

Minutes of the meeting of Chetton Parish Council
held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Present Councillors Clarke, Crawford Clarke, Downing, Fox, Jackson, Jordan, Whittingham, and Verney (Chair)

Open Session for Parishioners

Conservative candidate, Dominic Stanford, introduced himself to the meeting and spoke briefly about his background and visits to Parish Councils in the Brown Clee division.

1. The Chair introduced the new Clerk to the Councillors.
2. Any declarations of interest
There were none declared.
3. Apologies
Shropshire Councillor Tindall
4. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.
5. Matters arising from those minutes not appearing under other headings
There were none.
6. Reports
 - a. Shropshire Councillor
As Cllr. Tindall was unable to attend the meeting, he had sent a brief verbal report via the Chair.
Government inspectors have rejected the 'Shropshire Local Plan' housing development plan to give land for 1500 houses to meet unmet housing needs in the Black Country.
 - b. Chair
There were three strong applications for the job of Clerk. The strongest candidate has accepted the role.

c. Clerk

The Clerk indicated that she was progressing with getting access to all the relevant information needed for the role and with changing contact details with authorities and organisations.

d. Village Hall

The Village Hall has received enough money to be able repair the carpark and fencing. Full report filed with the minutes.

7. Correspondence

The new Clerk in the process of making sure all relevant correspondence is now sent to her and will forward all SALC bulletins as soon as this is arranged.

8. Highways

Having looked at the list of reported issues on Fix My Street it was agreed that the Clerk would follow up, particularly, on:

A collapsed drain at Little Scotland Farm which was reported again on 2nd December, but the issue has not been resolved.

A pothole by the bridge over the brook near Chetton Village Hall which was reported 18th December but has not yet been responded to.

9. Planning

There are no open planning applications.

It was noted that 2 applications have been approved by Shropshire Council since the last meeting.

24/03972/DIS

Partial Discharge of Remainder of Condition 3 (Materials) on Planning Permission

23/04414/FUL

Mash House Lower House Farm Chetton Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 6UF

Granted 17/Dec/24

24/04467/FUL

Replacement extension and fenestration changes

Lower House Farm Chetton Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 6UF

Granted 02/Jan/25

10. Finance

a. Cheques required:

- i. Retiring Clerk in respect of monies outstanding £402.00
- ii. Lengthsman £550.00
- iii. Auditor £75.00
- iv. Defibrillator £318.00
- v. Clerk £307.88

The above payments were unanimously approved.

b. Precept for 2025-2026

- i. It was agreed that the lengthsman should be receiving more money per hour than previous years. He will be asked to work for 22 ½ hours per month which means he will be paid National Living Wage.
- ii. Following discussion, it was agreed that the precept should be set at £8045. This was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Clarke, and unanimously agreed.
- iii. Increase in precept due to increased costs including change in minimum wage and Clerk's salary.

11. Parish Council Information

- i. Discussion took place regarding information that should be displayed on the Parish noticeboards, and the best approach to take in updating the website. The minutes should be published on the parish website.
- ii. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate changing to a .gov.uk domain. This was proposed by Cllr Whittingham, seconded by Cllr Downing, and unanimously agreed.

12. Any Parish matters to be placed on the next agenda

There were none.

13. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th March 2025