
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15 JULY 2025

EATON CONSTANTINE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors S Dawes, S Jones, M Thorn, W Vernon and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: 8 members of the public were present

33.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Bain and M Corrie.

34.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

35.25 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.

Two members of the public gave details of the information that they had provided to Shropshire Council in support of the formal application to record a footpath in Eaton Constantine on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way.

[The next item was moved up the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman to facilitate a better flow of the meeting.]

42.25 To consider the formal application received by Shropshire Council to record a footpath (within the Parish) on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way

The application concerns a track in Eaton Constantine near to the Village Hall and The School House, and Shropshire Council are seeking local knowledge to support or oppose the claim. After a full discussion, taking into consideration input provided by members of the public:

It was agreed (without opposition) that the Parish Council would write to the Rights of Way Officer at Shropshire Council stating that it was in full support of the report submitted by Mr T Pritchard in 2013 and the detailed letter sent by Mr G Dawes in June 2025. It is the hope of Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council that a decision to add the track in question to the Definitive Map will now be made in a timely manner.

ACTION: Clerk to write to the Rights of Way Officer on behalf of the Parish Council.

[6 members of the public left the meeting at this point.]

36.25 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20 May 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 Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 20 May 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

37.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 20 May 2025

- Published all relevant financial information on the website to satisfy the requirements of the Exercise of Public Rights.
- Completed AGAR supplied to the external auditor prior to the submission deadline.
- Updated website as necessary with relevant community information e.g. upcoming road works.
- Following a successful application, an Environmental Maintenance Grant of £750.00 has been awarded by Shropshire Council.
- Advised Shropshire Council of the co-option of Councillors Budgen and Corrie.
- Having submitted the Parish Council's Place Plan Priorities to Shropshire Council, was advised that the repainting of the white lining in Eaton Constantine is not a Place Plan project and therefore needs to be reported via FixMyStreet. This has now been reported and confirmation received that the issue has been assessed and the necessary work will be included in our programme of upcoming maintenance.
- SALC advised that the Government is ending support and funding for Neighbourhood Plans and requested that the town/parish councils with a current Neighbourhood Plan lobby their local MP to raise awareness of this issue. However, if a town/parish council has never produced a costly Neighbourhood Plan, as is the case with Leighton & Eaton Constantine, this is a moot point.
- Councillor Coleman sent information on briefing workshops relating to The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS). The award celebrates the outstanding work of volunteer groups across the UK. Groups do not have to be a registered charity and any volunteer-led organisation with three or more volunteers can be nominated. The Shropshire Lieutenancy will be holding briefing sessions which will explain the award and the nomination process, but it does not appear that there are any eligible volunteer-led groups within the Parish.
- NALC have been persistently pushing for the reintroduction of remote/hybrid meetings which were temporarily permitted during the pandemic lockdown. Their efforts appear to have paid off as the government has announced plans to amend legislation which would allow local authorities (including parish and town councils) to again hold remote and hybrid meetings.
- Shropshire Council's new Liberal Democrat administration is keen for the unitary authority to develop a "better working relationship" with town and parish councils throughout the county and as such is requesting an online information gathering survey (referred to as a "Call for Information") to be completed by 18

August 2025. Following considered discussion, the survey was completed online on behalf of Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council.

- SALC are holding a Shropshire Together Conference at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on Friday 25 July (09:00 – 15:30) to look at how to develop a new working relationship with Shropshire Council for the benefit of all our communities. Given the annual fees paid to SALC, the Councillors noted with disappointment the proposed charge of £21 per attendee and having considered this to not be a good use of precept money, will not be sending a representative.

38.25 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Coleman provided a brief update on matters of interest to the Parish.

There is a meeting of Full Council on Thursday 17 July when she will be asking the following question (already submitted) relating to Connect On Demand Service. ‘This service is increasingly successful since its introduction by the last administration. It was scheduled to be extended to a number of villages in the Severn Valley namely Atcham, Buildwas, Leighton, Eaton Constantine, Uppington and Wroxeter areas. On enquiring as to the dates for this I was told by officers “while there is interest in expanding the service across the Severn Valley, any rollout is contingent on funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) via the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)” submitted to UK government in June 2024. It was reported recently that the number 20 Radbrook bus service in Shrewsbury will continue to operate for at least another year thanks to government Bus Service Improvement Funding awarded to Shropshire Council. Does this mean that the BSIP has been accepted, and the funding is now available to extend the Connect On Demand services to places outside Shrewsbury such as into the Severn Valley?’ She will report back on the response at September’s parish council meeting.

Had attended the Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment Liaison Group meeting last week where there was a lot of concern from residents in the Buildwas area although the works also impact on this parish. Frank discussions had taken place with Harworth about some of the issues being experienced, particularly dust due to the dry weather. Work on the roundabout is due to start in September.

39.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Jones:
 - Advised that the traffic calming works in Leighton fall under the same works programme as the Buildwas roundabout so as soon as the roundabout is finished they will immediately move on to Leighton and this will definitely be completed before the end of the financial year.
 - Has completed the draft minutes of the most recent meeting of the Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment Liaison Group and they will be published shortly on the Parish Council website. There is a lot going to be happening with the redevelopment in the coming months.
- Councillor Dawes:
 - Contacted the provider about an issue with the No 96 bus route sometimes missing out Eaton Constantine. Select Bus Services have sent the following response: “We have been going through the trackers, and we are struggling to find it being a regular issue. There have been a few occasions when we haven't been able to serve the area due to roadwork closures and works, but we usually update our Facebook page. The

loadings are very minimal - around 1-10 passengers a month. If other passengers are experiencing problems could you ask them to contact us please? The driver who was on that day you specifically mention no longer works for us although our policy is that if they have a problem, they must telephone the office to gain permission etc. He didn't do this. We monitor all the services for time-keeping and I have asked the office to keep an eye on the 96 in particular."

- Councillor Vernon:
 - Advised that as you go into Upper Longwood from Eaton Constantine, the national speed limit sign has been removed by somebody and there is a presence of non-legal 30mph speed stickers in the area. This has been reported on FixMyStreet.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to Highways at Shropshire Council to get this situation corrected.
- Councillor Thorn:
 - Extended thanks to Councillor Coleman for chasing Shropshire Council to carry out maintenance work on the closed churchyard at Leighton. Unfortunately the work wasn't carried out in time for an event taking place at the church so the Parochial Church Council organised and paid for the work.
 - Reported that the National Trust had made further submissions in relation to its Attingham Park planning application. Atcham Parish Council had responded negatively to this. It was agreed that no further action (beyond the previously submitted objection) would be taken as the application is not within the Parish and Leighton & Eaton Parish Council is not a consultee on the planning application.

40.25

Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary June/July	£ 173.56
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary June/July	£ 682.70
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses June/July	£ 91.48
TOTAL		£ 947.74

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 8 July 2025

The bank was reconciled at £21,842.99, being the online banking balance. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

41.25

Planning

1. Decisions to note:

a. Ref: 25/01725/FUL

Address: Yew Tree House Garmston Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY5 6RL

Description: Erection of a single storey extension

Validated: 9 May 2025

Status: Granted

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

b. Ref: 25/01725/LBC

Address: Yew Tree House Garmston Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RL

Description: Erection of a single storey extension

Validated: 9 May 2025

Status: Granted

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

2. Planning applications for consideration:

a. Ref: 25/01994/TPO

Address: Merlins Patch Leighton Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RN

Description: Crown raise to 5.2m over B4380 highway 1no. group of mixed species trees (G1) protected by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council (Land at White House Farm, Leighton) Tree Preservation Order 1995 (SA/289)

Validated: 30 May 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

b. Ref: 25/02173/FUL

Address: 1 Upper Longwood Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6SB

Description: Erection of two storey rear extension and single storey side extension

Validated: 20 Jun 2025

Status: Pending Consideration

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

No objections nor comments were recorded on the above planning applications.

43.25 To consider additional environmental maintenance work in Eaton Constantine in the vicinity of the church.

Councillor Dawes advised that she had received written confirmation from the foreman at Raby Estates stating that they will take responsibility for cutting the overhanging hedge on the main road at the bottom of the church path. Therefore, there is currently no requirement for our environmental maintenance contractor to take on this additional work although the situation will be reviewed in due course.

44.25 To consider implementing the Parish Council Action Plan in response to the Parish Survey

Following analysis of the findings of the Parish Survey, the Parish Council had previously identified the areas in which it could take action:

- Establish a Parish Environmental Working Group - Councillors Thorn and Vernon would meet (hopefully together with Mr P Jones) to discuss enhancing the environment/sustainability/footpaths.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways at Shropshire Council to ascertain what is and is not allowed to be done on roadside verges to improve local nature recovery.

- Enhance the Environmental Maintenance Contract – this is in progress and items were added to the Schedule of Works in April 2025 such as Kynnersley Lane (the right-hand side going up from the B4380 to the graveyard) now being strimmed regularly.
- Emergency Planning - Councillors Jones and Dawes would review the Emergency Response Plan.

45.25

Correspondence

An email had been received from a parishioner (on the day of this meeting) asking for speeding in the Upper Longwood area to put on a future meeting agenda. However, the Councillors were in agreement that this issue had been addressed on a number of previous occasions and West Mercia Police have unequivocally stated that the location does not meet the criteria to impose a reduced speed limit. Therefore, this is not a parish council matter as no powers exist which would allow it to be progressed any further. Every quarter, as part of the West Mercia Police Community Charter for local policing, parish councils in the Shrewsbury Rural East area are asked to submit their priorities and Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council constantly lists "Speeding" as the number one community issue.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to the email advising of the above.

46.25

Future agenda items

- To consider the installation of non-statutory road signs in Upper Longwood/Garmston.

47.25

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 7.00pm – Leighton Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.03pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 16 September 2025