

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Llanyblodwel Parish Council held on Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Llanyblodwel and Porthywaen Memorial Institute.

Present: Cllr A R Beckett, Cllr D Counsell, Cllr B Cross, Cllr P Shellard, Cllr B Edwards, Cllr K Bell, Cllr T Lewis.

In attendance: The Clerk (Amy Jones). 2 members of the public. Shropshire Councillor Duncan Borrowman.

MINUTES

54.25 Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Hollie Dixon and Cllr N Williams. Apologies for absence were noted and **ACCEPTED**.

55.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. **None declared**.

b) To consider applications for dispensation. **None received**.

56.25 Public Participation Session

A period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak on any items on the agenda.

No matters raised.

57.25 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th July 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th July 2025 and a copy was signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

58.25 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions, Updates and Appeals – To note

I. **Reference:** 25/02163/CPE (validated: 13/06/2025)

Address: Ty Cerrig, Sweeney, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9EZ

Proposal: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for occupation of dwelling in breach of an agricultural occupancy condition attached to planning permission OS/06/14588/OUT

Decision: Certificate – Lawful

NOTED.

b) **Planning Applications for consideration** (Please view Shropshire Council Planning Register online prior to the meeting.

II. **Reference:** None received.

c) **Consider Planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and are included on Shropshire Council's website. None received.**

d) The Yard ([24/03570/FUL](#)) – Consider if the development that has been built is in line with the plans that were granted permission. Having visited the site and reviewed the approved plans, there were no issues or concerns raised by Councillors. **RESOLVED** not to progress this matter further.

59.25 Reports – To consider

a. Clerk's Report

Matter reported to Clerk / matters ongoing / update	Action Taken
Llynclys Crossroads Speed concerns Bryn Melyn to Llynclys crossroads	Awaiting response from SC regarding project cost before

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

<p>Possibility of improved signage to warn motorists of children at play area, narrow bridge and elderly residents crossing road, possibly reduce speed to 30mph.</p> <p>Highways England – awaiting an update following the announcement that they have submitted a request to fund a reduced speed limit and the installation of a speed camera.</p>	<p>being able to pursue alternative avenues for funding the signs. Followed up but no response. Passed to Shropshire Councillor to follow up.</p> <p>On-going.</p>
<p>Turner’s Lane A site meeting took place on 16.08.23 with The Clerk, Cllr Hunt, a Highways Technician, Cllr Counsell and a resident. The source of the issue is on Llyncllys Hill which is owned by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Shropshire Council to liaise with them to discuss a possible solution as when the water reaches Turner’s Lane and runs down the lane, it becomes a Highways issue. SC to also liaise with ROW as the Bridleway is now barely rideable. Update 03.10.24 - have spoken to the Wildlife Trust and residents effected and have agreed a way forward. Funding available and works are due to be implemented. No indication of start date can yet be given.</p>	<p>On-going.</p> <p>Work has now taken place but issue not improved.</p> <p>Passed to Shropshire Councillor to follow up.</p>
<p>Defibrillators – no issues to report.</p>	<p>To note.</p>
<p>Nantmawr – Speed Limit Both Llanyblodwel and ORPC have indicated to Shropshire Council that the implementation of a speed limit through Nantmawr would have a high impact. Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer to now carry out their own impact assessment and report back to parish council on the next steps (e.g. if an ATC is required).</p>	<p>On-going. Followed up with Highways 24.02.25. No response. Requested an update 14.07.25. No response. Passed to Shropshire Councillor to follow up – Sept 25.</p>
<p>Llanyblodwel Bridge No update regarding whether the width restriction is to be made permanent.</p>	<p>Passed to Shropshire Councillor to follow up – Sept 25.</p>
<p>Closed Churchyards Working Group to be set up in Autumn to cut back the overgrowth</p>	<p>Date arranged.</p>

b. Councillor Reports *(Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas)*

- Missing sign and lines at Llansantffraid Junction – logged on Fix my Street.
- Footpath / Pavement through Porthywaen along A495 – not accessible – logged on Fix my Street.
- Highways England – pavement over the bridge at Llyncllys – from railway bridge to the Grove. Overgrown and inaccessible – log on the National Highways Fix my Street portal.

c. Police Report

There were no reports that concern any of the parish priorities reported to the police over the month of August. Therefore, a written report has not been provided. **NOTED.** It was reported by Hall Trustees that there has been some ASB at the Hall – practicing with an air rifle, rubbish etc – Clerk to pass this onto the SNT.

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

d. Shropshire Councillor Report

Cllr Duncan Borrowman delivered the following report:

Finance

Shropshire Council is now facing the prospect of declaring a “financial emergency” as it battles a projected overspend of more than £35m by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. Without urgent action, the authority risks triggering a Section 114 notice, which would effectively hand control of the council’s finances to government-appointed commissioners. That would result in deep cuts to local services and take years to recover from. The current administration has stressed that it has already taken steps to reduce spending, but far more drastic measures are now needed to balance the books by March. Stopping all non-essential spending is the only way to prevent financial collapse and safeguard Shropshire’s future.

It must be made clear; however, that this crisis is not of the current administration’s making but rather the result of two decades of financial mismanagement under the previous administration. The new administration is working urgently to stabilise finances, but the damage caused by two decades of failed budgets means Shropshire faces a long and difficult road to recovery.

Highways

Resurfacing work is underway on ten stretches of public footpaths across the county, targeting those most in need of repair. I am still having a couple of major battles, one of which looks like it could be solved soon, the other is looking less likely because of the financial situation. Highways Adoptions have taken up lots of my time and when I get an answer it is always buying more time. After exerting extensive pressure the Cabinet Members for Highways and Planning met with the most senior highways officer. It has become apparent that there are 240 highway adoptions involving appx. 3000 houses that have been stuck in the process for up to 10 years. They have been told that a “bold” move is in process to clear them all. We will wait and see. Many residents of rural lanes have complained to me about the lack of sweeping, I can’t see the situation with that improving in the current financial situation.

Nature Recovery Strategy

The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin has now been published for consultation. It sets out county-wide priorities and includes an interactive map to highlight where action will most benefit wildlife, water, soil and climate. Residents, landowners and community groups are encouraged to explore the proposals and contribute their insight

Transformation & Improvement Committee

The Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee is overseeing council performance and governance. Its initial priorities include a review of the Shropshire Partnership, scrutiny and committee structures, the process for distributing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and the Council’s budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, with recommendations on some areas expected in November.

Children’s Services

Ofsted judged Shropshire’s Children’s Social Care as Outstanding following its July 2025 inspection, a result that reflects the dedication and hard work of the council’s social work

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

teams. The council's Virtual School will also be celebrating the achievements of looked-after students at a special event on 20 September 2025.

Education & Schools

The new academic year has started with a campaign to support attendance, with Shropshire's attendance rate already above the national average at 93.3%. Efforts are also underway to increase free school meal uptake, which can save families over £495 per child per year, with Shropshire Local offering help with applications. Work continues with Academy Trusts to raise standards across the county, and additional staff have been recruited to reduce the backlog of SEND assessments.

Youth Services

Shropshire has been chosen as one of just 12 councils nationally to take part in a government-funded pilot to rebuild more inclusive, youth-led provision. The pilot will run through 2025/26 with £8m of funding and will support the transformation of youth services across the county.

NOTED.

60.25

Finance

a) To approve the following payments. **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Cheque No/BACS ref	Payee	Details	Amount (inc VAT)
Direct	Unity Trust	Bank charges – 1/7/25-31.7.25 (paid 31.08.25)	£6.00
11	A Jones	Clerks Salary (9 weeks), backdated pay, mileage, HOA	£774.56
12	HMRC	PAYE Payments and NI	£266.82
13	Webhosting UK COM Ltd	Website hosting / CPanel	£62.81
14	Highline Electrical	VAS realignment S/Light Repairs – 3 x Dolgoch	£86.40 £302.40
15	Signs of Cheshire Ltd	Noticeboard – Dolgoch	£816.00
DD	Shropshire Council	S/Light Electricity (2 nd Quarter)	£182.38
Direct	Unity Trust	Bank Charges – 1.8.25-31.8.25 (to be paid 30.09.25)	£6.00
300011	Cefnblodwel Methodist Church	Room Hire – July Meeting	£40.00

b) To note income received. None received.

