

**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at
Cressage Village Hall on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm**

In attendance: Cllrs Victoria Todd, Robert Davies, John Esp, Colin Campbell, Roger Beardsmore, Shaun Bott, 4 members of the public, Shropshire Councillor Susan Coleman, and the Parish Clerk

135.25 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

136.25 To note Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Matt Murray, and Shropshire Councillor Dan Thomas

137.25 To note Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or consider dispensation requests

Cllr Shaun Bott is the owner of SLB Groundcare

138.25 Public session

Two residents addressed the Parish Council regarding communications sent suggesting the installation of a pump track in the recreation area. It was suggested that this would be something that could be used by residents of all ages and that it would be less slippery in winter than a skatepark. There are a lot of cyclists in the area who could make use of it. There are examples of pump tracks in Broseley and Shrewsbury. Photos of one installed in Cheltenham has been circulated to Councillors. This was installed by a company based in Market Drayton.

The support of the Parish Council for the idea was what was important at this stage, as it will involve a change of use for the ground. There was not an assumption that it would fund it. Crowdfunding could be an option. Cllr Susan Coleman noted that Shropshire Council held a large amount of CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding and that a case could be made for including this project in proposals for expenditure.

139.25 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Susan Coleman reported that money has been given to Shropshire Council by central government to set up a food waste collection. This does not cover the revenue costs of the service. It has not yet been set up for this reason, and this is the same situation for over 50 councils in the country. A report will be going to Shropshire Council about it.

Reporting on behalf of Cllr Dan Thomas, she noted that a new gym has been set up in Much Wenlock Leisure Centre, now run by Halo Leisure. £75K has been spent on gym refurbishment. A Learn to Swim programme has been set up for children.

On 9th May, Cllr Thomas will be holding a surgery in Much Wenlock Museum between 10am and 12pm. The police will be in attendance [Harley residents are represented by Cllr Thomas in Shropshire Council]. Cllr Thomas is still in the process of arranging a meeting with Harley residents and traffic control officers from Shropshire Council.

In response to a question from the Chairman about the housing development at Buildwas, Cllr Coleman said that traffic calming measures would go in at the same time as the roundabout but that this would not progress at this time. 180 dwellings occupied is the trigger for development. It was noted that a new school was supposed to be opening in 2027.

140.25 Council to consider and agree the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2026

It was agreed to accept the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2026 as a true record.

141.25 Planning matters:

i. Decisions:

The following were noted:

Reference: 25/03328/LBC (validated: 15/09/2025)

Address: 6 Harley Road, Cressage, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6DF

Proposal: Change of roof material to new clay tiles affecting a grade II listed building.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 25/04455/FUL (validated: 04/12/2025)

Address: Barn Yonder, Harley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6LX

Proposal: Extension to existing garage

Decision: Grant Permission

ii. Determine response to any new Planning Applications:

There were no new planning notifications received after the publication of the agenda

The following appeal was noted:

26/03468/REF

37 Harley Road, Cressage

Application for Permission in Principle for construction of one or two dwellings

142.25 Highways matters

There has been action regarding the 30mph speed signs not being illuminated. This had been reported on 3rd March on Fix My Street. This was followed up by Cllr Victoria Todd who reported exposed wiring on 9th April. By 13th April the work had been ordered.

143.25 Financial matters:

- i. Council agreed to the following payment of invoices and charges

Payee	Item	Amount	Date of Invoice
Clerk	Salary month 1	£577.70	14/3/2026
HMRC	Tax month 1	£190.16	14/3/2026
Clerk	Travel – April	£16.78	14/3/2026
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£32.77	4/4/2026
Lloyds Bank (direct charge)	Service Charges	£4.75	monthly
Water Plus (direct debit)	Pavillion water	£17.86	14/3/2026

Additionally to the above items, Council agreed to the following payments received after the publication of the agenda:

Payee	Item	Amount	Date of Invoice
Shropshire Council	Final Pension Shortfall payment	£2019	8/4/2026
JACS	Additional signage	£432	13/4/2026

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

SLB Groundcare	Monthly maintenance –April	£760.79	1/4/2026
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- iii. Council agreed to note: receipts and expenditure to end March
 iv. Council agreed to note: Bank Reconciliation to end March
 v. Council agreed to note: Spend Against Budget to end March
 vi. Council agreed to note: PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) end of year statement, £1863.55 remains of the debt . Cllr John Esp requested a figure be sought for an early payment charge
 vii. Council agreed to note: Neighbourhood Fund, £1485.11 is due in April
 viii. Council noted that work is underway on the Internal Control Check reportage, this will be followed up at the next meeting when Cllr Murray returns from his annual leave
 ix. Council considered pavilion hire charges, including the cost of renting the facilities to the rounders team and the interest shown by a local football club for using the pitch for

practice sessions. There was some discussion about the technicalities of preparing and marking the pitch, what would be a reasonable cost to charge for the use of the pitch, and the logistics of making it available for practice sessions. There was discussion regarding the lock and access to the pavilion, the practical solution to this being to use the side door for access.

