

MINUTES
CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held in Cardington Village Hall on
Tuesday 7th July 2026
Commencing at 8pm

Present:

C'llr Tonks (Chairman), C'llr Norris (Vice-Chairman); C'llr Davies; C'llr Seabury; C'llr Maydew, C'llr Pennington; C'llr Rogers; C'llr Watkins
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

One member of the public attended the meeting

Acceptance of Apologies

C'llr A Lowe; Shropshire C'llr C Stanford

1. Public Comments Limited to 15 minutes

The member of the public attending the meeting did not wish to comment on any issue.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2026

It was proposed by C'llr Rogers, seconded by C'llr Norris and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May provided a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman then signed a copy of the Minutes,

3. Matters arising from the Minutes – Clerk to report for information only

The Clerk had been unable to contact Mr. Secrett to ask if he would attend to the glass in the Notice Board at Plaish. The Clerk was given his e mail address to enable her to contact him..

4. Correspondence

The Clerk circulated the following correspondence between meetings:-

- SALC Weekly Briefings
- RSN Weekly Newsletters
- ALC Legal Bulletins
- Consultation on Meole Brace Park and Ride closure – circulated 30th June. The Clerk was asked to post comments from the Parish Council objecting to the proposed closure adding that this facility was vital to this side of the town and kept vehicles out of the town centre.
- Chairs Network Meetings via Zoom on 27th May and 29th July
- Nature Recovery Strategy circulated 18th June
- Local Bus Serve retendering – circulated 16th June
- SALC Area Committee Meeting 24th June
- Marches Meadow Open Day 24th June
- Nominations for Star Council Awards circulated 30th June

5. Finance

(a) Accounts due for payment

The following accounts were due for payment

- D Hall was paid for the first cut of the grass in the churchyard, as agreed on e mails dated 4.6.26. £240 Paid by BACS and authorised by C'llr Watkins
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £130 Cheque No. 100056

- Clerk's salary amount due less tax £520.00 plus postage £14.86 total payable £534.86. To be paid by BACS
- SALC Fundamentals for Councillors Training attended by C'llr Lowe £45.00. To be paid by BACS.
- Vision ICT. Set up of Gov.uk e mail addresses £135.00 plus £27.00 VAT. Total £162.00. To be paid by BACS
- Heywoods Accountants payroll costs year ended 5th April, 2026. £75.00 plus £15.00 VAT. Total £90.00. To be paid by BACS
- D Hall 2nd cut of grass. £240. To be paid by BACS.

It was proposed by C'llr Seabury, seconded by C'llr Rogers and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

(b) Request for donation to Acton Scott Working Farm (Charity)

It was proposed by C'llr Tonks, seconded by C'llr Seabury and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council wished them well but did not wish to donate.

(c) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk circulated copies of the Bank reconciliation and bank statement showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts amounting to £21,115.71

It was proposed by C'llr Norris, seconded by C'llr Seabury and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank Statement and Bank Reconciliation were then signed by C'llr Watkins and the Chairman..

The Clerk told the meeting that she keeps the current account to a minimum and the £1,000 Environmental Maintenance Grant received from Shropshire Council had also been transferred to the savings account. The Clerk had submitted the claim for VAT paid during 2025/26 and £567.62 had now been repaid. The balance held in the current account after payment of the above accounts would be £1,968.78. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would transfer another £1,000 to the saving account leaving £968.78 in the current account.

(d) Application for exemption from a full audit

It was agreed at the May meeting that the Parish Council would apply for exemption, and the exemption certificate was signed at the May meeting by the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk told the July meeting that notification of exemption had been received on 27th May.

(d) Purchase of computer for clerk's dedicated use for the Parish Council

This was discussed at the May meeting and it was agreed that this would be added to the agenda of the July Meeting. It was proposed by C'llr Watkins, seconded by C'llr Rogers and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would contact C'llr Lowe to ask for a recommendation for a suitable computer and the Clerk would report back to all Councillors by e mail.

6. Planning

(a) Decisions on previously discussed applications:

26/00496/FUL Lower Barn Cardington

Convert existing barn into ancillary accommodation. This application was received and circulated to all Councillors on 17th March. A site visit was arranged and the Parish Council commented that they had no objections and supported this application. At the July meeting the Clerk reported that this application was granted on 17th May 2026..

(b) Applications considered between meetings

26/02239/TCA Rose Cottage, Cardington

1 Apple tree to be felled. Completely overgrown by Ivy and is diseased. Tee surgeon views it is dangerous and likely to fall into the road. Validated 19th June and then application withdrawn.

