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Minutes of Church Aston Parish Council held at Church Aston Village Hall on Monday 8th June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr P Evans (Vice Chairman), Cllr J Pay, Cllr P Sansom, Cllr R Wynn, Cllr B Knight, Cllr A Stokes, Cllr G Williams

In attendance: Charlotte Dade (Clerk). TWC Borough Cllr A Eade.

(08/06/2026)

Cllr P Evans chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr S Stacey.

Item 1 – Welcome new Parish Clerk & RFO

The Vice-Chair welcomed Charlotte Dade into the role as Locum Parish Clerk and RFO to Church Aston Parish Council following discussion with Councillors prior to the Council meeting on 8th June.

Cllr Pay proposed that Councillors formally proceed with the retrospective arrangements agreed prior to the Council meeting. Cllr Sansom seconded, and all in attendance voted in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED that Charlotte become the new Locum Parish Clerk & RFO to Church Aston Parish Council and agreement be retrospectively given for the appointment.

Item 2 – Apologies.

Cllr S Stacey (Chairman), Cllr B Richards, Cllr G Toland

Item 3 – Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 4 – Public Session.

There were no members of the public present.

Item 5 - Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 11th May 2026.

Minutes of the meetings held on the 11th May 2026, were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Wynn with all members present voting in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED that minutes of the meetings held on the 11th May 2026 were signed by the Vice-Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.

Item 6 – Parish projects and community matters

a. Asset management

i. Brockton Memorial

Cllr Evans is not sure if the work has been carried out yet. The Clerk to chase up Owen's Memorials to chase up.

Thanks was given to Cllr Eade for his contribution to the work through his Cllr Pride Funding.

Cllrs Evans & Pay signed and countersigned the documents to accept the funding.

To note – at this point Cllrs Evans and Pay also signed the documentation for the second Cllr Pride funding given for the installation of the waste bin outside The Last Inn.

Resolved that the Clerk will forward both of these to Telford & Wrekin Council in order that the funding can be sent across.

ii. MUGA

A brief discussion about the surface cleaning of the MUGA took place. Cllr Wynn has been out and swept the area, and has been asked to monitor the area moving forwards. Cllr G Williams mentioned that the local Scout group may be able to help out with the area in future.

iii. Street lighting

Between meetings there was a problem with a lighting column on Mulberry, which meant it needed to be taken to waist height. Kathryn (previous Clerk) advised it needed to be replaced. This has been completed and the invoice will be paid once Charlotte (present Clerk) is able to access the bank account. Cllr Pay proposed the retrospective replacement of the lighting column be agreed. Cllr Stokes seconded with all members present voting in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED that the replacement of the lighting column be retrospectively agreed.

Two further columns; one in Pinewoods and one in Newtown were cleared of overgrowth at the request of Cllr Evans and following positive discussion with the necessary residents. These will need to continue to be kept clear in order to access to the lamps.

There is a problem with 2 outstanding columns. One in pinewoods, severely cracked taken to waist height, and other in Pinewoods with door broken off. Can no longer get the metalwork for concrete, so need a new

steel column. Tracey suggested a walk around inspection to review all the columns and those will come up in discussion.

Councillors would like a walkaround inspection with Tracey Calvert from E.on to review all columns prior to July meeting to discuss and potentially agree replacement of the two pinewoods columns. Cllr Evans will plan inspection walkaround with Tracey and Cllrs Toland and Richards.

iv. Planters

Cllr Evans stated all planters are now planted out. Cllr Evan made the purchase to hand them over for planting.

The cost was £275.80 and as decisions made out of meeting, the decision needs retrospectively agreeing. Cllr Sansom proposed, and Cllr Wynn seconded. All in attendance voted in favour.

RESOLVED that Councillors agree to the retrospective purchase of plants for planting in Church Aston planters.

b. Church Aston and Chetwynd Aston Merger

Further update from Anthea Lowe, proposing an informal meeting with Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote ahead of the order being placed and the shadow council being formed. Discussions would include appointing a Chair of the shadow council, the role of the two existing councils once the shadow council is in place.

Cllr Evans has submitted some questions to Anthea Lowe and is awaiting a response. Cllr Evans will contact the Chair of Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council to discuss potential meeting dates.

Cllr Eade would also like to attend the informal meeting.

Cllr Evans will check that the maps sent with the update match the expected boundaries.

c. Community Safety

One item that has been added to the list across the borough is nuisances with motorbikes off roading. Church Aston doesn't need to do anything about that.

d. Community Grants 2026

There is £2.5k budgeted for Community Grants which will be discussed in more detail at July's meeting. Councillors were asked to begin thinking about the grants ahead of July's meeting, considering if they wish to offer grants in 2026/27 or should the money be diverted elsewhere? What will be the criteria for applications if the scheme proceeds and how much should be given?

Cllr Evans will put some brief notes together so thought can be given to the scheme ahead of July's meeting.

Item 7 - Representatives Report

a) Village Hall

Cllr Knight gave an update on recent Village Hall activities and confirmed that there is no further progress with the church securing a new vicar, which is causing some disappointment and frustration.

b) Bus Users Group

Nothing to report, no indication of next meeting.

c) Newport Regeneration Partnership

No meeting to report on.

d) Telford & Wrekin Council:

Cllr Eade discussed a Newtown flooding issue. Work is being carried out this week resulting in a road closure. Cllr Eade has dropped leaflets to residents to advise to move cars of those affected. Target date of 11th June for completion of work.

