

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF DITTON PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm in small hall of the village hall Ditton
Priors.**

1. Public Session.

Three members of the public were present. They attended to request for support for the planning application 25/04734/FUL. A presentation about the project was given including costs, reasons for the proposed site and reason for planning application rather than a faculty.

2. Acceptance of apologies.

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Owen and Howells. Present Councillors Lowe, Barton-Smith, Caines, Barker, Davis, Gregory and Fox. Also present Shropshire Councillor Hollyhead.

3. Dispensations:

None.

4. Shropshire Council Report. Standing orders remained suspended for this item.

Shropshire Councillor Hollyhead reported that the Reform UK opposition group on Shropshire Council were formally concerned the devolution of services to Parish and Town Councils is an alternative way of increasing the council tax residents pay. The group are not recommending that Parish and Town Councils do not sign the memorandum of understanding until there is some indication of what is being offered and at what cost. He took notes of various potholes and drainage issues withing the parish. Clerk to arrange a meeting regarding potholes and drainage. He also mentioned the Shropshire national landscape organization has issued its next 5 year report. He also reported the 20mph speed limit near Brown Clee school is being proposed. No date yet for consultation. He discussed the ongoing Severn Trent Water bursts along Derrington Road. It has been totaled up to approx 40 bursts in the last 3 years.

It was RESOLVED to re instate standing orders.

5. Approve the minutes of the meeting being held on 11TH December Thursday 2025.

It was RESOLVED to sign and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2025.

6. Roads:

a. Any recent problems. Clerk reported she has already reported the condition of Derrington Road. Concerns were raised about the amount of water bursts and when repaired the blocking of Bent Lane by STW vans re starting the system from the STW compound. Clerk to email STW regarding the issues.

b. Road closures.

- South Road 26th January 2026. (National Grid)
- B4364 Neenton -Chetton 22nd February 2025
- Derrington to Monkhopton 16th February – 20th February STW maintenance work.
- 23rd March 2026 Ashfield Road replacement of decayed wooden pole BT Openreach.
- 28th January – 10th February 2026 Beaconhill to Monkhopton
- 26th February -27th February 2026 Ashfield Road STW.

7. Highway Maintenance:

a. Restoring Shropshire's Verges. Next step. Clerk to arrange a presentation.

8. Defibrillators:

Councillor Barton Smith presented the replaced pads to clerk for first responders.

9. Planning:

Standing Orders were suspended to allow interaction with the members of the public. It was RESOLVED to discuss this item at the beginning of the agenda.

a. New Applications:

25/04734/FUL St John The Baptist Church Church Road Ditton Priors. Proposed new accessible toilet to the south porch and new water and drainage connections. It was RESOLVED to support this planning application.

b. Decisions:

- 25/03412/PAPD Proposed Residential Conversion of Agric Building Middleton Priors. **Appeal Allowed.** Noted.
- 25/04522/TCA The Vicarage Church Road Ditton Priors. Various tree works. **No Objection.** Noted.
- 25/03753/FUL Proposed Residential Dwelling SE of Brown Clee Road Middleton Priors Bridgnorth. Conversion and Linking of two existing stone barns to create a new detached residential dwelling and associated external works (self build scheme). **Grant full planning permission.**

c. The next local plan 2025-2045. Details of the timetable for the emerging local plan were presented. Noted.

d. Any urgent planning matters. None.

10. Finance:

a. Invoices to pay. It was RESOLVED to pay the following invoices:

1. Mrs. J Madeley £601.22fpo
2. Pension Shropshire Council £256.04 fpo
3. Water plus £7.99 dd
4. Horizon Focus £17.99 fpo
5. Shropshire Council £271.60 (street lighting).
6. Shropshire Council £125.00 (election expenses).
7. SALC £30.00
8. Ditton Priors village hall

b. Bank Reconciliation. Dec

Bank reconciliation at 31 March 2025

	£	Dec-25
Balance b/f 31.03.25	14,020.08	
receipts	24,826.38	
	38,846.46	
payments		26162.90
	12,683.56	
Balances at 30.4.25		
Current account	2,683.76	
Deposit	9999.80	
95 day notice account		
Total	12,683.56	
Total	12,683.56	

Clerk was asked to leave the room.

c. Approve the budget for year ended 31.3.27

Clerk presented the budget. It was RESOLVED to accept the budget with slight amendment to grants.

Clerk returned

d. Approve precept.

Clerk recommended a precept of £30000.00 despite this recommendation and explanation for the need to raise the amount to cover a sum of money for reserves and the presented budget. Clerk reminded the Parish council two years the internal audit report had pointed out the lack of reserves was unacceptable and the clerk's hours were insufficient to fulfill her duties. It was RESOLVED to raise a precept of £25700.00.

e. Shropshire County Pension Fund review.

It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendation.

f. VAT return submitted.

Clerk has reclaimed VAT to December 2025.

11. Allotments.

No update.

12. update regarding devolution pilots.

a. (two documents) noted.

b. Clerk's attendance at a working party event about services. Clerk explained she had represented the parish and the working party. A report was included with the agenda. Clerk to query the cost of subsidized bus services.

13. Consider signing memorandum of understanding.

It was RESOLVED to defer the decision until more is known.

14. Assertion 10 of external audit

- Councillor email addresses. It was RESOLVED to use the existing domain name in the councillor email addresses.
- Website. The existing website complies with the transparency code and accessibility legislation.
- Data Controller (ie clerk). It was RESOLVED to appoint clerk as data controller officer.

15. Consider IT Policy.

Clerk to liaise with Councillor Gregory.

16. Correspondence.

- West Mercia SNT request for top three priorities. Noted.

17. Item at Chair's discretion. Cllr Davis will remove ivy from the water fountain.

Councillor Barton Smith is the new leader of the 3 p group and confirms insurance is provided by Shropshire Council.

18. Date of next scheduled meeting Thursday 12th February 2026 . The meeting was declared closed at 9.35pm.

