

CORELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Coreley Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7.00pm

2024/112 Present

Mrs. J. Thomas (Chairman)
Mr. T Hilder
Mr. I. Smith
Ms. J. Penrose

Mr. V. Romeo (Vice)
Mr A. Parkhill
Mrs. A. Austin

Also present: Mrs L. Grehan (Clerk), Mr G. Butler and Mr. S. Houston-Mills (prospective new councillor)

2024/113 Apologies

None

2024/114 Public participation

None

2024/115 Declarations of Interest

None

2024/116 Approval of Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 27th November 2024.

The minutes were **APPROVED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. T. Hilder and seconded by Cllr. V. Romeo. Minutes **signed by the Chairman**.

2024/117 South Shropshire Councillors Report

There are changes happening to local government. The referendum vote, back in 2007/08 saw Shropshire go Unitary, this is now the direction that Worcester Council are heading for. As previously mentioned, the Government only want to talk to larger authorities, Shropshire has 340,000 people, which is still considered too small. The proposal at the moment is to join forces with Staffordshire, however, they too would have to go Unitary first. Therefore, in the 2029 elections, we could be voting for a Mayor, but the question would be what powers do they hold?

Budget. The planned increase in Shropshire Council Tax is 4.99%, however most of this will be lost in staff pay rises, social care etc.. Therefore, 1 in 5 staff will lose their jobs in either voluntary and compulsory redundancies. Shropshire Council have to balance their books. The consultation on this will be ending shortly.

Tips. Although it has been reported that using the telephone to book a slot at the tips is problematic, using the online system is easy. Overall, there seems to be less people using the tips, especially those in vans and trucks. A lot of people from outside the county have been turned away. There so far is no proof of an increase in fly-tipping, and prosecutions are happening. The hope is that less tip waste will lead to less costs, due to less for Veolia to collect and allowing staff to be more efficient.

Green bins. The question was put forward as to why the green bin cost couldn't only be for 6 months. The reason why it can't be is mainly due to staff. The suggestion of using the bags instead was put forward.

Food waste. The European guidance is for this to come into force in April 2026, however at the moment there is a large shortfall in the funding.

AI. AI is taking over which will hopefully make things cheaper.

Planning. With a new Government in power, there has been a new number of how many new houses need to be built each year. Coreley Parish only allows Exemption Sites currently, however the question will be put forward as to whether we would want to offer open

market instead. There is capacity in Clee Hill School and at the medical centre in Cleobury Mortimer. This is therefore something we as a Parish have to think about.

Empty Houses. There are a number of empty houses in Shropshire. The plan is to increase Council tax on empty houses and second homes to try and get them back into the rental market.

Local elections are happening in May. We will be voting for 1 councillor to represent the new ward.

Pot Holes. It was put forward that the same pots holes that were fixed last year, have already started opening back up again. Rural roads are particularly an issue.

Speed Zone. There is currently no date set for the 50mph zone across the common on the A4117 to be put in place. Although it is still felt that a 40mph zone would be more suitable, once the 50mph zone is put in place with the new signage etc., it is hoped that this will help slow traffic down.

Sewage Farm. The new sewage farm is coming. This is mainly due to capacity reasons, to stop sewage from going into the rivers and to stop sewage from going into people's properties.

2024/118

Clerks Report

- 1) Bus Shelter – Claim has gone in to the insurance company for the repair/renewal of the bus shelter.
- 2) Sign, Van and Fence – All have been reported to the relevant authorities.
- 3) Quarry – Clerk will follow up with the quarry now we are in the new year.
- 4) Phone Box – Cllr. J. Thomas will check if this has been fixed.
- 5) Speed Zone Stickers – Cllr. I, Smith found a selection of stickers which can be used around the Parish. The suggestion of doing a site survey was put forward to decide which material is best to order and how best to fit them. This could be something that P3 would be able to assist us with. If we did want to push forward with speed zones Mr. G. Butler suggested us going on the list to have the speed strips fitted across the road.
- 6) Hall Ownership – Clerk will contact the Land Registry to see if there is a charge on the hall and to see who the hall is registered too. Property Services at Shropshire Council may also be able to assist in this area.

2024/119

Parish Matters

- 1) Dog Poo Signs – The signs around the Parish are broken. Clerk will look into the cost of replacing these and a decision will be made.

2024/120

Parish Plan Review and Action Plan

Item 2.4 – Welcome Packs – currently on hold.

Item 2.9 – Internet. It is not looking hopeful with Kloud9, so council will investigate BT Openreach further.

Item 4.2 – Council to support Memorial Hall with events. It has been put to the council that if anyone is interested in helping the Memorial Hall Committee with events, the committee are always happy for people to help.

Item 8.1 – Neighbourhood Watch. It has been something that has been done in the past, but will be looked into again to see if there is a new way of doing it.

2024/121

Planning Applications

None to review

2024/122

Coreley Memorial Hall Report

A quiz is to be held on 8th February. Other events are in the pipeline. The committee are hoping these events will raise funds to go towards hall improvements, such as new curtains and maybe the re-surfacing of the car park. The plan is to start a 50/50 draw, when people will put in £1 per month.

2024/123

Parish Council Website

Cllr. A. Parkhill has continued to work on the new website. The plan is to add links to the Memorial Hall and the Church. The plan is to continue the conversation with Hugofox with regards to hosting.

2024/124

Budget/Precept

The budget has been approved. Following this and the correspondence received from Shropshire Council the figure for the precept has been agreed to be £8,242, proposed by Cllr. R. Edwards and seconded by Cllr. A. Parkhill.

2024/125

Appointment of a Lengthsman

The clerk contacted Simon to ask about him carrying out the Lengthsmen's work in the short term. The council are now actively looking for a new Lengthsmen. Posters will be put on the noticeboards and on the website. The Clerk will also chase Shropshire Council to ensure Coreley is on the list for road gritting.

2024/126

Noticeboards

Research has been carried out in regards to the council purchasing 2 new noticeboards as part of the communication issues brought forward in the Parish Action Plan, one for the car park on the edge of Clee Hill Village and a second outside the church. This notion was proposed by Cllr. T. Hilder and seconded by Cllr. V. Romeo. New noticeboards will be purchased and put up in the spring.

2024/127

Appointment of New Councillor

After a unanimous vote, Sam Houston-Mills has been co-opted as our new councillor.

2024/128

Financial Matters

Bank Mandate

Approve Payments

L Grehan Wages – November & December	£606.12
Hugofox – December & January	£71.98

Financial Summary

Balance as of 09/01/25 is £11,579.56.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th February at 7pm.