It was agreed that the rounders team should be charged £125

It was agreed that £150 would be a reasonable charge for using the football pitch for the proposed three times a week session, it was also agreed that more information should be sought, for example, if the players would be training in studs.

- x. Council agreed to the update of FOI Publication Scheme
- xi. Council agreed to the update of Privacy Notice and Privacy Policy
- xii. Council agreed to the update of the IT Policy

144.25 Other Parish Matters – to include report back from meetings/training courses attended

- i. Defibrillator: it was agreed that Cllr Rob Davies would show the Parish Clerk and the Chairman how to check to the defibrillator after the meeting. A code has been provided to both, so that monthly checks can be undertaken.
- ii. Footpaths: volunteers have come forward for this specific project following the article in Village Life. There are now 6 volunteers, and plans are in place with initial discussions with Shropshire Council being positive. As long as the bridge like for like, there will be no issues with insurance or liabilities. £100 of funding from Blakemore has been secured, the group are now looking for match funding and are considering approaching local business.
- iii. Double yellow lines: there were no action or updates regarding double yellow lines in Cressage to consider at this time
- iv. Volunteer support: the Parish Clerk noted that volunteers had come forwards following the article in Village Life. Volunteers interested in the footpaths project had been put in touch with Cllr Davies who is leading on this project.
- v. Verge in Harley: Cllr Todd noted that the damaged verge in Harley had not yet been repaired and that she would be following this up.
- vi. Additional signage for Village Gateways: there has been progress on the additional signage. An invoice had been received by the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting, and it was anticipated that the signs should arrive within the next two days.
- vii. Maintenance plan for the Village Gateway: a plan was agreed at the previous meeting. Cutting will start in May.
- viii. Pump track: it was agreed that Councillors would research consider costs and potential for progressing the idea forwards
- ix. Rural Services Network: the Chairman asked the Parish Clerk to circulate information from the RSN about funding opportunities to all Councillors
- x. Recreation Field: Cllr Roger Beardsmore was thanked by the Chairman for his work preparing a comprehensive report on reviving the recreation field. He suggested a plaque for the residents who set it up could be considered.
- xi. Safer Neighbourhood Team: the Chairman went to the recent visit to Cressage Village Hall by the Safer Neighbourhood team on 31st March, but they were no longer there when she arrived. Councillors present suggested that an evening session might be better attended. The Parish Clerk said that she had corresponded with them about

- attending a future Parish Council meeting but had been told there was not an officer available for the April or May dates.
- xii. Severn Trent Community Flood team: a representative of the team has been in contact with the Parish Clerk and is hoping to be available for the June Parish Council meeting.
 - xiii. Flooding at Harley on the Kenley Road: the Chairman noted that she had been advised that this issue is still 'on the radar' with officers at Shropshire Council. It is possible that an additional gully may be put in to assist with the flooding issues.
 - xiv. Overgrown hedge at Harley: it was noted that there has been no action on this matter at this time.
 - xv. Cressage Church: the church will be formally closed from the 1st April, a formal process will begin and the diocese will be looking at its options.
 - xvi. Wood Lane: a member of the public had been in touch with the Chairman regarding a development in Wood Lane. The Parish Clerk said that this would be a matter to refer to planning enforcement.
 - xvii. Keep Britain Tidy campaign: an email promoting materials for a dog waste campaign had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. The majority felt that the price was high for the pack and it was agreed to not purchase it.
 - xviii. Picnic area at Harley: the Chairman has contacted Men In Sheds about repairing the picnic tables but had not heard back yet.
 - xix. Chairs and folding tables: the Village Hall is refreshing its equipment and had asked Councillors if they would like some of the existing chairs and tables for the pavilion. It was agreed to accept this offer.

145.25 Items for consideration at next Council meeting, not for debate or decision

- Reviving the Recreation Field report
- Tug of War event

146.25 Date & time of next Council meeting Tuesday 12th May 2026 at Cressage Village Hall on the rise of the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held at 7pm