Councillors were **summoned** to the meeting of Wheathill Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 12th August 2025** at the Cleobury North Village Hall commenced at **7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

1. **Apologies**

Cllrs Odell and Howells tendered their apologies.

1. Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting of any matter in which they have a pecuniary or personal interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.
2. **Public open session to last no more than 15 minutes.**

20 members of the public were in attendance, with 6 parishioners tendering their apologies.

* Chairman Crichton expressed her thanks to Tina Ranson for offering to minute todays meeting in the absence of the Clerk. Clerk Fern Chadwick was able to make the meeting, so the offer was kindly rejected.
* Chairman Crichton addressed the public and read out a statement from a sealed envelope containing a petition signed by 17 parishioners raising concerns regarding the Parish Clerk. This was received by the Chairman the day of the meeting. The chairman stated the petition would be referred to the relevant body for consideration. Chairman Crichton then went on to describe what the Parish Council has achieved in the last 18 months. She also confirmed that in her absence of knowledge she refers to SALC and NALC for advice. Clerk Fern Chadwick shared the name of Tim Collard, Monitoring Officer for Shropshire Association of Local Council to refer this to. A member of the public expressed concern how declaring this to the public was harassment of the Clerk and that this should have been kept confidential until after seeking advice. Clerk reminded the Chairman and the Council that anything that comes to the Parish Council after the agenda has been set should be rolled over to the next meeting.
* A member of the public bought to the attention of the Parish Council that there’s an opportunity from the Diocese to acquire free cherry trees to be planted in public spaces aimed at schools, churchyards and wildlife sites.

1. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting 1st July 2025.**

Minutes were approved and sanctioned to be posted to the website.

1. **Unitary Councillors Report**

The report will be shared on the Wheathill website.

1. **Nature Recovery Initiative**

Many thanks to Councillor Watton for donating his time towards the wildflower seed bale project. 17 bales were made, and 15 have been purchased. A total raised for the Nature Recovery Initiative for Wheathill was £415.00. A request for suggestions on what to use the funds on will be shared with parishioners.

Chairman Crichton suggested she can run a session on dead hedges to parishioners interested in the benefits.

The sightings of Pine Martens have dropped significantly throughout the country. There are still great numbers of Muntjac and Hares.

1. **Polite notice on bonfires.**

Cllr Watton expressed a polite wish that parishioners save waste to burn in a bonfire in 1 go rather than lots of smaller fires. This is to reduce the risk of smoke on neighbours as well as the risk of fire spreading in such dry conditions.

1. **Highway Items**
2. Update on Speed Limit

Nick Newton has been in touch, and the plans have gone to public consultation which is available for viewing at Ludlow Library for 3 weeks where the public are able to comment on the design and layout of the speed restrictions.

1. Lengthsman Activities

Move a SmartWater sign on the east side of Newton Lane closer to the Bromdon junction.

1. FizMyStreet Update

The bridge at Wheathill Court Farm has been reported to outdoor recreation who have now assessed the site and are issuing a repair.

Clerk will report road markings on the Loughton road crossroads near Church Farm to be remarked.

1. Moving signs for road safety

Chairman was made aware that parishioners pulling out of Newton Lane are unable to see traffic clearly coming down the B4364 and requested this to be move. This has been added to the Lengthsman jobs.

1. **War Memorial Grants**

The Lengthsman has done a survey and submitted the report to the War Memorial Trust. The war memorial itself is in good condition, and the lettering is okay after being repainted last year. The wall surrounding the war memorial is in poor condition. It was last renewed in February 1986. Further details will be discussed and shared at the next meeting.

1. **Policy reviews and approvals.**

Social Media Policy

Disciplinary Policy

* Due to 2 Councillors being absent, these will be deferred to the September meeting.

1. **Correspondence**

* Clerks’ correspondence with SALC, NALC and LGA on best practice and legal statute when dealing with planning where there is a predetermined attitude or bias. Also discussions around voting and the legal statute for not being quorate for specific agenda items. – this wasn’t discussed and will be deferred to the Septmber meeting.
* Clerk address the Council and public that she contacted the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) about a potential breach of GDPR when emails were sent to Parishioners as CC, not BCC (blind copying everyone). The officer at ICO stated that there was low risk to the recipients and no need to report the incident and that it is very common. The email contained no marketing material or links, no outside email addresses, and nothing sensitive such as names, addresses, dates of birth. The attachments were minutes and agenda. Clerk apologised for the human error oversight and will draft a risk assessment to prevent this happening again along with any training relevant.

1. **Planning –** Appeal on application 25/01333/FUL – Erection of permanent agricultural workers dwellinghouse, new access and farm track, and all associated works, North of B4364, Wheathill, Shropshire. Appeal ref 25/03380/REF.

* Planning application not discussed since there was only 2 Councillors able to vote. Clerk contacted the Planning Inspectorate for an extension for comments but no reply yet.
* Cllr Watton expressed concern for why the Parish Council didn’t get notified of a VAR application – Clerk will contact Shropshire Planning for more information.

1. **Local News**

* The defibrillators have been reviewed and updated on the Circuit and a reminder to the parishioners taking care of them to check they’re functioning as they should. Batteries may be coming due for renewal soon.
* A parishioner is holding a fun day with The Three Horseshoes raising funds for Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the 16th August 3-7pm. Clerk reminded the Council that there is £150 in a reserve pot for community events should they need any funding for support.

1. **Place Plan / Neighbourhood Plan (CIL)**

Nothing of note this month.

1. **Donation requests -** None Received
2. **Finance**

1**. Bank Reconciliation**

Treasurers Account @ 30/7/2025 £18,513.25

2. **Payment of Invoices**

a) Clerk Salary £178.00

Payment approved and sanctioned to be paid via BACS

1. **Meetings and Training attended –** None
2. **Items to be put on the Meeting of the next meeting. –** None
3. **Date of next meeting****.**

**2nd September 2025.**

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