

Munslow Parish Council



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Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Munslow Parish Council on Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Members Present: Cllrs Nigel Dobson (Temporary Chair), Richard Arnold, Barbara Archer, Val Fotheringham, Ed Povey and Stuart Rowbotham. **In Attendance:** Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

1. **Elect a Chairperson:** Cllr Dobson remained as temporary chair so an election was not required.
2. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Meeson
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Public Forum:** Three members of the public were in attendance. Member of the Public (MP1) expressed their thanks to Cllr Dobson and the Council for helping to clarify the issues surrounding the electricity supply to Aston Hall and the Discharge of Conditions for Aston Hall. MP2 and 3 are members of the Nature Recovery Group and explained the reasons behind the application to the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund. Council resolved to discuss item 10 at this point.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th November, 2025:**
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes and they were signed by the chair.
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford reported that the council finances continue to be a great concern and there is a forecast of an overspend of £70 million for this financial year. The Council is still negotiating a loan from the government of £70 million which includes a financial plan to show sustainability for the coming three years. A great deal of savings have been made over recent years so it is unclear where further savings will come from. If the government does not agree the loan the council will have to declare a section 114 notice which means their expenditure is more than their income and central government become involved in helping the council to balance its budget. The overspend is mainly in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Transport mainly for Special Educational Needs Children. Cllr Stanford has not received a reply from the Portfolio Holder for Highway regarding the issues on the B4368 and has asked for a meeting with the Traffic Engineer but again has not received a response. Shropshire Highways report that 30,000 potholes have been filled over the last 12 months, but they are only repairing those deeper than 40mm as they are seen as a safety risk. He is not aware of any outcome of parishes signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Neighbourhood and Family hubs are being set one – one is based in Ludlow Library. He is a member of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is involved in a Task and Finish Group considering how health can be included in all council decision making processes. He is also a member of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership. The National Trust are leading an application to the Lottery Fund for the Shropshire Hills. Cllr Arnold asked whether there was any progress on the food waste collections by Shropshire Council – Cllr Stanford agreed to investigate if there is a start date.
 - 6.2. Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson reported that there are two coffee mornings before Christmas and sales will raise funds for Tiny Stars Charity. Everyone is welcome to attend.
7. **Update on Action Re Beambridge/B4368 Junction:** the work to the damaged building is almost complete but the traffic lights are still in place.
8. **Update on the Electricity Cable to the Solar Panels at Aston Hall:** this agenda item is incorrect. The electricity supply is to Aston Hall not the Solar Panels. National Grid has decided to route the supply along the B4368 rather than through Aston Munslow Village.
9. **Update on the Discharge of Conditions at Aston Hall:** the owner of Aston Hall has provided the council with details of the external lighting plan which the council has distributed to interested members of the public. Shropshire Council has granted permission for the Discharge of Conditions.
10. **Update from the Nature Recovery Working Group and Application to Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund:**
RESOLVED: to make an application for a Wildlife Box Scheme on behalf of the Working Group and include a contribution of £300 toward the wildlife box scheme when setting the budget for 2026-27.

- 11. Agree New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor:** The contractor has reported that the work needed on the brook in Aston Munslow will need to be done by Shropshire Council. He will be asked to clear the drains near the war memorial in Munslow.
- 12. Consider the Information Provided by The Hills Ford Stages 2026:** The Council noted the plans and have no issues at this point.
- 13. Management of Assets**
- 13.1. Update on Repairs/Replacement of Notice Boards:
RESOLVED: the notice board in Aston Munslow will be removed and repaired by Cllr Dobson. A replacement notice board for Broadstone will be considered at the next meeting.
- 13.2. Update on Clearing/Cleaning of the Bus Shelter at Aston Munslow: the council would like to thank Mr Dave Lewis for his work on the bus shelter.
- 14. Finance**
- 14.1. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: As of 17/11/25 expenditure for the financial year was £4,384.65 with slight overspend on Insurance and Defibrillator Maintenance. On the 27/10/25 the current account held £3,473.42 and on the 10/11/25 the savings account held £9,315.54.
RESOLVED: to accept the report and the reconciliation was signed by Cllr Arnold.
- 14.2. Adopt the Budget and Set the Precept for 2026-27: the council considered several areas where savings could be made and added a new budget heading for Nature Recovery. Last years precept had seen a reduction on the previous year in recognition of the financial pressures on households but the council forecasts there will be a large expenditure on managing the ash tree in the Munslow Burial Ground in the coming financial year which means that the precept will need to increase. It was considered that this was necessary from a safety perspective
RESOLVED: to adopt the adjusted budget of £8707 to include £300 for nature recovery and a reduction in the clerks' hours to 4.5 per week from 1st April 2026. The precept was set at £7,373 for 2026-2027.
- 14.3. Authorise Payments
- 14.3.1. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 895 £173.30
- 14.3.2. D Lewis (Asset Maintenance) Inv 894 £71.25
- 14.3.3. H Coonick and HMRC, Salary Oct – Dec £965.97
- 14.3.4. H Coonick Travel Expenses £27.90
- 14.3.5. H Coonick Reimbursement for Scanning, Postage and Inks £42.47
- 14.3.6. B Archer Reimbursement for Photographs for ID1 Form £12.50
- RESOLVED:** to make payments 14.3.1 – 14.3.6
- 15. Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 4th February 2026 at Munslow Village Hall**
- a. Notice boards.

Signed:

Date: