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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3 MARCH 2026

### LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

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

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: No members of the public were present

#### 85.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors S Dawes and W Vernon.

#### 86.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

#### 87.25 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.

#### 88.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026

The minutes of the previous meetings had been circulated.

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

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 January 2026 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

#### 89.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 20 January 2026

- Advised Shropshire Council of the precept requirement prior to deadline of 31 January 2026.
- Confirmed order for road signage with Highways at Shropshire Council and requested that contact be made with Councillors Dawes and Vernon regarding the siting of the Upper Longwood signs before installation.
- Emailed Raby Estates on 1 February giving 28 days' notice of the intention to trim the overgrowth of the hedgerow in Eaton Constantine to their fence line.

Councillor Dawes has since advised that the overhang was cleared by Raby Estates on 16 February.

**90.25 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor**

Councillor Coleman provided a brief update which focussed on the financial position of Shropshire Council. A meeting of the Full Council had taken place the previous week where the 2026/27 budget had been approved and where it was agreed, by a majority vote, to increase Council Tax by 8.99%. The decision to raise Council Tax follows the granting of special permission from the Government. Normally, in England, Council Tax rises are capped at 4.99%. However, as part of Shropshire Council's application to the government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), the Council was granted permission to increase Council Tax by an additional 4%. EFS was granted on 23 February 2026, with the council to receive £71.4 million for the 2025/26 financial year, and £121 million for the 2026/27 financial year. The EFS is a loan which will need to be repaid with considerable interest.

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

- Councillor Thorn:
  - Advised that since the last meeting, PCSOs from the Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) had held police surgeries in both Eaton Constantine and Leighton.
- Councillor Jones:
  - Provided an update on the Ironbridge Power Station development. A significant number of houses had now been built but only a few had been sold. Development is determined by the number of houses sold so further development is currently on hold. Consequently, the traffic calming measures in Leighton will not be implemented until the roundabout is built. This is unlikely to take place until the autumn.
  - Reported that fly-tipping had taken place at the Leighton layby.  
**ACTION:** Clerk to report the fly-tipping via FixMyStreet and to contact Shropshire Council to obtain an update on whether the layby is still to be permanently closed.

*[Councillor Coleman left the meeting]*

**92.25 Current financial matters**

**a) Payments**

Payee	Description	Amount
Leighton Village Hall	Venue hire 2025/26	£ 105.00
EC Village Hall	Venue hire 2025/26	£ 94.00
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary February/March	£ 183.24
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary February/March	£ 704.80
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses February/March	£ 45.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 1132.04</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 23 February 2026**

The bank was reconciled at £14,787.66, being the online banking balance. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

**93.25 Planning**

**1. Decisions to note:**

None

**2. Planning applications for consideration:**

**a. Ref: 26/00051/FUL**

Address: The Old Smithy School Lane Leighton Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RN

Description: Conversion of detached garage block to annexe accommodation ancillary to main dwelling

Validated: 23 Jan 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be view on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

No comments were recorded on the above planning application.

**94.25 Correspondence**

Since the agenda had been published, an additional planning application had been validated on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal and a consultation email had been received by the Clerk on 27 February:

**Ref: 26/00695/FUL**

Address: Stone Cottages Garmston Eaton Constantine Shropshire

Description: Demolition of existing side and front extension, erection of two storey side extension with basement

Validated: 27 Feb 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be view on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

The application was considered and it was noted that it represented a significant development of the plot which could potentially change the character of the property. It was agreed that the Parish Council would defer to the Historic Environment team at Shropshire Council to ensure that the proposal is sympathetic to both the existing property and its environs.

**95.25 Future agenda items**

- None

*Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council resolves that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1992, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item 96.25 of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.*

*[The Clerk left the meeting]*

**96.25 HR matter**

97.25

**Date of next meetings**

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall (Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed by Chairman: .....

Date: 19 May 2026

DRAFT