(c) Clerk to report any other planning before matters including any new

26/00496/FUL Lower Barn Cardington

Discharge of condition 8 regarding Tree Protection Plan related to the above planning application. The condition states that "Prior to commencement of development, a Tree Protection Plan (TPP), shall be submitted to the written approval of the LPA. The TPP shall be prepared in accordance with and meet the minimum tree protection requirements recommended in, British Standard 5837: 2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction ' Recommendations, or its current version. (b) Any pre-commencement tree works and all tree protection measures detailed in the approved TPP shall be fully implemented and photographic evidence of such be submitted to the written approval of the LPA, before any development-related equipment, materials or machinery are brought onto the site. Reason: to safeguard the amenities of the local area and to protect the natural features that contribute towards this and that are important to the appearance of the development"

This application was validated on 17th June and is shown as "Pending Consideration"

7. Highway Matters

(a) Highway Metters previously reported

An e mail was received from Shropshire Council on 17th February saying "the Grove Farm Culvert has been identified via a combination of local engineering judgment and asset management data as needing essential maintenance. The site forms part of a countywide programme of schemes, scheduled to deliver the work in the most efficient and cost-effective way. To ensure the safety of both road users and our workforce, a road closure will be in place during the works. We hope this investment will be welcomed as positive news for the local area, though we do appreciate that any work of this nature may cause some disruption. The works are currently scheduled for June 2026, and we will share exact dates and timings once they are confirmed".

At the March meeting the Parish Council were unsure if this work is the remedial work Shropshire Council had identified and the contractors have to complete before the account for the works is fully paid.

A notice has now been received and forwarded to all Councillors on 2nd July stating that there will be full close of the road from 7am on 20th July until 5pm on 7th August.

C'llr Davies told the May meeting that the unadopted Cwm Lane from Wilstone to Church Stretton had been closed but was now being used by 4 wheel drive vehicles causing anxiety to Walkers and gorse riders. The Clerk agreed to enquire with Shropshire Council if this unadopted lane is still closed to traffic. No reply had been received. The Clerk sent a further e mail and to date has not received a response.

(b) Any further highway matters to report

C'llr Norris reported that a small delivery lorry that refuses to deliver to Lower Chatwall Farm because of the damage its doing to their small lorry. The lorry had to drop his delivery at C'llr Norris' and the Evans's then have to collect from him, even though they have paid for delivery. The hedges and trees are on land in the ownership of Mr Chris Wilson of Chatwall Hall Farm. This problem was reported a few years ago after the fire engine struggled to get to the Evans's farm fire. The Parish Council wrote to Mr. Wilson and reported the problem to Shropshire Council but no action was taken. The Clerk was given the exact location of overgrown hedges and trees overhanging the highway and the Clerk was asked to report to Shropshire Council.

(c) Environmental Maintenance Grant

The Clerk told the May meeting that Shropshire Council have now announced that Environmental Maintenance Grants of up to £1,000 per Parish Council have now been agreed for the period 2026/27. The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a grant application for £1,000. The Clerk told the July meeting that this had been approved and £1,000 had been received. £2,000 was built into the precept as matched funding. It was

agreed that C’Ilr Norris would liaise with Jeremy Dale regarding Environmental Maintenance work.

(d) Hill Ford Stages Rally

The Clerk told the meeting that permission has now been granted for the road closures for the Rally to take place on 20th September.

8. Churchyard

(a) Yew branches lying in churchyard

It was agreed that C’Ilr Davies would use some of the wood to replace the seat on the public bench. It was agreed that any remaining wood was giving no immediate concern and would be left lying in the churchyard for the time being.

(b) Inspection/Maintenance of trees in churchyard

The Survey carried out on 13th October 2025 recommended routine maintenance of the following trees:

1 x Cypress Lawson – north side of church yard, next to stone wall, directly next to the grave of Emma Edwards

4 x Yew - group of 4 trees either side of the footpath, as you enter the gate opposite house

1 x Yew – north side of church yard behind the grave of Mary ? 1 No. Yew – SW edge of churchyard, opposite village hall between large beech and lime.

1 x Yew – SW edge of the church yard, opposite village hall between large Beech and Lime

1 x Beech – located directly behind boundary stone wall, LHS of main entrance gate

1 x Holly – RHS of main path, next to grave of Marie Preece

1 x Monkey Puzzle – next to main path, directly next to the grave of Harriet Maud.

