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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20 JANUARY 2026

### LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

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Present: Councillors A Bain, M Budgen, M Corrie, S Dawes, S Jones, M Thorn (Chair), W Vernon and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: No members of the public were present

**73.25 Apologies for Absence**

None

**74.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

**75.25 Public Participation Session - a period of 20 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 3-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.**

No members of the public were present.

**76.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025**

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

**It was proposed** by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Vernon and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

**77.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 18 November 2025**

- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information.
- Arranged a site visit in Garmston/Upper Longwood from the Senior Highways Engineer at Shropshire Council regarding potential traffic calming measures.

**78.25 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor**

Councillor Coleman provided a brief update focussing on Shropshire Council's finances, which remain in a precarious position.

Local authorities are typically funded in two main ways: Council Tax, and through funding from central government – the “settlement”. However, these two sources added together are not enough to fund the services Shropshire Council delivers. Shropshire Council has responded to the government’s proposed settlement for Shropshire, making the case for fairer funding. They have also applied for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MCHLG). Yet to hear anything back regarding concerns about the settlement, or about the application for EFS. Expect to know more by mid-February.

79.25

**To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors**

- Councillor Dawes:
  - Provided an update on the emergency plan. Together with Councillors Jones and Thorn had had a meeting with officers involved with emergency planning at Shropshire Council. Progress was being made on formulating a plan for the Parish.
- Councillor Bain:
  - Had met with Shropshire Council’s Senior Highways Engineer to discuss the siting locations of traffic calming signage in Garmston and Upper Longwood.

**It was agreed (without opposition)**

that the Parish Council would fund the purchase and installation of the five signs (circa £4,000 plus VAT).

**ACTION:** Clerk to confirm the order with Shropshire Council and arrange for Councillors Dawes and Vernon to discuss the siting locations of the Upper Longwood signage with the Senior Highways Engineer prior to installation.

- Councillor Vernon:
  - Having inspected the overhang of the church field hedge, which is now encroaching on the public pathway, he believed that it was appropriate to engage the Parish’s environmental maintenance contractor to remedy the issue.

**It was agreed (without opposition)**

that SLB Groundcare be engaged to carry out the necessary trimming/clearing works.

**Action:** Clerk to email Raby Estates giving 28 days’ notice of the intention to trim the overgrowth to the fence line.

- Councillor Jones:
  - Reported that the Buildwas Bank roundabout works have been delayed - probably will not happen now until the autumn. Is seeking confirmation from Harworth/Shropshire Council that the Leighton traffic calming works can be implemented without waiting for the roundabout to be built.

80.25

**Current financial matters**

**a) Payments**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Shropshire Council	Charge for election May 2025	£ 125.00
SLB Groundcare	Annual environmental maintenance	£ 2845.11
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary December/January	£ 183.04
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary December/January	£ 705.00
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses December/January	£ 80.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 3938.15</b>

**It was proposed** by Councillor Thorn and seconded by Councillor Jones and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

**b) Bank reconciliation to 13 January 2026**

The bank was reconciled at £18,864.27, being the online banking balance. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

**c) Budget and Precept 2026/27**

The Clerk had prepared a proposed budget for 2026/27. This was considered in detail, as were the various precept options.

**It was proposed** by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thorn and **Resolved**

that the precept claim for 2026/27 be set at £11,863.

**ACTION:** Clerk to apply to Shropshire Council for a precept of £11,863 by the 31 January deadline.

**81.25 Planning**

**1. Decisions to note:**

None

**2. Planning applications for consideration:**

None

**82.25 Correspondence**

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

**83.25 Future agenda items**

- HR Committee report (public excluded)

**84.25 Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 7.00pm – Leighton Village Hall

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed by Chairman: .....

Date: 3 March 2026