c) To approve the bank reconciliation up to and including 31.08.25. **APPROVED.**

d) **Internal Controls** – To note that Cllr Counsell will inspect the accounts at the end of the 2nd Quarter. **NOTED.**

e) **Exercise of Public Rights** – To note the inspection period was 3rd June – 14th July 2025 and the notice was published accordingly. To note there were no requests during this period to view the accounts. **NOTED**

f) **Notification of Exempt Status 24/25 Accounting Year** – To note that this has been logged with the External Auditor (email confirmation received). **NOTED**

g) **Neighbourhood Fund** – Complete and Sign the Annual Report. **RESOLVED** to sign.

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

- h) **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26** – To note this has been applied to this salary payment and a backdated payment made to 1st April. **NOTED**

61.25

Asset Management / Parish Maintenance / Parish Matters

- a) **Closed Churchyards Wall repairs** – Receive an update on the ordered work (Items 5 and 6). The Clerk reported that the work has now commenced on the back wall. The working party reported on their recent working group session at Llanyblodwel Church. They cut back ivy on the wall behind Rev. Parkers Grave and cut back shrubs. The Working Group were thanked for their hard work. Request that a quote be provided for the wall that is now exposed, following the removal of the ivy.
- b) **Play Equipment, Bryn Melyn** – To receive an update on funding applications and Terms of the Agreement with Shropshire Council to install the Equipment in the Play Area at Bryn Melyn.
The Clerk reported that the funding application has now been made to The National Lottery to fully fund the multiclimber and the two spring riders (£13.5k) and the PC will fund the other piece of equipment using Neighbourhood Fund (£7.5k). It was noted that the PC now need to await the outcome of this application.

The following Terms and Conditions put forward by Shropshire Council Conditions were noted and **AGREED**:

List of equipment included in this agreement

- Steel Vyrnwy Multiplay Climber
- Steel Basket and Double Flat Seat Swings
- Spring Sheep
- Spring Duck

Shropshire Council, as the organisation responsible for the play area identified in this agreement, is happy for this project to proceed and hereby grants permission to Llanyblodwel Parish Council to include additional items of equipment at Brynmelyn Play Area, subject to the following conditions:

- **Exclusion of Shropshire Council Responsibilities**

Shropshire Council accepts no responsibility or liability for the replacement of the equipment listed within this agreement and confirms that it will undertake routine maintenance and inspections of the equipment listed.

- **Responsibility of Llanyblodwel Parish Council**

All responsibility for the replacement of equipment listed within this agreement should any item become damaged beyond repair shall rest solely with Llanyblodwel Parish Council or its appointed contractors.

- **Right to Remove or Undertake Works**

Shropshire Council reserves the right to carry out works on the land, including the removal or relocation of equipment, if required for operational, environmental, safety, or access reasons.

- **Compliance with Regulations**

All installation works must comply with relevant statutory requirements, and best practice guidance.

By proceeding with the installation, Llanyblodwel Parish Council confirms acceptance of and agreement to these terms.

- c) **Noticeboards** – To note that the new noticeboard has been received and will be paid for from Neighbourhood Fund (minute 39.c.25 refers). Receive an update on installation.

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

The Clerk reported that we are waiting on a quote for installation from Evans Construction. Minute 50.c refers - it was **RESOLVED** to keep the board in the same location and delegate the clerk authority to install the board within a budget of £500.00.

- d) **Access off Coopers Lane** – Discuss the concerns raised by residents regarding access to Stoney/Sam's Lane (unadopted). The issues that the big concrete blocks placed in the passing bag on Coopers Lane were raised and passed to Cllr Borrowman to follow up with Officers at Shropshire Council. Cllr Borrowman to report back on the outcome of discussions.
- e) **Rights of Way** – Discuss a proposal to support with the upkeep and accessibility of Rights of Way in the Parish. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk seek information from the Rights of Way on the Parish Paths Partnership and liaise with the residents on this.
- f) **Freedom Fibre** – Receive an update following the termination of contracts awarded by Building Digital UK (BDUK) to Freedom Fibre.

