

Edgton Village AGM 22nd October 2025 minutes

Present:

John Higson (treasurer); Janet Cobb (clerk); Kate Whapham (Chair); Cllr Ruth Houghton; Wendy Buswell; Margaret & David Bill; Sue & Ian Ford'

Apologies:

Clare & Bob Reynolds; Esmie & Hal Ridge; Liz & Kim Begley; Michelle & Jon Simpson; Krista & Mike Hutchings; Julie Brett; Jean & Pierre Brayford; Paul & Fiona Harding – Jones; James & Ingrid Tozer; Alan Roberts; Gilli & Steve Hearle.

Welcome:

Chair Mrs Kate Whapham welcomed people to the meeting.

A special welcome extended to Cllr Ruth Houghton, for once again attending the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting on 21th May 2025

Accepted & agreed as accurate

Election of Officers

No volunteers' nominations received to undertake officer roles

Meeting content to continue with current officers – no objections

David Bill nominated, Sue Ford seconded

- Chair Mrs Kate Whapham
- Treasurer Mr John Higson
- Clerk Ms Janet Cobb

Chair stated that she would stay as chair for a maximum of 3 years meaning that by May 2027 a new chair would have to be found if the Parish Meeting was to continue.

Chair report:

Stockwell repair completed – special thanks to Jon Simpson & Gary. Repairs came in under budget at £431.19 – this is because Jon and Gary gave their time working for free.

Village meeting minutes to be posted on the village hall website.

Tree with Ash Dieback on the triangle opposite Beagles Corner to be taken down by Liam this winter for safety reasons. Permission granted via the Tree department at Shropshire Council.

New file purchased to contain meeting minutes from now on – book replaced.

All village meeting notes to be kept in the village hall from 2025 onwards – room made in one of the cupboards in the meeting room. Many thanks to Michelle Simpson for making room for the Parish Meeting files.

Treasurers Report

- Update on banking issues
Banking difficulties resolved with Barclays – Mr John Higson & Mrs Kate Whapham are the current signatories with Mr Paul Harding as a third person if required. System working satisfactorily at the moment.
- AGAR (The Annual Governance and Accountability Return) completed and submitted for the village meeting.
- Accounts presented are intermediary accounts as we are moving the AGM to May 2026 to tie in with year end accounts in March 2026.

- Precept raise agreed at approximately £2 per household per year to keep in line with expected costs.
- Balance of village meeting is currently £2226.41
- Most significant expenditure so far this year has been on the well & the defibrillator

Defibrillator report – see appendix

Thanks, extended to Wendy Buswell for her diligence in relation to the defibrillator which is kept in good condition on behalf of the village.

Report Cllr Ruth Houghton

- Shropshire local authority finances remain precarious and deteriorating due in part to decisions taken by the previous administration and the removal of the rural services grant from Government. This has led to the current Administration declaring a financial emergency. A Spend & Control Board and an Improvement Board have been established, the latter with an independent chair funded by the Local Govt Association (LGA)
- Social care –Adult social care continues to keep all services under review and have delivered over £34m of savings over the last 2 years. In Children's Social Care approx. 700 children are currently in care, this number is reducing as earlier intervention is helping to support families and children at a much earlier stage. Children's social care services were recently inspected by OFSTED and classed as outstanding.
- Local Government Association (LGA) are giving peer support and mentoring to the new Lib Dem administration to try to resolve the Council's finances and sort out the mess.
- Green bin charges of £56 will remain. For those wishing to keep having their green bin collected the subscription window is now open.
- Food bin waste collection services will be mandatory from 2026
- Good feedback received from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Shropshire Association of Local Council conference organised by Middle Marches CLT.
Workbook link here <https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/nature-recovery-town-parish-councils/>
- All age Autism Strategy out for consultation : <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2025/09/draft-all-age-autism-strategy-for-public-consultation/>
- 11,000 potholes filled
- Planning consultation <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2025/10/views-sought-on-three-draft-design-guidance-documents/>
- Local Plan rejected by Gov – leading to surge in housebuilder applications with Neighbourhood plans taking on increased importance to inform local planning decisions.
- Shropshire Local <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/shropshire-local-shrewsbury/>
Service available at Enterprise House in Bishops' Castle

Village issues

- Concerns raised over speeding and possible drink driving through the village based on the number of empty alcohol cans picked up by locals – To invite Shaun Cullis to the meeting in May 2026.

Ruth noted and will find out what the Highways process is to help reduce speeding.

- Thanks, noted for contribution towards Sparc costs from Edgton Village
- Blocked drains reported via Fix My Street by Parish Clerk – helpful if everyone reports the same issue <https://www.fixmystreet.com/report/8060417>
- Issue raised with Ruth about loss of telephone connections
- Ruth notified that the burnt out car still hasn't been removed
- Thanks given to all who helped clear fallen Oak tree earlier this month
- Village talks planned – see appendix
- New notice board based on Lydbury North example £1200 – suggest 50/50 split with village hall
- Roy brought a map of the parish for people to look at.

Date of AGM 13th May 2026

Note a village meeting may be called anytime by request to the officers.