Westbury Parish Council

Minutes from the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7.30pm in Westbury Village Hall,

Present:
Cllr Roberts (Chair), Cllr Parkhurst, Cllr Adams, Cllr Kidd, Cllr Hemmings, Cllr Lee.

Also in Attendance: R Reid (Clerk) and eleven members of the public

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Williams, Cllr Thomas (Vice-chair), Cllr Wadlow, Cllr Potter, Cllr Conner, and Cllr Harvey.

2. Declarations of interest in matters to be discussed - None were declared

3. Public Participation -

A member of the public addressed the council regarding speeding in Yockleton because the 30 mph speed limit is ignored.

There is a defibrillator in church which is only available when the church is open.

The new path to Yockleton play area is too steep, this comment was echoed by a second member of public. A member of the public suggested if a handrail could be put in the steep section.

The proposed switch to digital by BT, could the Parish Council assist?

Yockleton Victory Hall representatives mentioned that they were struggling and grateful for the grant received from the council.

A representative from WestFest a community led event asked the council to support their request for £500 grant to host the event in 2027. They hold Christmas events to help fundraise but require the grant to keep the event free.

In the last financial year, the council gave the grant money which Westbury Village hall did not require to Vron Gate.

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4. Local Members Report -

Report from Cllr Kidd, the road in Pontesbury has been shut so traffic has been diverted along the B4386. Vehicle Activated Signs could be purchased by the council with a grant. The Clerk will look into this for both Westbury and Yockleton.
There is a need to keep note of the accidents at Nox.
Some of the speed limits in Yockleton are obscured or faded, Cllr Kidd advised parishioners to keep reporting to the Fix My Street website. It costs around £8k - £10k to extend speed limits. It was noted that a speed camera was visible in Yockleton last week. Cllr Kidd said you could name and shame the speeders but it is not easy due to GDPR issues. She suggested setting up a community speed watch team which the Clerk will investigate. It is suggested that the Clerk also writes to the police team in Pontesbury to check if they are trained in using the speed cameras.

Shropshire Council are borrowing less and putting more money into highways.

5. Minutes - Council resolved to approve and sign minutes from 16th September ordinary meeting as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Hemmings and seconded by Cllr Adams.

6. Parish Matters

a. Yockleton Playing Area update - A member of the public has removed the swing but the beam is rotten and cannot be saved. It needs a new piece of wood. Legally the council cannot touch and repair the swing ourselves and we need to go through the appointed playground company to fix. Clerk will research various options.

b. Severn Trent site inspection - Cllr Parkhurst and the Clerk met Phil from Severn Trent last month and went on a site inspection of Westbury. They took a look at the Weir, the stream which was dry, Hinwood Road and discussed tanker movements. Phil resolved to liaise with the Clerk and return to a future parish council meeting once he's looked at the feedback from the site visits. He also offers a short presentation on property flood resilience which he suggested could be held outside of a parish council meeting. Phil asked the council to let Severn Trent know via the clerk if they have any issues. The sewerage systems get flooded because of drainage and he urged residents to report all issues to Severn Trent so they can solve them. Their contact number is 0800 783 44 44 and they are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

c. Removal of weir in Westbury - ASAP but we have to go through the Environment Agency next year.

d. Update on Nox accident - Clerk has been in contact with Tracy Onslow from West Mercia Police regarding the accident and she has suggested improvements which could be made.

e. Speeding in Yockleton - Clerk to contact Tracy Onslow and West Mercia Police regarding concerns from residents.

f. Defibrillator - It would be the second in the village because the church has just acquired one. You would need a certain amount of trained people to have one. Clerk to investigate. The church did speak to Yockleton Village Hall who weren't interested in having one outside the hall.

g. Repair or removal of bridge between Kop and Play area in Yockleton - It would cost around £60k to replace, council has looked at second hand but they are not insured and it is unaffordable to replace. A new footpath was put in place as a cost effective solution. It is not cost effective to move the play area to the other side of the brook. If we can get funding for the bridge it could be reinstated. Grants are available not through a parish council but through a charity or via a friends of a charity.

h. Digital switchover by BT concern that some properties are not covered - Clerk to see if they can get Openreach to come to a parish council meeting to discuss issues.

I. SATBAC options for Yockleton? - Cllr Adams said Westbury already has solar panels and the representative from Yockleton Village Hall said the roof is too unstable for solar panels.

7. Planning Matters

a. 26/03224/VAR - *The Byre Middle Farm Vennington Westbury Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 9RG*

*Remove conditions no 4 and 7 attached to planning permission ref 99/07*84/var/341/83 to allow full residential status as a permeant dwelling

Council resolved to support, proposed by Cllr Hemminds, seconded by Cllr Adams.

b. ***26/03607/FUL- Marche Lane Industrial Estate, Marche Lane, Halfway House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.***
Change of use from agricultural to B2 light industrial and B8 industrial storage.
Council resolved to neither support or oppose.

c. ***26/03546/FUL - Proposed Holiday Let Cabin South of Brooklyn, Ford Heath, Shrewsbury, Shropshire***
Erection of a holiday let (log cabin) and associated works.
Council resolved to support. Proposed by Cllr Hemmings, seconded Cllr Adams.

8. Financial Matters

a. Report of Accounts paid by the clerk to date (cash book) - Already circulated. Clerk is unable to complete cash book due to missing statements. Clerk resolved to find these from Sarah so budget can be set.

b. Update on signatories - The council only has one eligible signatory with Cllr Hemmings. The other current signatories are Sarah Smith, the former clerk, Cllr Hurdley who is no longer on the council and Cllr Owen who passed away last month.
The Clerk and Cllr Thomas had applied to remove Cllr Hurdley and Sarah Smith as signatories and add Rachel Reid and Cllr Myles Thomas as new signatories. This application was rejected due to inconsistencies with Cllr Thomas's signature. The council was in a position they could not pay any bills. The council agreed to co-opt former clerk Sarah Smith to help sort out the signatories issue. Proposed by Cllr Hemmings and seconded by Cllr Parkhurst.

c. Request for an additional signatory to be added to replace Councillor Owen -
As detailed above, the current listed signatories are Cllr Hurdley (no longer a councillor), Cllr Owen (deceased), Cllr Hemmings and former clerk Sarah Smith. Cllr David Lee, Cllr Steve Parkhurst and Cllr MylesThomas will be added as signatories. Sarah Smith will be co-opted to the council as a councillor until the signatories are sorted.

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d. WestFest application for £500 grant for 2027 - Westbury Village hall is not sure if they require their grant next year until March. We will look into the funding and the possibility that Vron Gate may ask for a grant which may need to be split at £250. Clerk to tell Westfest that a decision will be made in March.

e. Six-month Budget 2026 - 2027 - Clerk has been unable to do this due to IT issues with the old and new laptops and missing bank statements. Clerk resolved to add this to the agenda of the extraordinary meeting on 9th November 2026.

9. Confidential Matters

a. Westbury Ward Councillor vacancy - Clerk has spoken to the Elections team at Shropshire Council who advised that the council should place the advert on 16th November. Cllr Owen's funeral is on Saturday 7th November 2026 at 11am in Westbury church. Sarah Smith is being co-opted to the council so this vacancy no longer needs to be advertised.

Meeting closed at 21.07pm

An Extraordinary meeting on 9th November at 7pm in Westbury Village Hall was arranged to sign off the minutes of the 4th November meeting which would be required by the bank to change the signatories.

Date of next ordinary meeting – Wednesday 6th January 2027