

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on 20th November 2025

Present: Cllrs Phil Parker (Chair), Martin Finch, Viv de Haan, Emma Gatehouse, Robin Gatehouse, Jenna Hossbach, Phil Jones, Corin Redman and Peter Williams. **In Attendance:** Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

1. **Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None
3. **Public involvement session:** No members of the public were present.
4. **Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 18th September 2025:**
item 11 was changed to include the dangers of entering the Stanton Lacy road from the B4365. The minutes were then signed by the chair as a correct record.
5. **Reports From Representatives:**
 - 5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford reported that the council finances are still very stretched and the leaders are negotiating a loan from the government of £60 million to cover the period until March. If no loan is forthcoming the council will have to declare itself bankrupt. A medium-term spending plan identified overspend in adult and children's social care and taxi's (mainly transporting children to schools) which are all statutory services so making spending reductions difficult. An independent advisory board is being set up to manage the council finances. Highways have filled 30,000 potholes in the last 12 months. Cllr Stanford has requested a site meeting with Shropshire Highways Traffic Engineer to look at the issues on the B4368 and B4365. Those Parish Council's which have signed the Memorandum of Understanding are hoping that it improves lines of communications with Shropshire Council. A Community and Family Hub is now based at Ludlow Library.
 - 5.2. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Phil Jones has resigned from the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Hossbach was elected as the new representative. She reported that the Committee meeting on the 18th November was poorly attended and they are concerned that there are not enough people on the committee and are seeking volunteers to join them. From January they will have to reduce the number of events as the present team are struggling to give the time required. Councillors discussed the possibility of Stanton Lacy Parish Council becoming the sole trustee of the Village Hall.
RESOLVED: that the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council will consider this matter and it will be included in the agenda in March 2025.
 - 5.3. Louisa Powell Almshouses – Cllr Peter Williams reported that all of the houses are occupied. There was some expenditure on clearing a house after an occupant had vacated, but there was not expected to be any further significant expenditure as all four houses were now up to standard.
6. **Consider the Response from the West Midlands Ambulance Service Re: Complaint - The delay in an ambulance arriving following a 999 call in December 2024:** The Ambulance Service have audited the process following the 999 call and confirmed that it had been processed correctly and in 90% of cases an ambulance should have arrived within 40 minutes. However, at the time over 200 patients were waiting for help across the region and no ambulance was available. Eventually an ambulance arrived 4 hours after the initial 999 call. The cause of the shortage of ambulances was due to them not being able to hand over patients at hospital, sometimes having to wait up to 7 hours. The Ambulance Service are planning more

Copies of the agenda and minutes are available from the Clerk, Heather Coonick:

email: stantonlacypc@gmail.com Tel: 07817607355 or on the website: www.stantonlacy-pc.gov.uk

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operational hours to try to reduce the time waiting for an ambulance and they wished to convey their apologies to the family for any upset caused. Cllr Emma Gatehouse suggested that the Winter Warmer events were a good time to ensure that parishioners know their What3Words which help the ambulance service locate their properties.

7. Finance:

7.1. Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2026-27:

RESOLVED: to appoint Ms Tavi Meeson as internal auditor for 2026-27

7.2. Review the Finance Report: the expenditure of £2,253.28 as of the 21st October was within budget expect for slight overspend on insurance and subscriptions. The current account holds £5,503.01 and the savings account holds £5,031.30.

RESOLVED: to sign the bank reconciliation.

7.3. Review the Reserves Policy:

RESOLVED: to adopt the policy and retain the general reserve at the present level of £1,889.82.

7.4. Consider the Draft Budget for 2026-2027:

RESOLVED: that £305 held in the First Aid in the Community Reserve will be used to help fund the three defibrillator batteries that need replacing in the Spring. The budget and precept will be set at the January 2026 meeting.

7.5. Authorise Payments:

7.5.1. D Lewis Environmental Maintenance Invs 888 & 889 £356.25

7.5.2. H Coonick (Clerk) and HMRC, Salary Oct-Dec £615.50

7.5.3. H Coonick (Clerk) Office Expenses and Travel £36.70

7.5.4. H Coonick (Clerk) Reimbursement for Stationery and Stamps £17.58

7.5.5. Defibrillator Pad x1 and Batteries x 3 £664.00

7.5.6. Note May 2025 Election Recharge £125 Payable in January

RESOLVED: to make the above payments.

8. Agenda Items for the next meeting: a. Adopt the Budget and Set Precept for 2026-2027

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: