

# CHESWARDINE

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Attendance

**Chairman:** Cllr N Stallard

**Councillors:** Cllr J Hislop, Cllr S Lewis, Cllr B Maskell, Cllr N Partridge, Cllr M Pound

**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 A Thomson

**Clerk:** Mr Wayne Salisbury

**Other:** None

**Public:** None

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### Minutes of the Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

#### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that they were chairing the meeting due to Cllr Thomson's absence.

#### 2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Thomson.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

- a) None declared.
- b) Cllr Bentley declared an interest relating to his role as a Unitary Councillor for Shropshire Council.
- c) No dispensations were requested or granted.

#### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 5. Policing Matters

Representatives from the Police were not in attendance.

Cllr Partridge shared with members details of illegal hunting activity that they had recently witnessed. The details have been passed to the Unitary Councillor, who will report them to the Police.

The Chair asked Cllr Partridge if they had reported the suspicious car raised at previous meetings formally to the Police. Cllr Partridge confirmed that he had.

Cllr Bentley reported that a further PC has been assigned to the Market Drayton Neighbourhood Policing Team.

**6. Public Participation**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**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 869 - 870.

Additional updates included:

- Central government has advised that any loan decision would be issued in April, after the March year end, this is currently being chased and formally challenged.
- A press release has stated, that average speed cameras will be installed on the A41.

Cllr Partridge asked where the average speed cameras will be installed. Cllr Bentley advised that they believe it will be the Newport end and will cover a considerable stretch, but that the exact design is not known at this point.

The Chair inquired about the concerns the administration has with Fix My Street. Cllr Bentley advised that it is a national platform and there have been glitches with jobs statuses.

**8. Playing Field, Playground and Car Park**

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

Cllr Bentley advised that they have shared the National Lottery grant information with Cllr Pound.

Cllr Hislop raised that the playground safety report shows that some of the equipment is moderate risk due to rotting wood, and suggested that some timber replacement and repairs could be completed by the odd jobs contractor.

Cllr Hislop also updated that the wildlife garden sign is now ready for collection.

Cllr Pound updated that they had completed the initial aspects of the National Lottery grant application but would need a steer on what the council would want to apply for.

Cllr Bentley raised that a path would be a good addition.

Cllr Hislop raised that the safety report highlights issues with surfacing and that upgraded safety surfacing may be appropriate.

The Clerk advised Cllr Pound that the playground suppliers can review current equipment and identify any play value gaps and required equipment. The Clerk will send Cllr Pound contact details for Kompan and Wicksteed.

Cllr Hislop reported that some benches are starting to rot and would benefit from being replaced with composite benches and if this could be considered in the budget.

Cllr Bentley raised that the memorial benches may need to be refurbished rather than replaced.

**9. Clerk's Report**

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

- Budget preparation is underway for both the December and January meetings.
- The statutory notice period for the current council vacancy has ended with no election called, the vacancy is now open for co-option and has been advertised on the website and Facebook, with one candidate already expressing interest, co-option will be included on the January or February agenda.
- The selected odd jobs contractor has confirmed availability for routine works, and a map and full details of the bins to be emptied are now required to enable work to commence
- Clerk annual leave confirmed for weeks of 15th, 22nd, and 29th December.

# CHESWARDINE

## PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

No further applications were received.

Cllr Bentley updated that planning application 25/03136/FUL Wenlock House, Soudley was due to be refused, and that the property owner is in talks with Shropshire Council.

### 11. Authorisation of payments

**RESOLVED:** the schedule of payments for December 2025 correctly states the invoices presented and that **£928.81** is approved to be paid. **£39.54** has been paid under 6.6 and **£6.00** has been paid under 6.9 iii. (as detailed on page 868)

### 12. 2026 Meeting Dates

**RESOLVED:** that the following dates are agreed for full council meetings in 2026.

Tuesday 20th January / Tuesday 17th February / Tuesday 17th March / Tuesday 21st April / Tuesday 19th May / Tuesday 16th June / Tuesday 21st July / August Recess / Tuesday 15th September / Tuesday 20th October / Tuesday 17th November / Tuesday 8th December

It was noted that meetings will continue to start at 7pm.