The Clerk provided the following update:

Freedom Fibre were contracted by BDUK to create a new full-fibre network available to 12,000 North Shropshire homes. However, Freedom Fibre handed back their contract in June, with just 3,500 properties able to access the new network. Frustratingly the tender for a replacement provider hasn't yet been completed. Helen Morgan voiced her concerns about this delay and called for the process to be speeded up as a matter of urgency. Meanwhile BDUK said they are keen to make use of any leftover infrastructure so if there is any in your area that Freedom Fibre have left behind then please let Helen Morgan know.

NOTED and the Council await further information on this.

g) **Phoneboxes**

- a. Receive an update on the adoption of the Nantmawr phonebox.
The Clerk reported that, despite completing all paperwork required and responding within the assigned deadlines to apply to adopt the phonebox in Nantmawr, BT removed the Kiosk in July. Shropshire Council are following this up as the consultation was through them. ORPC have been informed.
- b. Receive an update on repairs to the Red Phonebox Llanyblodwel. Cllr Cross reported on the recent refurbishment and the Community Group is currently researching the possibility of a solar powered defib cabinet.

62.25

Parish Council Administration

- a) Discuss the Parish Council website and email and consider a move to an authority owned domain. Consider quotes and the cost implications with building a new website and switching to a new domain and email provider. (Reference: Practitioners Guide 2025).
The quotes included in Cllr Bells report were considered and it **RESOLVED** to accept quote option b from Parish-Online. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the funding to be taken from the Misc budget in this financial year and then budgeted for accordingly in 2026/27.
The following domain name was **AGREED**: www.llanyblodwelparishcouncil.gov.uk
- b) IT Policy – Consider Adoption of the Draft Policy.
The Clerk reported that she has been on several training sessions and webinars relating to Assertion 10 of the Practitioners Guide 2025/26 and before the Council can adopt such a policy, a data audit needs to be carried out and processes need to be put in place. It was **RESOLVED** to defer adoption of the IT Policy until the new website and email systems are in place and the Clerk has produced a draft Policy specific to the Parish Council's working practices. Cllr Bell to support the Clerk with this.
- c) Shropshire Council – Partnership Working – Receive a report from Cllr Beckett who attended the Conference on behalf of the Parish Council. Discuss the Council's previous response to the survey. Consider the Memorandum of Understanding.

Llanyblodwel Parish Council

Cllr Beckett provided a resume of the Conference. 60 councils had responded to the survey with a positive outlook overall. There is the possibility of training being provided to support Town and Parish Councils who may be considering taking on additional services. The issue for smaller parishes is understanding the areas that could be taken on and the cost implication of this. It was **RESOLVED** to sign the MOU and to consider areas that the Parish Council might be interested in taking on moving forward.

63.25

Correspondence - To note and consider (where stated):

- a. SALC and NALC Newsletters and Bulletins.
- b. PPC Newsletters
- c. SALC – Training Events 2025
- d. Police and Crime Commissioner – Town and Parish Council Survey – To consider a response – **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be delegated responsibility to respond.
- e. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Conference 3rd October – It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Cross attend the conference.
- f. Launch of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation – Consider response to Consultation.
- g. Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation – Mapping update
It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Cross attend the Conference. Prior to this, the Council do not feel they can respond to the Consultation.
- h. Update from the Leader of Shropshire Council
- i. Powys County Council - Powys Replacement LDP (2022-2037) - Notification of Consultation - Meeting Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs
- j. SALC AGM – discuss attendance. Request a copy of the minutes as unfortunately no one is available to attend the AGM.

64.25

Remembrance Sunday

Discuss arrangements.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Edwards attend the Sunday Service at Morton and Cllr Shellard lay the Wreath at the Institute on 11th November. Clerk to order 2 Wreaths.

65.25

Next Meeting

To note that the date and time of the next meeting.

Thursday 20th November – 7.30pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.16