

Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at Cressage Village Hall on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7pm

In attendance: Cllrs Rob Davies, John Esp, Colin Campbell, Victoria Todd, Robert Davies, 10 members of the public, Shropshire Councillors Dan Thomas and Susan Coleman, and the Parish Clerk

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51.25 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said it was nice to see so many people in attendance.

52.25 To note Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Roger Beardsmore and Matt Murray.

An apology from Cllr Shaun Bott was sent before the meeting.

53.25 To note Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or consider dispensation requests

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest or dispensation requests at this time.

54.25 Public session

Residents present at the meeting raised concerns about the planning application to put 60 dwellings at the west of Harley Road. Comments of concern included the density of the proposed housing on the site, and the impact on village life, particularly infrastructure. The school is over-proscribed, and it is difficult already to get a doctor's appointment. A resident raised the lack of amelioration in the plans. There is nothing to show access for pedestrians across a very busy road (the A458). There is no inclusion of walkways. Another resident commented that it had taken her ten minutes to safely cross the road to look at the notice placed next to the site entrance. It was commented that the speed survey as included in the plans was a farce. The suitability of the land for this amount of housing was questioned, including noting that with the collapse of the Local Plan this is now open countryside. The stability of land at the entrance and exit to the site was suggested has having been an unresolved issue.

The Parish Clerk said she had received two written enquiries prior to the meeting:

A resident had reported a day burning streetlight outside 39 Severn Way. This is under the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should follow this up with the maintenance company (Prysmian).

A resident of Cressage has asked if the Parish Council would ever consider adding a tarmac path around the perimeter of the recreation field to make the space more accessible to pushchairs, wheelchairs and children on scooters, and to facilitate runners.

55.25 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Susan Coleman noted that there had been land development sites call out and a new Local Plan is being written as the current Local Plan is defunct. The development sites are not just for houses. There Council is under pressure to build extra houses as the Government has doubled housing targets.

Cllr Coleman reported on the development of a bio-char plant outside Ludlow. The significance of this is financial, as it will create extra revenue. There will be a meeting of the cabinet to discuss the dire state of the finances. More positive news is that the Children's Service has been rated Outstanding in an Ofsted report. Holiday activities including a food programme will continue over the next 3 years.

Cllr Dan Thomas reported that the 3-18 Education Trust has submitted a new application for Much Wenlock Leisure Centre. The previous applicaiton was for half CiL half from Shropshire Council's budget, but the overspend at Shropshire Council means this will not be possible. Meanwhile, the future of Cleobury Mortimer's Leisure Centre has not been secured.

Cllr Thomas will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday 13th September at Much Wenlock Museum (10.30am to midday). There will be a police representative.

56.25 Minutes

Council agreed the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2025

57.25 Planning matters:

- i) **Decisions:** there were no planning decisions received after the publication of the agenda and the meeting of 9th September 2025
- ii) **Determine response to any new Planning Applications:**
 - a) 25/03043/OUT (validated: 27/08/2025): Land To The West Of, Harley Road, Cressage, Outline application for residential development of approximately 60 dwellings (to include access)

It was agreed to object to the plan with a detailed response to be drafted following the meeting.

- b) The following planning notification was received after the publication of the agenda:

25/03259/FUL: Rookery Cottage, Sheinton Proposal: Construction of single storey rear extension, insertion of new window in south-west elevation and replacement of existing conservatory with a new one

No comment to file

iii) The Eagles Inn - 25/02555/OUT

It was noted that a comment has been filed on behalf of the Council. The Parish Council supports development of the site:

It supports ingress and egress onto the A458 (Harley Road). It has concerns about the existing entrance /exit onto Sheinton Road. It is recommended that any dwellings build are sympathetic in design and layout to the immediate area. The Parish Council considers that it needs to see more detailed plans to enable any informed decision.

58.25 Highways matters

Cllr Rob Davies reported that a resident had asked him if there are any updates on getting the police to visit the school. It has been advised that the reduced stop off times has made a difference but there are still issues. The Parish Clerk said she would follow this up with the police.

