

Edgton Village AGM 27th May 2026

Present:

John Higson (treasurer); Janet Cobb (clerk); Kate Whapham (Chair); Cllr Ruth Houghton; Liz & Kim Begley
Krista & Mike Hutchings; Michelle Simpson; Fiona Harding – Jones; Roy Reynolds; Katie Nelson

Apologies:

Clare & Bob Reynolds; Esmie & Hal Ridge; Jon Simpson; Jean & Pierre Brayford; Paul Harding – Jones;
James & Ingrid Tozer; Alan Roberts; Gilli & Steve Hearle; Wendy Buswell; Margaret & David Bill; Sue & Ian
Ford, Peter Whapham

Welcome:

Chair Mrs Kate Whapham welcomed people to the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting on 22nd October 2025

Accepted & agreed as accurate.

Janet to contact PC Shaun Cullis to invite to next meeting on 21st October 2026.

Election of Officers

No volunteers' nominations received to undertake officer roles

Meeting content to continue with current officers – no objections, unanimous agreement to continue with present officers.

Janet informed the meeting that John Higson had been fulfilling the treasurer role for 11 years, Janet the Clerk role 10 years and Kate was in her second year and only willing to fulfil this role for 3 years in total so the village needs to think about future volunteers to undertake all three roles by May 2027.

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

Chair report:

Welcome to this meeting and many thanks to Ruth Houghton our Shropshire Councillor for coming to update us on what is happening at county level.

Many thanks to all who braved some wet weather, in February, to help clear dumped rubbish from the valley next to the lane to Horderley. After Janet had spent a lot of time being sent round various council departments it was very good to have some 'community action' to sort the problem.

I went on a zoom call organised by SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils) to hear from BT about the changes to the Openreach telephone network. The Digital Switchover will be completed by 31st January 2027. The copper wire system will be dismantled and our phone network will be provided through a router. My understanding is that landline numbers will only be supported by BT and EE so, if you want to keep your landline number, you will need to switch to their new digital system.

I think this is relevant in our village as it has such a poor mobile signal. As an example we have swapped to BT and all went well. Included in our switchover is a battery backup which means that if the power goes off we should still be connected. There are options in place for the new system to support vulnerable people who rely on a phone connection. If anyone knows of someone who might need guiding through this change let us know and we could also ask BT to come and talk to us. You should also have contact from your phone supplier about these changes.

Finally, I asked Chris about the village noticeboard and it is a work in progress and should be with us soon! The Parish Meeting has agreed to pay half the costs totalling £500.

Treasurers Report

- Barclays Bank paid £25 compensation to village meeting accounts.
- Significant expense's this financial year: Repairs to the village well ; defibrillator costs & insurance.
- Precept raise to be decided at the next meeting in October.
- Balance of village meeting is currently £1754.41 – some monies have come into the Village Account after March 2026.
- Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust Grant activities completed and final payment received and will show on April 2026 – March 2027 accounts.

Defibrillator report – see report from Wendy

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

DEFIBRILLATOR STATUS SUMMARY - 13/5/26

Weekly checks continue, and also monthly registration with The Circuit (National Defibrillator Network). There have been no concerns with function recently. Servicing was carried out in July 2025 by Seal Calibration. The machine passed all the engineer's tests. Both sets of pads (active and spares) were replaced in September 2025 (expiry May 2028). The battery was replaced in May 2025 (expiry November 2028).

Power Cut: During the heavy snowfall of early January there was a power cut to the village hall (9/1/26) which lasted for several days. This inactivated the protective cabinet for the defibrillator, but not the machine itself. Follow - up checking with restored power showed that all was well – all indicators showed full function.

Paul Harding-Jones kindly came to our house to inform me of this power cut. Thank you to Paul on behalf of everyone for this.

Wendy Buswell
Edgton Village Circuit Guardian.

Report Cllr Ruth Houghton Annual Report - Edgton 2026

This year has been challenging since being elected as the Administration at Shropshire Council and as portfolio holder for social care.

The finances at Shropshire Council were and still are in a difficult position, this is especially true of the revenue. It has been regrettable but inevitable that a council tax increase was made of nearly 9% and that borrowing has had to be implemented of over a £100m from Government to avoid the appointment of Commissioners. The Government settlement in December last year did not help either with the removal of the rural aspect of the grant.

This means that this is a year of stabilising the financial position and services and of making difficult decisions to reduce costs which in some instances will result in some non-statutory services ceasing and others reducing or being delivered differently. Current issues are the changes to bus services and the potential closure of a day service in Ludlow and another in Shrewsbury.

Despite this though there has been some progress locally. The SpArC Leisure centre and improvements to the swimming pool are progressing well with an opening date of late June / early July. Shropshire Council were able to commit £600k of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and £500k of capital which alongside the £250k raised by the community and a large decarbonisation grant has meant that the works

to make the centre more sustainable have progressed. The centre will be cheaper and more cost effective to operate going forward. On behalf of the Trustees and the wider community I would like to thank the Parish Council for their contribution to SpArC.

Library services continue to be kept under review, including the mobile library. The library at Bishop's Castle continues to remain open with some staffing changes, volunteer support on a Saturday morning and support from the Friends group through their regular coffee mornings. The Friends supply prizes for the summer reading challenge and have recently purchased musical instruments toddler rhyme time. Enterprise House who provides the library services under contract to Shropshire Council have recently become a community interest company which means they can now apply for grants to enhance local service provision.

The level of service from Kier in relation to Highways matters continues to be of concern and this is particularly evident in the works undertaken in the area, the number of potholes across the Parish and damaged and broken signs. I am continuing to pursue all of these and would urge everyone to keep reporting issues on fix my street. Local roads are now being repaired by local contractors managed in house.

Housing development in the catchment area of the Clun valley is no further forward due to delays by Natural England and the Environment Agency. This desperately needs to be resolved in order to meet local needs housing.

I would like to acknowledge the work that has, and continues to be done in relation to nature recovery in and around Edgton. There are some really good examples such as barn owl boxes, restoring verges etc which can be replicated elsewhere. Lydbury North have recently set up a small parish council sub group on this.

Thank you all for your support over the year and I will continue to work hard and fight for our local services.

Village issues

- Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) has completed the 3 Parish Project (3Ps) report here <https://www.restoringshropshirevergesproject.org.uk/3ps-project-report>
This was a crowd funded project covering Hope Bowdler, Bushmoor and All Stretton.
RSVP applied for additional funding to extend this to 6 Parishes including Edgton, Lydbury North and Bishop's Castle forming a 6P cluster.
More information to follow as the project plan develops but initial plan is to restore the central triangle in the village to a flower rich mini meadow. Kate & Janet to lead on this initiative.
- Short discussion on nature recovery, importance of wild flowers on roadside verges, insect collapse and numbers of pheasants released to be shot and the damage done to wildlife by these non-native birds.
- Agreement to contribute £40 from the parish precept to Lydbury North to support continued use of the local newsletter by Edgton.
- Trovatori event planned at the village hall to be advertised asap, 27th June at the Village Hall – Tickets £15 <https://trovatori.com/edgton-village-hall-concert>
- Katie Nelson - Paramedic offered CPR & First aid training to the village, gratefully received and dates to be organised.
- Katie also suggested construction of an insect house in the village – Kate and Katie to take this very good idea forward.
- Moth surveys available to anyone in the village using our village Moth Trap – contact Kate for details

Date of next meeting Wednesday 21st October, 2026, Edgton Village Hall @ 6.30pm

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