

Edgton Parish Meeting - 23rd September 2026

Present: John Higson; Kate Whapham; Alan Roberts & Kate, David & Margaret Bill, James Tozer, Ian Ford, Mike & Krista Hutchings, Jon & Michelle Simpson, Alicia Hancer, Monica & Ellis Round, Clare Reynolds, Hal Ridge, Gilli Coston; Liz & Kim Begley; Cllr Ruth Houghton, Jonathan Eastwood – Shrop Council traffic manager.

Apologies: Jean & Pierre Brayford, Fiona & Paul Harding-Jones, Chris & Diane Harris, Janet Cobb, Peter Whapham, Sue Ford, Martin & Tanis Jordan, Wendy Buswell

Chair welcome:

Chair Mrs Kate Whapham welcomed people to the meeting & explained Parish Clerk was unwell so unable to attend this meeting.

Priority given to Ruth Houghton & Jonathan Eastwood to speak first

Ruth Houghton:

- **SPARC** swimming pool opened on 17th July and has had good daily use during the summer. Next project is to upgrade the theatre with new seating and lighting. The first fundraiser is on 16th October - Polar Journey from local wildlife photographer Ben Osborne. Ticket information via Enterprise House.
<https://www.sparctheatre.co.uk/event/polar-journeys-a-talk-by-ben-osborne/>
- Shropshire Council - slightly better news might only need 90M of the 120M loan from central government this year. There is a report on how the council got into such dire financial difficulties presented to the next council meeting and it will have some recommendations for future planning.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shropshire-council-external-assurance-review-2026-27>
- The closure of Meole Brace Park & Ride might be paused but the council cannot afford to fund all three P&R in Shrewsbury and Meole Brace is the one least used.
- The new community bus replacement that connects local villages and goes to Ludlow is being quite well supported. You have to book in advance but more people are using it than were using the bus it replaces.

Jonathan Eastwood - Shropshire Council Traffic Engineering Manager

- Villagers raised a number of concerns about traffic speeding through the village and the near misses that have occurred in recent months. Delivery vans are of particular concern and traffic created by people on diversion routes.

Jonathan said that various criteria need to be met for new traffic calming measures and there had been no reported accidents in Edgton. He is fairly new to his role and is very keen to hear local concerns. He cannot promise anything but is open to developing a plan and to help the process the village needs to identify the most dangerous points on local roads. A lively discussion ended with a commitment to carry out a 'Speed Limit Evaluation' from Jonathan

Suggestions:

- Perhaps diversion routes need information about how narrow the lanes are.
- Village signs need to be nearer the centre of the village
- Cutting grass at junctions
- Having a safety awareness day to inform our young people of the dangers of the local roads.
- Shropshire Council do run safety awareness courses usually through schools but might be possible
- Pre-emptive work to stop use of our lanes getting worse
- Any signage needs to be appropriate to the data
- There is the possibility of parishes part funding signs
- Our rural setting doesn't want to be overwhelmed with signs

Action:

Produce a map to send to Jonathan showing the places that give greatest concern – volunteer is needed to take this forward.

Village agenda

Minutes: Agreed as correct record of last meeting

Matters arising:

Thanks to the Village Hall committee for organising and putting up the new notice board, already well used and Parish Meeting contribution of £500 has been paid.

Edgton village paid a contribution to the LN newsletter of £40 for 2026 – to be discussed at the next meeting in 2027 whether to continue payments.

Chairs report:

Barn owl boxes checked and no owls in the village one although evidence of overwintering but there were 3 owlets in the box at Monica and Ellis, Gilli's yet to be checked by Shropshire Barn Owl group in 2026.

Many thanks to those who helped cut back the triangle. We have wildflower plugs to plant - violet, field scabious, autumn hawk bit, lady's smock. If you have any sites let Kate know.

Details of Play Street circulated - www.playingout.net/play-streets . Janet has downloaded the starter information if anyone is interested in pursuing this.

Motion - Enhancing Resilience and Nature Recovery in Shropshire

The meeting voted for this motion with an amendment to 3. on This Council Resolves

"To call upon SALC to collaborate with partners on the ground and Shropshire Council to utilise and distribute one of the practical Nature and Resilience Toolkits available for parish and town councils and Communities to use"

The concern being that the meeting didn't want money waste on producing guidelines that already exist.

The meeting had concerns about fire emergency, developing local resilience with regard to food and water, particularly as several homes rely on water from bore holes.

Treasurers report:

Not much to report, payments up to date. The village meeting bank accounts currently £2928.14

The meeting agreed to a precept increase of £2.50 per household, noting that the total varies depending on which band your house in.

Report on Defibrillator:

Many thanks were minuted for Wendy's continuing work on regular checks of the VH defibrillator - full report attached. The need to replace Wendy as defibrillator guardian was raised.

Footpath update:

As yet nothing back from Shropshire Council over concerns raised about a diverted footpath in the village.

We have heard back about the new stile. Landowners have a legal duty to provide access for pedestrians along a public footpath but not dogs. Barbed wire has to be removed from the stile and our council rep will check if there are guidelines as to the width of a stile step. It can be possible to arrange to have kissing gates installed as part of the Easier Access Policy but this would require agreement from the landowners and it was noted that you would have to do something about the stile before this one as well.

Agreed to consider a plan and contact the landowners.

Any other business:

David Bill thanked those who had cleared the road when we had the storm during the winter and for cutting the triangle.

Golden lime has a dead branch - contact Liam for advice. Clare Reynolds raised the issue of replacing the fence around the tree which hasn't been there for about a decade There wasn't very much support for this measure but Clare was asked to find photographs that show what it looked like so the meeting can give it proper consideration.

Clearance of ditches raised by Alan Roberts - the water that comes down the back road has eroded the road surface and now doesn't go down the drain. Let Fix my Street <https://improvingyourroads.shropshire.gov.uk/> know and remind Shropshire Council that our drains need clearing out particularly past the well and the lane to Horderley.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Date of next planned meeting is the AGM 26th May 2027