59.25 Memorandum of Understanding

It was agreed to defer consideration of the Memorandum of Understanding circulated by Shropshire Council until the next meeting

60.25 Financial matters:

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

Payee	Item	Amount	Date of Invoice
Clerk (retrospective)	Salary months 5	£559.71	18/8/2025
HMRC (retrospective)	Tax month 5	£182.21	18/8/2025
Jon Almond (retrospective)	Grass cutting	£540	6/7/2025
Clerk	Salary month 6	£tbc	18/9/2025
HMRC	Tax month 6	£tbc	18/9/2025
Clerk	Travel September	£16.78	8/7/2025
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£252	18/8/2025
Information Solutions	Domain renewal	£14.99	3/7/2025
Shropshire Council	Energy – streetlights	£560.38	28/8/2025
Play Inspection Company	ROSPA reports	£227.88	29/8/2025
Lloyds Bank (direct charge)	Service Charges	£4.75	9/6 2025
Lloyds Bank (direct charge)	Service Charges	£4.75	15/7/2025
Lloyds Bank (direct charge)	Service Charges	£4.75	12/8/2025
Tomato Energy (direct debit)	Electricity charges	£1.42	1/8/2025
Tomato Energy (direct debit)	Electricity charges	£1.70	1/9/2025
ICO (direct debit)	Subscription	£47	25/7/2025
PWLB (direct debit)	Loan (lights)	£258.55	1/7/2025
Water Plus (direct debit)	Pavilion Water	£19.12	14/7/2025
Water Plus (direct debit)	Pavillion water	£19.76	14/8/2025
Information Solutions	Change of domain name	£30	8/9/2025

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

SLB Groundcare	Monthly maintenance – September	£738.64	4/7/2025
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- iii. Council noted receipts and expenditure to end August
iv. Council noted Bank Reconciliation to end August
v. Council noted Spend Against Budget to end August
vi. Council noted the conclusion of the External Audit
vii. Council noted the Neighbourhood Fund Monitoring Fund (*signed by the Parish Clerk, Chairman and Shropshire Councillor for Cressage*)

61.25 Other Parish Matters

- i. Shropshire Together: the report from the conference held on 25th July 2025 at Shrewsbury was noted
ii. Local Plan: it was noted that Shropshire Council has put in a 'Call for Sites'
iii. Phone Box: it was noted that Shropshire Council had written to thank the Parish Council for its feedback regarding phone boxes and that the BT phone box in Harley is being retained
iv. Email: Information Solutions are processing the change to a gov.uk address and email set up. This will be <https://www.cressageharleysheinton-pc.gov.uk/>
v. Police and Crime Commissioner Survey: the PCC Office has sent its annual Town and Parish Survey to be completed by 14th October. It was agreed that the Cressage Ward Councillors will complete this before the next meeting.
vi. Verges: it was agreed to defer consideration of a maintenance plan for the village gateway areas to the October meeting
vii. Shropshire Council verges contract maintenance: there was no substantial information regarding difference in width of cut along the A458 from Bridgnorth to Morville and Much Wenlock to Shrewsbury. Cllr Rob Davies said that his Freedom of Information request had not provided any detailed information. The resident who had asked about it at a previous meeting had not been able to get any information from direct contact with Shropshire Council Highways.
viii. Footpaths: there were no updates on replacement of the missing bridge
ix. Recreation ground: there were no any updates on maintenance of leylandii trees backing onto the recreation ground and removal of the fallen tree. It was requested that the Parish Clerk drafts a letter for the Chairman to send.
x. Annual inspection reports: the annual inspection reports for the Play Area the Recreation Ground were noted.
xi. Benches: it was agreed to bring quotes for replacement benches for the recreation area to the next meeting.
xii. Yellow lines: Highways has advised that placement of yellow lines in Cressage is on the works list but is not a high priority as there is no history of serious accidents.

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

Parking signs at Cressage Churchyard

63.25 Date & time of next Council meeting 14th October 2025, at Cressage Village Hall