### 13. Play Area Inspections

**RESOLVED:** to accept the quote of £717.39 excluding VAT from Kompan for 4 playground inspections in 2026.

### 14. Budget Setting Process

- a) To review the expenditure and income forecast for 2025-26.

Members reviewed the forecast, and the clerk provided commentary on how expenditure had been forecast over the last 4 months of 2025 – 2026.

- b) To review the forecasted budget position of the Council for 2025-26.

The Clerk advised members that it is anticipated that the Council's cash position at the year-end will be £40,467.00.

- c) To review the 3-year baseline budget forecast.

Members reviewed the 3-year baseline budget forecast and supporting document, which provided further explanation.

Cllr Hislop noted that the key findings in the supporting document were very useful.

Cllr Pound remarked that the 3 year forecast was sobering.

Cllr Partridge asked which budget line traffic-related signage and equipment would go under. The Clerk suggested that a new line could be added.

Cllr Pound raised that an increased IT budget will be needed to upgrade the laptop and phone supplied to the clerk.

Cllr Hislop queried the band d rationale on the precept example. Cllr Bentley provided an explanation of how band d is used and advised that other bands are also represented in the parish.

Cllr Bentley shared with members that he is aware that the tax base is reducing, which would result in less total precept if the charge to the elector was to remain the same as the previous year.

# CHESWARDINE

## PARISH COUNCIL

d) To note any expenditure proposals for 2026-27.

Cllr Pound suggested that a dedicated line for the clerks' attendance at the SLCC conference would be beneficial.

The Clerk advised members that any further proposals can be sent before the January meeting, and that the draft budget will illustrate different options to assist members in their discussions.

**Meeting concluded at 7:56 pm.**

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

# CHESWARDINE

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Schedule of Payments - As resolved under Item 11.

#### Cheswardine Parish Council Schedule of Payments

9th December 2025

	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	10/12/2025	Kompan	Playground Safety Inspection - December 2025	167.26		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
2	10/12/2025	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal - Skip Emptied 07/11/25	33.13		BT - Unity Trust	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
3	10/12/2025	North Salop Wheelers	Bus Service Payment (up to 26/11/25)	56.25		BT - Unity Trust	LG Rating Act 1997 s26-29	Yes
4	10/12/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Clerk Salary - December	495.00		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
5	10/12/2025	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary - December	123.80	154.07	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
6	10/12/2025	HMRC	Employer NIC - Month 9	30.27		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
7	10/12/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Giff Gaff - Phone Monthly Payment - December	6.00	23.10	BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
8	10/12/2025	W Salisbury (Clerk)	Mileage (18th November - 38 miles x 0.45)	17.10		BT - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
			<b>Total</b>	<b>928.81</b>				

Payments made as resolved under the approved payments list 5.5b								Scribe
9	08/12/2025	BT	Parish Hall Broadband - 1st to 30th October	39.54		DD - Unity Trust	LGA 1972 S 133	Yes
			<b>Total</b>	<b>39.54</b>				

Payments made under Financial Regulations 5.5a to avoid late payment								
	Date of	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque	Power of expenditure	Scribe
	30/11/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	6.00		Bank Charge	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
			<b>Total</b>	<b>6.00</b>				

Invoices checked and verified at the meeting held on 9th December 2025

Cllr N Bentley 09/12/25

Cllr - Proposer - Sign & Date

Cllr J Hislop 09/12/25

Cllr - Seconder - Sign & Date

DEPOSITS RECEIVED		
Nov	2025	
Date	Total	From
11/11/2025	£400.00	Allotment Society (Rent)
Total	£400.00	

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

**Cllr Neil Bentley Unitary Councillor Report | Cheswardine Division**

# December 2025

## OVERVIEW

The focus throughout November has been on Council Finances. Following a 'deep dive' exercise as recommended by the Independent Review Board and instructed by CEO Tania Miles, the current predicted overspend is £12m in this financial year. This figure simply cannot be achieved through internal savings which is why the administration has turned to central government for emergency funding (loan).

