

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance

Chairman: Cllr A Thomson

Councillors: Cllr J Hislop, Cllr S Lewis, Cllr N Partridge, Cllr M Pound, Cllr N Stallard

Also Present: Cllr Bentley - attending in his capacity as both a member of the Parish Council and as the Unitary Authority Ward Councillor.

Apologies: Cllr B Maskell

Clerk: Mr Wayne Salisbury

Other: Cllr W Gandy (Not in attendance)

Public: 2

Minutes of the Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2025

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all Council members and members of the public to the October meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council.

The Chair informed members that they will be attending the SALC AGM, which takes place on the 29th October. It was also noted that several members had recently attended a special meeting in Stoke on Tern, which was called to discuss the Shropshire Together initiative.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Maskell.

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

- a) Cllr Thomson declared an interest in item 11 – Authorisation of Payments.
- b) Cllr Bentley declared an interest relating to his role as a unitary councillor for Shropshire Council.
- c) The Clerk granted a dispensation to Cllr Thomson in respect of their declared interest in item 11 to allow Cllr Thomson to remain during that item but without voting rights.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Policing Matters

Representatives from the Police were not in attendance.

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting, a police newsletter had been shared with members on the 6th October.

Cllr Partridge raised that they had recently reported to the police the continued issue of drug dealing, which is taking place near the Wharf public house and Walley farm. Cllr Partridge advised that they would liaise further with the PCSO.

The Chair raised the issue that a break-in to the bowling club's outbuildings had taken place in September and had been reported (by a parishioner) to the police. No formal request for CCTV had been made by the police.

6. Public Participation

2 members of the public were in attendance but commented that they were just wishing to observe.

7. Shropshire Unitary Councillor's report

Cllr Bentley shared a report with members ahead of the meeting, which is included in the appendix to these minutes on pages 849 – 851.

Additional updates included:

- Shropshire Council predicted overspend is now £350K up on the previous forecast.
- Shropshire Council CEO stepped down last month, and an interim CEO is now in place and will remain until the year-end.
- Regarding the letter received from Mark Pritchard MP and the comments from the PCC that average speed cameras are no longer supported. This is disappointing as there are 4 sites on the A41 where investment in average speed cameras would be beneficial. Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Councils have asked for a meeting with the PCC to discuss further.
- Attended the Shropshire Partnership meeting, which was held in Stoke on Tern and added that there is no requirement for parish councils to commit to anything and that bigger town councils may be taking a leading role. Shropshire Council will provide an extensive document with details on all aspects.
- The planning application in Soudley has descended into an undesirable situation, and discussions have been had with legal, governance and SALC regarding a duty of care to residents and councillors.

Cllr Stallard asked if the Parish Council's response to the planning application was satisfactory. Cllr Pound added details of the submitted comment.

Cllr Stallard raised if the Fix My Street platform is a charity, as they had noticed that there is an option to make a donation.

Cllr Bentley could not confirm but did state that it is a national platform.

8. Playing Field, Playground and Car Park

To receive any updates, discuss any matters relating to and make any required decisions.

The Chair raised that they had sent the information to 'Venables Oak' regarding the plaque for the wildlife garden, which they have offered to provide, but that they had not yet had any further response. The Chair will follow up.

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9. Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received by members, which detailed updates on actions since the last meeting, including:

- Quarter 2 VAT reclaim has been submitted (£323.52).
- Preparation work is ongoing for the 2026-27 budget and upcoming November and December meetings.
- Progress continues against appraisal objectives, including SLCC Conference attendance and policy updates relating to Assertion 10 and IT requirements.
- Orders have been placed for the new noticeboard and defibrillator pads.
- Grounds maintenance: The playing field hedge will be cut by J. Hoole at a cost of £200 when the weather permits.
- The Odd Jobs Contractor advert was re-circulated; one expression of interest has been received for consideration at this meeting.
- One planning decision was noted: discharge of conditions approved for Haywood Farm, Haywood Lane (25/03597/DIS).
- Correspondence received included:
 - Letter from MP regarding A41 Route Study Report.
 - Resident query on parish boundary (information provided).
 - Resident query on Westcott Lane/Westfields junction.
 - Members agreed that, as the issue was within the remit of the Parish Council, the resident should be referred to the Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor. It was also noted that the hedges in question have been cut and that at the time of the original query, hedge cutting was not permitted. (1st March to 31st August).
 - Resident email regarding the oak tree near the Parish Hall.
 - Members agreed that this is something which should be formally considered at a future meeting.

10. Planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Sched 1, para 8)

To consider any planning applications which have been received since the publication of this agenda.

Reference	25/03859/FUL
Address	1 Moss Lane Chipnall Cheswardine Market Drayton Shropshire TF9 2RE
Proposal	Proposed refurbishment of outbuildings and new build section to form extension to existing dwelling and formation of vehicular access
Deadline for Comments	11TH November 2025
25/03859/FUL Proposed refurbishment of outbuildings and new build section to form extension to existing dwelling and formation of vehicular access 1 Moss Lane Chipnall Cheswardine Market Drayton Shropshire TF9 2RE	

RESOLVED: that the following comment is submitted to the local planning authority.

- *Cheswardine Parish Council supports this planning application.*

11. Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED: the schedule of payments for October 2025 correctly states the invoices presented and that **£2085.36** is approved to be paid. **£571.67** has been paid under 6.6 and **£1095.35** has been paid under 6.9 iii. (as detailed on page 843)

12. External Audit

The Clerk updated members that the report from the external auditor had been received and that several points had been raised. A summary of explanations had been provided to members before the meeting.

RESOLVED: to accept the report and conclusion notice from the external auditor in respect to the 2024-2025 AGAR submission.

13. Budget Review

The Clerk summarised the budget review documentation and the position of the Council at the end of the 2nd quarter.

Cllr Pound raised that the budget line for defibrillator maintenance is too high and will not be required at that level. The Clerk added that this can be addressed during the budget setting process for 2026-27 and that particular line will be reduced to reflect what expenditure is being incurred on defibrillators.

Cllr Pound also added that the Council will need to forward plan to budget for large ticket items. The Clerk confirmed that the draft budget will include a 3-year view, which will allow for an earmarked reserve for fixed assets to be accrued.

RESOLVED: that expenditure and income against the budget for the 2nd quarter of the 2025 - 2026 Council year is approved. (as detailed on page 844-846)

14. Accounting Audit

RESOLVED: To approve the presented accounting audit for the 2nd quarter of the 2025 - 2026 Council year as completed by Cllr Hislop. (as detailed on page 847)

15. Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: that the bank reconciliation summary is an accurate reflection of payments and receipts against the bank balances as of 30th September 2025. (as detailed on page 848)

16. Odd Jobs Contractor

Members reviewed the details which had been provided by the contractor who had expressed interest in completing jobs for the Council.

Cllr Stallard asked whether a budget allocation could be determined, the clerk added that an amount could be allocated during the budget setting process for 2026-27.

It was agreed that a list of potential contractor tasks would be drawn up, including the routine task being the emptying of Parish Council-owned community waste bins.

RESOLVED: that the Council wish to establish a working arrangement with A Tapley and that they are approved to carry out any required and appropriate tasks.

The Clerk will liaise further with the contractor so as to progress further.

17. National Lottery Grant

Cllr Pound raised that now would be a good time to apply again for a National Lottery grant for the replacement of playground equipment.

Cllr Bentley added that a pathway to the accessible equipment would be a good idea.

It was agreed that Cllr Pound will pull a new application together and will update Council at a future meeting before submission.

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18. Shropshire Council Memorandum of Understanding

The Chair raised that a recent Chairs Network meeting a senior person in the meeting stated that the memorandum of understanding is not a formal bidding document and that signing is not necessary.

Cllr Pound added that the document does not contain anything significant and was unsure of the reason for it to be signed.

Cllr Stallard raised that they would like to see how things work out with other councils before they commit to anything.

Cllr Bentley added that other councils have come up with some stunning ideas of what they want to take on.

Cllr Stallard raised that they have reported issues via Fix My Street and was concerned that Shropshire Council are not resolving them as they may be waiting to see if that responsibility is outsourced to another Council.

Cllr Bentley stated that this is not the case.

Cllr Hislop commented that economies of scale will allow several Town and Parish Councils to group together to provide a service.

RESOLVED: not to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Shropshire Council and Cheswardine Parish Council, but to provide feedback to Shropshire Council.

Meeting concluded at 8:26 pm.

Chairman..... Date.....

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Schedule of Payments - As resolved under Item 11.

Cheswardine Parish Council Schedule of Payments

21st October 2025

	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	22/10/2025	PCC Cheswardine Parish	Rent of allotment field 2025-26	400.00		BT - Unity Trust	Allotments Act 1908 S26	Yes
1A	22/10/2025	Shropshire Plant Hire	Grounds Maintenance - October 2025	349.00		BT - Unity Trust	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
2	22/10/2025	MedUK	Replacement Defibrillator Pads x 3 sets	198.00		BT - Unity Trust	Public Health Act 1936 S234	Yes
3	22/10/2025	Cllr A Thomson	EE - Bus Phone Top Up	20.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
4	22/10/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Clerk Salary - October + 20 hrs resolved at Sep meeting	780.66		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
5	22/10/2025	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary - October	195.20	279.03	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
6	22/10/2025	HMRC	Employer NIC - Month 6	83.83		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
7	22/10/2025	W Salisbury	Clerk Homeworking Expenses (01/07/25 to 30/09/25)	20.00	58.67	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
8	22/10/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Giff Gaff - Phone Monthly Payment - October	6.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
9	22/10/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Mileage (16th September - 38 miles x 0.45)	17.10		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
10	22/10/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Mileage to SLCC Conference - 14th Oct (Precept Share)	15.57		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
Total				2085.36				

Payments made as resolved under the approved payments list 5.5b								Scribe
11	08/10/2025	BT	Parish Hall Broadband - 1st to 30th September	39.54		DD - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 133	Yes
12	06/10/2025	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal - Skip Emptied 12/09/25	33.13		BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
13	06/10/2025	Shropshire Plant Hire	Grounds Maintenance - September 2025	499.00		BT - Unity Trust	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
Total				571.67				

Payments made under Financial Regulations 5.5a to avoid late payment								
	Date of	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque	Power of expenditure	Scribe
14	17/09/2025	SLCC	Clerk's SLCC Membership 2025-26	54.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
15	17/09/2025	SLCC	Clerks SLCC Conference Attendance 2025	99.55		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
16	29/09/2025	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee	252.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
17	06/10/2025	SALC	Training / Cllr Thomson Shropshire Together Cllr Lewis Fundamentals	61.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
18	06/10/2025	Noticeboard Company	Noticeboard Purchase (Resolved Sep 25 Meeting)	622.80		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
	30/09/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	6.00		Bank Charge	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
Total				1095.35				

Invoices checked and verified at the meeting held on 21st October 2025

Cllr N Bentley 21/10/25

Cllr - Proposer - Sign & Date

Cllr J Hislop 21/10/25

Cllr - Seconder - Sign & Date

DEPOSITS RECEIVED		
September	2025	
Date	Total	From
30/09/2025	£295.51	Unity Trust Bank - Interest
Total	£295.51	

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Budget Review Quarter 2 - As resolved under Item 12.

	Budget 2025-2026			Actual - Q1 April to June 25		Actual - Q2 July to Sep 25		Total	Variance
	Cost Centre	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts		
	Administration Fixed								
150	Audit Fees	£720.00		£432.00		£292.57		£724.57	-£4.57
160	Affiliation Fees - SALC	£600.00		£584.56				£584.56	£15.44
170	Insurance (General)	£700.00		£824.93				£824.93	-£124.93
220	Hall Broadband	£600.00		£104.21		£111.22		£215.43	£384.57
230	ICO GDPR Fee	£40.00						£0.00	£40.00
260	Allotment Rent	£400.00						£0.00	£400.00
	Total	£3,060.00		£1,945.70		£403.79		£2,349.49	£710.51
	Administration General								
100	Clerks Expenses	£600.00		£89.30		£300.83		£390.13	£209.87
110	Other (Non Fields) Labour	£200.00						£0.00	£200.00
130	Training	£250.00						£0.00	£250.00
140	Councillors Expenses	£150.00						£0.00	£150.00
180	Defibrillator Maintenance	£3,000.00		£312.00				£312.00	£2,688.00
190	Website Costs	£500.00						£0.00	£500.00
250	Admin Other	£500.00		£20.00		£74.69		£94.69	£405.31
270	Stationery/Advertising	£100.00		£19.99				£19.99	£80.01
280	IT Services & Equipment	£100.00		£84.99				£84.99	£15.01
470	Bus Costs	£600.00		£55.50		£38.25		£93.75	£506.25
471	Waste Bin Top Up Charge	£320.00						£0.00	£320.00
472	CCTV Maintenance	£600.00						£0.00	£600.00
475	Scribe Software	£500.00		£414.72				£414.72	£85.28
	Total	£7,420.00		£996.50		£413.77		£1,410.27	£6,009.73
	Adminstration - Salary & Overtime								
90	Clerks Salary & Overtime	£6,214.00		£1,258.78		£1,340.30		£2,599.08	£3,614.92
476	Tax / National Insurace	£2,000.00		£362.96		£398.65		£761.61	£1,238.39
477	Salary Contingency	£800.00						£0.00	£800.00
	Total	£9,014.00		£1,621.74		£1,738.95		£3,360.69	£5,653.31
	Assets (Fixed Equip)								
370	Fixed Asset Purchase	£5,000.00						£0.00	£5,000.00
478	Playground Equipment	£5,000.00						£0.00	£5,000.00
479	Benches	£1,000.00		£792.61				£792.61	£207.39
	Total	£11,000.00		£792.61		£0.00		£792.61	£10,207.39
	Elections								
380	Election Costs	£2,600.00						£0.00	£2,600.00
	Total	£2,600.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£2,600.00
	Grants								
390	Grants (Other)	£1,500.00						£0.00	£1,500.00
400	Parish Hall							£0.00	£0.00
	Total	£1,500.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£1,500.00
	Other Contingencies								
450	Various	£1,000.00						£0.00	£1,000.00
	Total	£1,000.00		£0.00		£0.00		£0.00	£1,000.00