The two trees which were recommended for attention within one month and the tree surgeon had carried out the necessary work, are as follows:

1 x Yew – 3m from main path. NW side of church yard, behind the grave of Edward Goff -

1 x Lime – SW side of church yard, directly behind stone wall, opposite town hall, between Yew and small Lilac

It was agreed that the trees would be reviewed when the church yard clear up take place in November and any maintenance work could then be arranged..

C’Ilr Norris reported that more stone was required on the pathway this would be reviewed and reported to the September meeting.

9. Shropshire Council delegated services update

The Clerk told the meeting that she had requested information regarding the maintenance work and the cost of maintenance work within the Parish Council boundary.

She had received a reply which stated

“ Regarding Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance in Cardington, we do not typically do any annual routine maintenance, only instructed maintenance as needed along with the below bin item.

We empty 3 bins in Cardington at a current cost of approx. £403.

As an advisory note - with the low quantity of the bin I would suggest that for the above area, the current full devolution being discussed would not be a viable option. However it would lend itself towards the enhanced service devolution, the likes of Shifnal has taken on”

The Clerk told the meeting that the Expression of Interest forms were now available for any Parish Council to complete if they wish to have services devolved.

10. Parish Council/Village web site

The Chairman, Clerk, C’Ilr Lowe and C’Ilr Rogers had attended a meeting called by the village hall committee on 6th July to discuss the village web site.

The Village are looking to create a completely new more user-friendly Village web site and are asking if the Parish Council wish to be involved and be part of the Village Site. Following the meeting the Clerk spoke to ICT Vision. Their recommendation would be for the Village to have a separate web site without all the constraints that would have to be on the site if the Parish Council were part of it.. They recommended that the Village could have far more flexibility without the Parish Council being part of the site. ICT Vision agreed that the existing Parish Council web site was now outdated and did need updating to new platforms and ensuring it meets all the current legislation.. The cost to produce a stand-alone up to date web site, meeting all the legislation imposed on Parish Council's, would be £950. Alternatively, ICT Vision could carry out an inspection of the current parish council web site to ensure it was compliant and the cost for this would be in the region of £150. The Clerk was asked to contact ICT Vision and ask for clarification on the constraints which would be placed on the village web site if the parish council did agree to become part of the new village site. The web site would be added to the agenda of the September meeting for further discussion.

11. Shropshire Council Report – C’lir Stanford

C’lir Stanford had sent his apologies and forwarded the following report, which was circulated to all Councillors.

“Road disruption is set to return to Cardington and surrounding communities this Summer with a programme to correct the inadequate work undertaken at Grove Farm junction. Local residents, Chair Clive Tonks and myself have made representations to the Highways team to ask for the correct road signs to prevent unnecessary disruption and danger to businesses, residents and visitors. My understanding is that work will extend from 20th July until 17th August.

I am pleased to report that as part of the reorganisation of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, which is now led by a 12 member Advisory Committee, I have been elected as a Vice Chair so I hope to be able to represent our area even more effectively on that body.

Wearing another hat, yesterday I attended my second meeting of Rushbury , CoE Primary School and it is fantastic to hear how much amazing work goes on there not least when our rural schools feel threatened. The future for Rushbury appears very secure.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan has been refreshed focussing on Financial Sustainability and Recovery. The 10 key elements are:

Strengthening reserves and balances

Making best use of our assets, including an asset disposal programme

Maximising income generation and collection, including fees ,charges, revenues and benefits

Ensuring value for money from our traded services

Reviewing Council Tax options, including a commitment to increase beyond capped levels t

Continuing service transformation (including adults, children's services reforms and digital programme)

Strengthening financial management across the organisation

Optimising debt financing

Reviewing and rationalising the capital programme

Continuing to make the case for fair government funding

Supporting and enabling economic growth

Perhaps in the context of asset disposal Shropshire Council Cabinet are to debate the future of The Shirehall next week following a recent “options appraisal” and an independent report.

Any decision will be controversial, but demolition feels to be the way things are moving.

Bus services supported by the Council have also been reviewed and changes reflecting low numbers and costs, leading to the loss of the Park and Ride facilities at Meole Brace and Ludlow ecopark.

Library Services are also being scrutinised although at present there haven't been any particular recommendations made but clearly for our area it is the Mobile Library Service that needs protecting along with community services provided through our local libraries"

12. Date of next meeting – 1st September commencing at 8pm.

- ` There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10pm