Every portfolio holder is working with their teams at the council to find additional savings and to approach finances differently. In my portfolio: Children & Education, we have proposed closing the School's Library Service which is currently operating at a loss with only 13 schools actively using the service. Our proposal is to gift the resources to schools across the county to support the governments objective to ensure all primary schools have an internal library. The closing of the Shropshire School Library Service will save the council £102,000 per annum.

A41 Update: Following on from the Amey report and recommendations, Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Council Highways teams have been holding meetings to discuss the next steps. Although the report concluded that Average Speed Cameras may not deliver the desired outcome on the A41, it is specifically this scheme that is financially supported by the PCC and therefore we may still look to implement cameras with attention to additional items as highlighted in the report. The PCC has been invited to all meetings but at the moment does not appear to be attending.

This month I have been working very closely with residents in Caynton regarding a mass chicken egg production planning application which has required a considerable amount of attention.

I have also spent a good proportion of the month in my role as trustee of the SYA working to address some issues that arose and have now been concluded.

(11/11/25) SYA AGM: The Lodge, Shrewsbury. More on the charity at [www.sya.org.uk](http://www.sya.org.uk)

(19/11/25) Full cabinet meeting, agenda and decisions can be found here: [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025, 10.30 am — Shropshire Council](#)

(21/11/25) Lib Dem Finance meeting: to discuss current position

(25/11/25) Shropshire Youth Foundation Board Meeting: Discussion and approval of grant applications supporting Youth Projects across the whole of Shropshire.

(25/11/25) Portfolio Holders Meeting: Teams

# CHESWARDINE

## PARISH COUNCIL

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

Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resident communication shared with planning portfolio holder.</li> <li>(03/06/25) Emma Green (<i>Planning Enforcement Leader</i>) has replied directly to a resident concern outlining the stages for legal involvement.</li> <li>I will continue to chase.</li> <li><a href="mailto:planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk">planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk</a> can be used to report any breaches of planning.</li> <li>I am still chasing updates on this one.</li> </ul>
A41 Safety	HIGHWAYS/POLICE: Update on the installation of average speed cameras along the A41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above update.</li> </ul>
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings   Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(09/06/25) I have contacted the case officer regarding the general position of this application having been made aware of community concerns.</li> <li>(17/07/25) No communication received, concerns raised by the Lib Dem administration over the lack of response from officers.</li> <li>(01/09/25) Email received from case officer to confirm the current position of this application (updates available on the planning portal).</li> <li>(21/09/25) Request for this to be called-in to the Northern Planning Committee.</li> </ul>
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production   Caynton	PLANNING: Consultation Extended to 05/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have held a meeting with residents on site and have formally objected to the proposal on environmental reasons.</li> <li>I attended an extraordinary PC Meeting with Childs Ercall PC to object.</li> <li>Continuous communication with the residents.</li> </ul>

### PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

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

Question	Answer / Outcomes
What services are specifically provided by SC across our Parishes?	I have asked a question but I am awaiting a solid response. This should help our parish councils decide which services they may want to take on under the Shropshire Partnership.
A41 Flooding Underpass	Raised with highways
Eaton On Tern Solar Farm - Will residents benefit financially?	Officers still investigating. I have had no updates.
How much do we pay for Fix My Street?	Still awaiting a response from the council but the administration have raised concerns with this service so it is on our radar for improvement.
A41: How much did the Amey report cost?	No specific figure available as this project is lead by Telford & Wrekin Council and so far, no 'finance' has been requested.
Market Drayton Public Toilets: Who paid for these and was the process conducted appropriately.	I have had confirmation from the MD Town Clerk that the town council are responsible for this project and that that the project was put to tender.