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	Playing Fields								
320	Contract Labour	£3,700.00		£923.00		£1,771.00		£2,694.00	£1,006.00
330	Playing Field Expenses (Ot	£600.00						£0.00	£600.00
340	Playground Inspection (An	£500.00				£508.80		£508.80	-£8.80
350	Equipment Maintenance	£600.00						£0.00	£600.00
481	Wildlife Garden	£1,500.00		£1,079.28		£530.47		£1,609.75	-£109.75
482	Waste Collection	£400.00		£96.10		£99.39		£195.49	£204.51
	Total	£7,300.00		£2,098.38		£2,909.66		£5,008.04	£2,291.96
	Community								
473	Annual Community Meetin	£200.00		£136.75				£136.75	£63.25
474	D Day Celebrations							£0.00	£0.00
480	VE Day	£500.00		£364.80				£364.80	£135.20
	Total	£700.00		£501.55		£0.00		£501.55	£198.45
	Street Lights								
300	Street Light Maintenance	£500.00						£0.00	£500.00
310	Energy Supply	£1,350.00		£263.38		£263.38		£526.76	£823.24
	Total	£1,850.00		£263.38		£263.38		£526.76	£1,323.24
	Receipts								
10	Precept		£24,446.00		£24,446.00			£24,446.00	£0.00
20	Bank Interest		£500.00		£253.48		£295.51	£548.99	£48.99
50	Allotment Rent		£400.00					£0.00	-£400.00
60	Recreation Field Hire							£0.00	£0.00
70	Sundry Income				£388.64			£388.64	£388.64
80	VAT Reclaim		£5,000.00		£3,929.76		£613.19	£4,542.95	-£457.05
		Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts	Payments	Receipts
	GRAND TOTAL	£45,444.00	£30,346.00	£8,219.86	£29,017.88	£5,729.55	£908.70	£13,949.41	£29,926.58
								Totals	
	Appropriation from Reseves	£15,098.00							

Budget Review Summary – End of Q2 2025-26

Expenditure is progressing steadily against the approved budget, with some variances explained by higher insurance costs, audit fees, and project commitments.

Income

- The full precept of £24,446 has been received.
- Bank interest stands at £549, slightly above the £500 budget.
- VAT reclaim totals £4,543 against a £5,000 target, close to forecast.
- Sundry income includes £389 (National Grid wayleave and VE Day fundraising).
- Allotment rent income (£400) is yet to be received.

Expenditure

- Administration (Fixed): £2,349 spent against £3,060 budget. Insurance is overspent (£825 vs £700), and audit fees are fractionally above budget.
- Administration (General): £1,410 spent against £7,420 budget (19%). Higher Clerk's expenses (£390) reflect SLCC conference attendance.
- Defib maintenance (£312) and Scribe software (£415) are on track.
- Administration (Salary and Overtime): £3,361 spent against £9,014 budget (37%). Salary and NI are tracking close to expectations.
- Assets: £793 spent on benches, leaving £10,207 available. Allocations for fixed asset purchases (£5,000) and playground equipment (£5,000) remain untouched.
- Elections: No spend to date (£2,600 budgeted).
- Grants: No spend yet against the £1,500 budget.
- Playing Fields: £5,008 spent against £7,300 budget (69%). Overspends noted on playground inspection (£509 vs £500) and Wildlife Garden (£1,610 vs £1,500).
- Community: £502 spent against £700 budget, including costs for the Annual Community Meeting and VE Day event.
- Streetlighting: £527 spent against £1,850 budget (29%).