Yellow lining on Granville Avenue has shifted parking issue to Silverdale. Cllr Eade is speaking with Telford & Wrekin Council Highways Engineer to get yellow lines on road into Silverdale at the junction but this will take time and won't be a quick fix.

The Last Inn has problem with sewerage running down the car park. It happens quite often and on hot weather and is not very pleasant. This is from a cesspit, and has been passed on to environmental health.

e) Wellington Rd/Linden Hall Surgery Patients Participation Group

An update was provided by Cllr Stokes. Linden Hall Surgery is currently operating with half of its staff due to retirement, maternity and emigration. Two new GPs will be starting soon, and one of the nurses is doing her Advanced Nurse Practitioner course. They are trying to stay ahead of housing growth, but have nowhere else to expand. Their flu vaccination programme is coming online in October

f) Wrekin Area Committee

No meeting scheduled in the near future.

Item 8 - Communications Updates:

a) Correspondence

A funding request and information was received from Jas Bedesha at Telford & Wrekin Council regarding Crucial Crew aimed at safety education for children in year six. They have invited representatives from parishes to a meeting on 2nd July 11.30am-2pm at Telford College. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Clerk.

b) Facebook

Nothing to report.

Resolved that Cllr Evans will give Charlotte full admin access to be able to update Facebook.

c) **Website**

Renewal of the website is due by 30th June 2026.

Cllr Williams proposed the Council renew the website for a further 12 months at a cost of £75. Cllr Stokes seconded the proposal. All in attendance voted in favour.

Resolved that the website domain is renewed for a further 12 months and the Clerk will request the renewal.

Item 9 – Policy and planning matters

a) **Planning applications received from TWC for consideration since last meeting**

No applications were discussed.

b) **TWC Local Development Plan**

i. **Update on planning inspectors review**

Cllr Pay gave an update that the review is as expected, there is no room to pursue the matter. The planning application is not yet approved and the number of houses has increased to 166 from 160 to align with planning app. Programme for completion will be five years from 2027.

Another site of 40 houses has been put in the plan to complete that programme in four years.

Cllr Evans wished to thank Cllr Pay for all his hard work in trying to fight the development.

Councillors discussed the opportunity the development now brings to support pedestrian lights across the A518, and other works that may slow down traffic.

Resolved that Cllr Pay prepare a brief statement to post on Facebook.

Item 10 – Finance and governance

Accounts & Payments

a) **The statement of account at close of business on 31/05/2026 was £31,127.05.**

b) **A summary of receipts and payments and a bank reconciliation of accounts for month ending 31st May 2026 with a balance of £31,127.05.**

In lieu of the usual bank reconciliations due to access to the account not being available to the new Clerk yet, the Vice-Chair shared with members an account statement to the end of May.

Resolved that on the agreement of all in attendance, the Vice-Chair signed the statement, and the clerk will present a copy in the usual format at the meeting in July.

Resolved that the bank reconciliation up to the end of April be agreed and signed. Signed by the Vice-Chair and Cllr Pay.

c) Approval of payments made since the last meeting.

No payments were presented for approval during the meeting.

Resolved: that outstanding payments for approval will be presented during meeting in July for retrospective approval following the Clerk becoming able to access the bank account.

d) Payments for authorisation at this meeting:

No payments were presented for authorisation at the meeting.

e) Bank Signatory

Pending until next meeting

f. Internal Auditor's Report for financial year 2025/26 (RLA Auditing)

The last page of report from RLA Auditing was printed and shared. Improvements to website sharing was identified. Otherwise, the Parish Council has been found to be in good order.

There was no requirement for signatures.

Item 11 – Roads, Hedges & Ditches

There was an issue raised regarding a bushy tree growing out of pole at the end of Dark Lane at junction of The Close (TF10 9JJ). Cannot see the pole and it's growing further out into the lane.

Resolved that the Clerk will ask Nigel Murray of Telford & Wrekin Council to come and have a look at it, find out what can be done and who is responsible. Who is responsible, what can be done?

There was a further issue raise with another tree in Dark Lane looking "skewif".

Resolved that the Clerk will also request this tree to be checked and check the thoroughfare up to over the bridge and consider cutting back the vegetation.

There has been recent issues with scrap companies taking items not left for them.

Resolved that the Clerk will put a post on Facebook to raise awareness with residents.

Mention was made to anti-social behaviour on the new Bloor Homes development. All incidences should be reported to 101.

Item 12 – Private session

There were no public or press present at this meeting so Council could proceed to item 13.

Item 13 – Staffing matters

- a) The key terms of the employment of the new Clerk were shared. Both the employment contract and job description have been shared with the new Clerk and Chair, and agreed.

Cllr Wynn proposed that the six-month fixed-term contract be accepted. Cllr Sansom seconded. All in attendance voted in favour.

RESOLVED that the fixed term six-month employment contract for the new Locum Clerk & RFO to Church Aston Parish Council be accepted and signed by the Clerk and the Vice-Chair.

Item 14 – Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6th July 2026 in Church Aston Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.