitted to My Village News for publication and has also been published on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.
- Members' Budget – A successful application has secured £600.00 towards the summer event.
- Members' Budget – A successful application has secured £850.00 towards the purchase of a new defibrillator.
- Edge Noticeboard – An order has been placed with C. Bennett to carry out repairs to the noticeboard.

- Fault Reporting – Information explaining how residents can report faults has been published on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

23. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence received was previously circulated.

Signed

Dated

Scheduled Parish Council Meetings

Dates for 2026 meetings:-

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Thursday 12th November 2026