Overall Position

- At Q2, expenditure totals £13,949 against £45,444 budget (31%).
- Income received is £29,927 against £30,346 budget (99%).
- Key variances are mainly timing issues, with several large projects and grant allocations still to be spent.
- A planned appropriation from reserves (£15,098) remains in place to balance the budget if required.

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Accounting Audit Quarter 2 - As resolved under Item 13.

Completed by Cllr J Hislop

VOUCHER/ PAYMENT NO	DATE OF ENTRY	SUPPLIER/ RECIPIENT	£ AMOUNT	DATE CASHED / PAID	INVOICE UPLOADED AND CORRECT	ENTRY APPEARS ON THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS
89	1/7/25	Broadband	£35.84	8/7/25	Yes	8/7/25
48	4/7/25	P G Skips Ltd	£33.13	4/7/25	Yes	4/7/25
55	14/7/25	Clerks' expenses	£34.20	16/7/25	Yes	16/7/25
61	29/7/25	Earth Anchors	£495.60	30/7/25	Yes	30/7/25
65	18/8/25	Kompan	£341.54	19/8/25	Yes	19/8/25
69	22/8/25	Shropshire Plant Hire Ltd	£349	27/8/25	Yes	27/8/25
71	26/8/25	Broadband	£40.57	8/9/25	Yes	8/9/25
83	31/8/25	Unity Trust bank	£6.00	31/8/25	Yes	31/8/25
76	8/9/25	Instant print	£32.20	17/9/25	Yes	17/9/25
78	16/9/25	HP Instant Ink	£28.99	16/9/25	Yes	17/9/25
81	16/9/25	Clerk	£433.25	17/9/25	Yes	17/9/25
87	29/9/25	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£252.00	29/9/25	Yes	29/9/25

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Bank Reconciliation Quarter 2 (30th September 2025) - As resolved under Item 15.

A	Bank Reconciliation at 30/09/2025		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		35,239.98
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2025 - 30/09/2025		29,926.58
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2025 - 30/09/2025		65,166.56
			13,949.41
	Cash in Hand 30/09/2025 (per Cash Book)		51,217.15
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 30/09/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Instant Access 3687 30/09/2025	50,176.66	
	Unity Trust Current 3674 30/09/2025	1,579.03	
			51,755.69
	Less unrepresented payments		538.54
			51,217.15
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		51,217.15
	A = B Checks out OK		



October 2025

OVERVIEW

Following the recent RTCs on the A41 I have again raised concerns over the lack of progress regarding the A41 Average Speed Camera Program. I have requested a site meeting with Shropshire highways as well as chasing Telford & Wrekin Council, the Police and Amey.

(03/09/25) I met with residents on Mill Green to discuss their concerns over the speed of Mill Green, currently National Speed Limit, but also to discuss the impact of the recent accidents on the A41 and especially the Mill Green junction. I will be raising these issues with the appropriate authorities and working with residents moving forward.

(10/09/25) Full cabinet meeting, agenda and decisions can be found here: [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 10th September, 2025, 10.30 am – Shropshire Council](#)

(18/09/25) Shropshire Council CEO Andy Begley handed in his notice to the council administration with immediate effect. We thanked Andy for his 12 years at the council, 5 as Head of the Paid Service. Tania Miles will act as interim CEO and will work with the administration and full council to address the financial challenge facing the council.

(25/09/25) Unfortunately I was unable to attend the full council meeting due to a prearranged family wedding. The agenda and minutes can be found on the council website: [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 25th September, 2025, 10.00 am – Shropshire Council](#). I would encourage everybody to read through the item 8 paper: **'A New Direction for Shropshire'** which outlines the Liberal Democrat Administration's vision for the council over the next four years.

FINANCE

It is no surprise for the council to be facing the financial position it is now in. Residents have been feeling the pressures of service cuts for a number of years and the during the May election, the Lib Dems stood on a manifesto promise to get the council finances back on firm ground. That said, it is only since taking full control of the council that we have been able to fully explore the position the council is in. The realities of years of mismanagement by the previous administration, the lack of contract control and the national pressures has left the administration in a difficult position.

That said, we knew that we would be inheriting a difficult position as the current working budget had already been approved by the previous administration in February 2025 and cannot be changed. The Lib Dems have been formulating a plan from our first day in office and have been challenging the financial officers to produce more effective reporting for scrutiny. Our plan and actions (*see below cabinet resolution*) will be presented to an Independent Improvement Panel who will work with the administration, council officers and staff to avoid declaring a Section 114 notice before March 2026. The current forecasts demonstrate an illegal £0.899m overspend in the current financial year and therefore a section 114 would have to be declared to central government and the council would be taken over by commissioners.

