

COUND PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Simon James
cpc@simonjames.uk

Clerk: Lisa Harris
Clerk@cound.org.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on 17 July 2025 at Cound Guildhall

Present: Parish Councillors S James (Chair), R Davies, S Green, J Hall, T Roberts, R Sartain, M Smith, and Shropshire Councillor S Coleman

Clerk: Lisa Harris

No members of the public were present

25.25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors S Scott and K Symonds.

26.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

27.25 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.

28.25 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2025

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 15 May 2025 be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed accordingly.

29.25 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 15 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 £517.15 has been awarded by Shropshire Council.

- 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 Cound, 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 Cound Parish Council.

30.25 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Coleman presented a brief report covering:

- Full Council Meeting (Shropshire Council) - Had attended that morning. Councillor Ed Potter (Conservative, Loton) called on Shropshire Council to adopt a policy instructing all highway teams and contractors, including utility companies, to remove disused and broken signs left behind by previous schemes. He is also asking the Chief Executive to write to National Highways to ask for a similar approach.
- Cound Arbour Bridge – the permanent changes to the traffic layout scheme were in the Capital Budget for 2026/27. The Parish Councillors requested to see the final design before it is implemented as the trial scheme layout has not fully resolved the current issues.

The Parish Councillors asked Councillor Coleman if she would be able to chase for an update on Bull Hollow Ford. A permanent solution was required before the poor weather of the winter months hit as the broken bollards alongside the unsafe drop on the side of the road at the ford were an inadequate measure.

31.25 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

Councillor Roberts had performed the defibrillator audit checks and confirmed that both defibrillators were ready to use as and when required. Both batteries required replacing and prior authorisation had already been given to go ahead with this.

Councillor Sartain reported that community events were pressing ahead at The Guildhall. A new projector had been purchased for use at Flicks in the Sticks and at other presentations. A project was underway to tarmac a portion of the car park to allow for a cleaner entrance.

32.25 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses June/July	£ 61.00
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary June/July	£ 681.04
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary June/July	£ 170.20
TOTAL		£ 912.24

It was **proposed** by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 10 July 2025

The bank was reconciled at £11,905.52, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

33.25 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 25/01120/AMP

Address: Birchmoor 5 The Heighways Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AR

Description: Non-material amendment to planning application number 24/03223/FUL – changes to materials specified in the approved plans

Validated: 24 Mar 2025

Status: Refused

b. Ref: 25/01774/VAR

Address: Birchmoor 5 The Heighways Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AR

Description: Variation of Condition 2 and 3 attached to Application Reference Number: 24/03223/FUL Date of Decision: 24/10/2024

Validated: 13 May 2025

Status: Granted

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 25/01037/PAAFC

Address: Lower Cound Farm Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AJ

Description: Change of use of an existing agricultural building to a use falling within use Class E (d)

Validated: 18 Mar 2025

Status: Unknown

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

34.25 Correspondence

None

35.25 Future agenda items

None

36.25 Date of next meeting

Thursday 18 September 2025 at 7.00pm at The Guildhall, Cound.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 18 September 2025