COUND PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Simon James **Clerk: Lisa Harris**
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MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on 17 September 2026 at Cound Guildhall

Present: Parish Councillors R Davies, S Green, J Hall, T Roberts, S Scott, M Smith and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

No members of the public were present

37.26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S James, R Sartain and K Symonds. In the absence of Councillor James, Councillor Roberts in his role as Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

38.26 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

39.26 Public Participation Session - *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-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.*

There were no members of the public present.

40.26 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2026

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Smith and

resolved (without opposition)

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2026 be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed accordingly.

41.26 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 16 July 2026

- Emailed both Councillor Rob Wilson (Shropshire Council Portfolio Holder for Transport and Regeneration) and Stuart Anderson (MP South Shropshire) on behalf of the Parish Council urging that the decision to end the Meole Brace Park & Ride service be reconsidered:

  "I write on behalf of the parishioners of Cound. For this rural community, the Park & Ride service operating from Meole Brace is an extremely valuable resource. It is well used by villagers, particularly the elderly, and by many, many others living in the south of Shropshire. There are no viable alternatives as Oxon Park & Ride is already oversubscribed, and Harlescott is impractical being on the other side of the town.

Parking charges in Shrewsbury town centre are now prohibitively expensive, and parking there does not offer the same flexibility as the Park & Ride service. Additionally, there is the environmental issue to consider. When people avail themselves of the Park & Ride service it means that there are fewer cars travelling that extra mile or so into and out of the town centre. From Abbey Foregate, Belle Vue and Coleham, particularly on a Saturday when Wyle Cop is partially closed to traffic, vehicles can be witnessed sitting waiting for a considerable amount of time in the vicinity of the English Bridge before even getting to where they will be parking.

We feel that the cessation of this service would have a detrimental impact on Shrewsbury town centre businesses as parishioners have advised that they are likely to opt for shopping elsewhere where they can park more easily and for less money - such as Telford or not actually going beyond Meole Brace Retail Park.

While we appreciate the severe financial pressure that Shropshire Council is facing and that non-statutory services have to be slashed, is there no way of making this service pay for itself? Our parishioners say that they would rather pay more and face a reduction in the number of buses offered per hour, than lose the service altogether.

We urge you to work together to reconsider this decision."

No response was received from Councillor Wilson, but Stuart Anderson MP responded:

"Thank you for getting in touch and for sharing the concerns that have been raised by parishioners about the withdrawal of the Meole Brace Park & Ride bus service.

I would be more than happy to pass these concerns on to Shropshire Council for their comments.

In order for me to do so, I would be greatly appreciative if you could provide me with your consent to share your email to me with Shropshire Council."

It appears that the fact that the one email was sent to both Stuart Anderson AND Shropshire Council went unnoticed.

- Email received from Cound Park resident complaining about the overgrown footpath which passes Cound Hall up to the road near the start of Church Lane. Parishioner had contacted Outdoor Recreation as directed on Shropshire Council's website but had received an automated reply stating that due to many demands there would be a significant delay in responding. Clerk initially tried to report via FixMyStreet but received an error stating that reports relating to Rights of Way issues could not be accepted. Emailed Outdoor Partnerships regarding Shropshire Rights of Way 0414/13/1 and received a response stating that they "confirm that this issue has been logged and the details forwarded to the area officers for their attention." Have chased but the same response was received.

42.26 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Susan Coleman had nothing specific to report regarding the Parish but she advised that Shropshire Council continues to be "financially challenged". Last month The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) published an External Assurance Review of Shropshire Council following the declaration of a financial emergency in September 2025. The report outlines recommendations to fix the council's financial crisis and include: Selling the Shirehall as soon as possible and finding other assets to sell; making a clear financial recovery plan; fixing financial processes, budgeting, and risk tracking; and improving leadership, culture, and service reform.

Consequently, Shropshire Council is now selling off assets wherever possible, such as Whitchurch Town Hall, to raise funds. Also looking at closing down Cornovii Homes to save money. Expect more cuts to non-statutory services.

43.26 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Roberts had performed the defibrillator audit checks and confirmed that they were ready to use as and when required. The Circuit had been updated. The defibrillator at the Guildhall site had been relocated from the wall of the bookshop to the wall of the Guildhall building, adjacent to the kitchen. This was to improve the longevity of the device/cabinet by moving it into a shady location away from direct sunlight.
- As Councillor Sartain was not present, Councillor Roberts gave a brief update on the Guildhall: The Produce Show had taken place on Saturday 5 September and this had been followed that evening with an illustrated talk "Those Rascally Ringers" by renowned bell historian Chris Pickford in aid of the Doom painting. The autumn/winter Flicks in the Sticks programme was starting with "Hunt for the Wilder People" on Friday 18 September. Further films will be scheduled. The coffee morning continues every fortnight, and the Nia holistic barefoot fitness class takes place weekly. Wreath-making workshops are being held in late November/early December.
- Councilllor Scott and Shropshire Councillor Coleman had been interviewed by Radio Shropshire regarding the upcoming Hills Ford Stages Rally which passes through the Parish on Sunday 20 September. They spoke of how the Parish Council's concerns and objections had been completely ignored, how there had been extremely poor communication on the part of the event organisers and how the lanes were wholly unsuitable for this type of rally.
- Councillor Hall raised a concern again about the ford at Bull Hollow. When the ford floods, motorists are unable to see that the road drops off, and this could result in serious damage to vehicles and injury to occupants. Signage is required to mark the edges of the ford. Although Shropshire Council has previously installed "bollards", these were insubstantial and have since snapped off.

  ACTION: Clerk to report the issue to the appropriate department at Shropshire Council.

44.26 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses August/September	£ 67.00
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary August/September	£ 703.20
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary August/September	£ 175.60
Mr T Roberts	Printing of papers for noticeboards	£ 4.80
Mr D Burn	Environmental maintenance July/August	£ 480.00
	TOTAL	£ 1430.60

It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 6 September 2026

The bank was reconciled at £11,020.86, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

45.26 Planning

1. Decisions to note

None.

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 26/02693/FUL

Address: Grange House Cressage Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6EB

Description: Erection of two storey extension following demolition of existing extension and internal alterations

Validated: 17 Jul 2026

Status: Pending Consideration (Permission Granted since agenda published)

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking here

b. Ref: 26/02371/FUL

Address: Butlers Barn Harnage Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6EJ

Description: Retrospective permission for boarding and wooden double doors to cart shed, installation of solar panels to cart shed roof

Validated: 04 Aug 2026

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking here

No comments or objections were made.

46.26 Future agenda items

- None

47.26 Date of next meeting

Thursday 19 November 2026, 7.00pm at Cound Moor Village Hall.

The Vice-Chair thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 7.47pm.

Signed by Vice-Chair: ..... Date: 19 November 2026