

CHELMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gillian Bailey
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Minutes of a meeting of Chelmarsh Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at Chelmarsh Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs R Bebb, T Cole, D Garrett, D Strong and R Wood (Chair)

Also Present:

G Bailey, Clerk

Cllr George Hollyhead

Robert Boswell, South Staffordshire Water

1 member of the public

Public Open Session

1. Robert Boswell from South Staffordshire Water attended to update the Parish Council on progress in resolving the issues caused to residents during the movement of materials from the water treatment works in Hampton Loade.

a) Alternative road access

Alternative routes have been explored; the weight (20T) and size of the trailers would make this impractical as they are too heavy and wide.

b) Concrete / hardcore bell mouth and strip to loading area

This work has been costed at £21,000 for concreting the bell area and £47,000 for a strip to the loading area. There are no funds allocated to these projects.

Mr Boswell suggested that he might be able to allocate funding for the bell mouth project at some point in the next 5 years. The project would need traffic management and coordination with Shropshire Council.

c) Timing of movements

Movements are governed by some factors, crop rotations for example. Movements also require licensing by the Environment Agency which means they require notice. This means that it is not always possible to plan with the weather in mind. It was noted that summer 2025 was particularly hot and dry.

Mr Boswell advised that they would be undertaking a large movement (4,000 T) in the next 4/5 weeks.

Councillors made the following points.

- Deposits of mud on the road make them dangerous and very slippery.
- The dust in the summer affected local businesses
- The trailers are moving at excessive speeds.

It was agreed that it was important to maintain good communication through a single point of contact (the Clerk). Mr Boswell agreed that if it was really necessary, for safety, they could stop operations.

Mr Boswell will advise when there is progress on the project to create a hardstanding apron.

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2. PC Jade Ives introduced herself. She joined the Safer Neighbourhood Team in October. PC Nolan will be returning very soon after a period of illness, PSCO Fletcher remains with the team, PSCO Declan Miller is now with Broseley SNT. Has been recent speed enforcement activity; 40 cars were stopped, 1 was in excess of the speed limit and will be dealt with. Please use the shared email inbox ch.snt@westmercia.police.uk if you have any queries about process or operations.

3. Mr Lloyd addressed the council requesting support for a planning application. See item 4.

1. Apologies for absence

It was unanimously **agreed** to accept apologies from Cllr A Cadwallader and Cllr P Thomas

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.

3. Minutes

It was **agreed** unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th November 2025 were a true record. The Chair signed the minutes.

4. Request from resident

Mr Lloyd has requested a letter confirming that he meets criteria for strong local connection as part of the pre-application process for building a property under the Shropshire Council site exemption policy.

It was proposed by Cllr Bebb, seconded by Cllr Garrett and **agreed** unanimously that Mr Lloyd met the criteria for strong local connection. The clerk will send confirmation to Mr Lloyd.

5. South Staffordshire Water

Councillors discussed the information received from SSTW. It was agreed that the information shared was welcome and that the situation should be actively monitored.

The movement 4,000 T will be roughly 200 movements (40-50 loads a day).

6. Reports

a) To receive a report from the unitary Councillor.

- Followed up on reports of extremely large / deep pothole on Ingrams Lane. Showing on Fix my Street as closed as now passed to Kier.
- Snow Chelmarsh bank. Cllr Hollyhead asked for a breakdown of events so he can follow up on.
- Partnership working. There is still some ambiguity about what this will mean for Parish Councils. Larger councils have decided to move ahead with their programmes of work to ensure service levels for residents.

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b) To consider the priorities report from the local policing team

Members considered the priorities report and asked that the issue of cars speeding and overtaking by the turn to Hampton Loade is added.

c) To receive a report from the Parish Hall committee.

No report.

7. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

8. Budget and Precept

Members considered the budget report.

It was proposed by Cllr Garrett, seconded by Cllr Woods and **agreed** unanimously to:

- a) Set the budget for financial year 2026-2027 at **£14,230**
- b) Request a precept of **£14,230** for the financial year 2026-2027

This represents a small increase of 0.89% or £0.03p per week per band D equivalent. This is due to a decrease in the tax base.

9. Financial Regulations

Members reviewed the updated draft financial regulations.

It was **agreed** unanimously to approve the financial regulations.

10. Quarterly Financial Report

Members approved the quarterly financial reports which were then signed by the Chair and Vice Chair.

11. Payments

- a) It was **agreed** unanimously to approve payments as detailed in the payment schedule for January.
- b) It was agreed unanimously to accept the report of payments made in November and December.

12. Clerks Report

- a) The defibrillator at the Bulls Head has now been repaired.
- b) Severn Trent Water have established a community flood team. It was agreed to invite the local officer to the parish council meeting in February.
- c) Some minor; low risk works are needed to the play area. Clerk to arrange quotes.

13. Parish Matters

The following reports were received from Councillors.

- a) Cllr Thomas (via email): Damage to the verges and mud on the road (Jack Myton Way) from vehicles using land for a shoot, have made the lane dangerous and slippery. Responsibility for maintenance of the lane is unclear. Clerk to check with Land Registry and Shropshire Council.

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It was also agreed to write to the organiser of the shoot to request that those attending park with consideration to other road users.

- b) Cllr Cole: Fencing along the cycle path from Hampton Loade to Highley has been ripped out so that motorcycles can ride along this path. Clerk to check with Highley Parish Clerk to see what agreements are in place for responsibility for repair.
- c) Cllr Garrett: Request from litter picking volunteers for collection of the waste they collect by Shropshire Council. Clerk to contact Bridgnorth litter pickers for contact details.

There has been an increase in dog fouling. In the past Shropshire Council have provided enforcement support with this. Clerk to contact Shropshire Council.

- d) Cllr Strong: Water draining from land on the Astley estate causing deep flooding on the B4555.

14. Correspondence

There were no matters for Council to consider.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.34pm

Signed

Dated