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Report from Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor (Oct) - As received under Item 7. (Cont.)

The financial position was clearly outlined to council leader Cllr Heather Kidd and opposition leader Cllr Dawn Huseman, Reform UK, before being made public. The opposition party have given their support to the administration. All Lib Dem councillors have been meeting to discuss the council financial position and are in constant communication. The Liberal Democrat administration are also receiving legal advice and guidance from the ALDC (Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors).

At the cabinet meeting on the 10th September, it was agreed to formally declare a Financial Emergency at the council. The cabinet has resolved the following actions:

- A.** To declare a financial emergency and direct the Chief Executive (in conjunction with the Council Leader) to instruct all Officers to take emergency action to reduce all non-essential spending between September and March to significantly improve the Period 4 forecast of a projected spend over budget of £35.169m. Such action should predominantly focus on reducing spend, delivering remaining savings and significant mitigating actions to control in-year spending pressures.
- B.** Direct the Chief Executive to work closely with the LGA and the Council Leader to put in place an independently chaired Improvement Board, as recommended in the recent LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, as soon as practicable.
- C.** To note that Operations Boards, to ultimately work with the Improvement Board, are in place from August 2025 to challenge all in-year spending.
- D.** To note that the Period 4 position (as at the end of July) forecasts indicative savings delivery of £34.012m (57%).
- E.** To note the projected General Fund Balance is now negative (£0.899m), indicating a potentially illegal financial position by the end of the financial year if no further action is taken.
- F.** Immediately direct the Chief Executive, working in collaboration with Cabinet, to bring forward a sustainable corporate plan for the authority to Council in December, reflected in a medium term financial strategy that sets out an approach to deliver a sustainable financial position within a timeframe of no more than three years.

CASEWORK

Casework	Issue Raised / Portfolio	Actions
Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	- Resident communication shared with planning portfolio holder. (03/06/25) Emma Green (<i>Planning Enforcement Leader</i>) has replied directly to a resident concern outlining the stages for legal involvement. - I will continue to chase. planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk can be used to report any breaches of planning.
A41 Safety	HIGHWAYS/POLICE: Update on the installation of average speed cameras along the A41.	(26/05/25) Letter received from Mark Pritchard MP outlining that money has been secured but requires Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils to complete a 'Route Study' which has been actioned by contractor Amey. (04/06/25) Shropshire Highways: "I can confirm that Amey on behalf of Telford & Wrekin are making some final amendments, namely including some final comments. Although we have not had a date confirmed we are

CHESWARDINE

PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Shropshire Council Unitary Councillor (Oct) - As received under Item 7. (Cont.)

		<i>anticipating the report will be available in the next month or so".</i> • (08/07/25) Spoken with colleagues on TAW Council who are also chasing. • (03/09/25) I have written to the highways team to request an urgent site meeting to discuss the progress on this. • (23/09/25) email from Highways officer, happy to meet but we have agreed to wait until we see the engineering report from AMEY as it is understood that Mill Green will feature in that report.
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	• (09/06/25) I have contacted the case officer regarding the general position of this application having been made aware of community concerns. • (17/07/25) No communication received, concerns raised by the Lib Dem administration over the lack of response from officers. • (01/09/25) Email received from case officer to confirm the current position of this application (updates available on the planning portal). • (21/09/25) Request for this to be called-in to the Northern Planning Committee.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Here are questions posed by parish councillors across the division and updates/answers at present.

Question	Answer / Outcomes
What effect does the council finances have on future CIL?	Cllr David Walker (Portfolio holder) is working to ensure that CIL money will be directed to the appropriate communities. Under the previous administration, some CIL monies have been held back to support overall council finances, this is something we are working to address.
How long can a Parish Council hold CIL?	Answer from Cllr David Walker: If earmarked for audit then a parish has 5 years before Shropshire Council could ask for this money to be returned.
Eaton On Tern Solar Farm - Will residents benefit financially?	Officers still investigating. I have had no updates.
What Public Transport initiatives will be available across the Sutton Upon Tern parish?	We are still waiting for the outcome of the Bus Bill (No2) which will determine the funding/authority that Shropshire will receive. It is highly anticipated that Shropshire (and all authorities) will be given the powers to create and operate new bus routes which we would look to use to improve the services in rural areas.