

Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

held at Cressage Village Hall on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7.00pm

In attendance: Cllrs Rob Davies, Colin Campbell, Victoria Todd, Shaun Bott, Roger Beardsmore, John Esp, Matt Murray, Shropshire Councillor Susan Coleman, six members of the public and the Parish Clerk (V.Voysey)

30.26 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcome everyone to the meeting

31.26 To note Apologies

There were no apologies

32.26 To note Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or consider dispensation requests.

Cllr Shaun Bott is the owner of SLB Maintenance and will not vote on item 38.26 ii

33.26 Public session.

Residents of Harley expressed their concern about the publication of proposed sites for the Local Plan. There are two sites put forward in Harley, the Pound Field and land behind thatched cottages in the south of the village. Pound Field has a history of planning rejections. Harley is a Conversation Area with inadequate infrastructure.

There was discussion on the possibility of registering land as a Community Asset. Cllr Victoria Todd offered to speak to residents about this process.

34.26 Council to consider and agree the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2026

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th June 2026 as a true record.

35.26 Shropshire Councillors' Report

Cllr Susan Coleman reported that Shropshire Council is still financially challenged. The public should expect to see more piecemeal closures such as the Park and Ride at Meole Brace and the day centre in Ludlow. The Government is insisting that Shropshire Council sells its unused assets. Cllr Coleman has been a member of a Task and Finish Group looking at the future of Shire Hall. The cross-party group considered the options and proposed a creative solution of a joint venture and repurposing of the building rather than sale. However, this was ignored in favour of the option of going up for sale.

Everything is driven by money. It was questioned whether there would be much interest in the site as there is no five-year land supply meaning developers can build anywhere. This might not be attractive with asbestos and other issues going with it.

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37.26 Clerk's Report

The Parish Clerk reported that there had been a visit by a contractor to clear out the overflowing drain on the Under 11s Play Area. There will need to be another visit to clear out the roots.

38.26 Financial matters:

- i. Council resolved to agree payment of invoices and charges

Payee	Invoice details	Amount	Date of Invoice
Clerk	Salary month 4	£577.70	10/7/2026
HMRC	Tax month 4	£190.10	10/7/2026
Clerk	Travel June	£16.78	08/7/2026
Shropshire Drains	Under 11s storm drain	£144	24/6/2026
Information Solutions	Website hosting 26-27	£258.55	1/7/2026
Water Plus (direct debit)	Water June	£22.06	1/6/2026

- ii. Council resolved to agree payment of monthly environmental maintenance charge

SLB Groundcare	Monthly maintenance – June	£760.79	1/2/2026
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- iii. Council resolved to note: receipts and expenditure to end June
- iv. Council resolved to note Bank Reconciliation to end June
- v. Council resolved to note Spend Against Budget to end June

39.26 Planning matters:

- i. **Decisions to note**

The following were noted with no comments to file

- 26/01429/FUL: Owls House Annexe, Penkridge Cottage, 41 - 42 Sheinton
Change of use of a short term holiday rental unit (C5) to separate residential dwelling (C3)
Decision: Refuse
- 26/01777/FUL Chestnut Cottage, Sheinton
Proposal: The installation of a domestic 15kW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array
Decision: Grant Permission

- ii. **Determine response to any new Planning Applications**

There were no planning notifications received after the publication of the agenda and the meeting of 14th July 2026

iii. Shropshire Local Plan Scoping Consultation

It was agreed to file a Parish Council response to the scoping Consultation due to close on 15 July 2026. Contributions had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Rob Davies left the meeting at 7.50pm

40.26 Recreation Area

- i. Under 11s Play Area: to report on any action that may be required in the play area
 - Wooden planks need to be replaced on play equipment.
It was resolved to request the maintenance contractor to go ahead with the repairs.
 - Gates and doors opening onto the play area is a long-standing issue. It was questioned how long it would be before claims were made of right-of-way. An alternative solution is to fence it up.
It was agreed to get prices for fencing to consider at an upcoming meeting.
 - It was noted that covers have been put back on the drains and bolted down.
- ii. Pump track: it was requested that the Parish Clerk chase up interested parties to see if there is any further information on pricing
- iii. Reviving the Recreation area: there was a detailed discussion on the report on the recreation area and an agreement that further discussion would be required at the September meeting.

Councillors were clear that their objective was to maximise use of facilities to create sports and fitness benefit to all sections of the community.

- There was some resistance to the idea of removing football posts and that they are not used, some Councillors said that this was not the case. An option of replacing the football pitch with a 5 aside area was discussed. This could open up the sports field for other facilities and maximise its use.
- The idea of running track around the pitch was favourably considered, with the proviso that it would need to be stone as a tarmac option was not attainable.
- Making the pavilion more appealing would increase use of the football pitch and be of general benefit including potentially being usable as a meeting facility

It was agreed to look at potential costs and bring the information back to a future meeting.

41.26 Highways matters:

i) Highways matters to report

Councillors noted that potholes have been remarked in both Harley and Sheinton. The road sign at Cressage on the entrance from Much Wenlock direction has been damaged. It is expected that Severn Trent Water will be taking action and is in dialogue with Shropshire Council. No action needs to be taken by the Parish Council at this time.

It was noted that it is difficult to see the stop signs at the Eagles by the junction with Sheinton Road because of overgrown hedges. This is also the case heading over the river bridge on the A458.

It was agreed to request SLB Maintenance to cut back hedge growth in both locations to expose the road signs.

Letters have been distributed reminding householders about their responsibility in cutting hedges and will be re-issued in September.

ii) Double yellow lines

There were no any action or updates regarding double yellow lines in Cressage.

iii) Additional signage for Village Gateways

Additional signage has been put in place at both entrances to Cressage.

42.26 Environmental matters:

iv. Footpaths

There were no updates on replacement of the missing bridge at this time.

v. Volunteer support

Cllr Victoria Todd said that she had been attempting to contact people involved in the pilot scheme to get traction on it. There is intention to publish a reminder of the need for volunteers in the August edition of Village Life, and also to hold a village hall meeting for interested parties.

vi. Verge in Harley

Cllr Victoria Todd provided an update regarding the verges damaged by a lorry in Harley. She had been in dialogue with the lorry driver who had damaged the verges since the incident in February. The reinstatement of the verge has not happened.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should contact the company advertised on the lorry to ask if it had any intention of repairing the damage done to the verge by its vehicle.

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vii. Layby in Harley

Concern was expressed about the appearance of the laybys in Harley, in particular the amount of litter and the disintegrating benches. Cutting back the tree branches would make it less appealing for fly-tippers. Cllr Victoria Todd noted that she had contacted Men in Sheds in Shrewsbury but that this was not a possibility for restoration of the benches as items need to be taken into the organisation, they do not have a system for collection.

It was resolved to request SLB maintenance remove the benches and cuts back the branches of the trees.

47.26 **Date & time of next Council meeting** 8th September 2026 at Cressage Village Hall
at 7.00pm