

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stanton Lacy Parish Council on 16th July 2026

Present: Cllrs Phil Parker(Chair), Martin Finch, Viv de Haan, Robin Gatehouse, Peter Williams. In attendance: Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council) and Heather Coonick (Clerk).

26/047 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Corin Redman, Emma Gatehouse and Jenna Hossbach

26/048 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

26/049 Public involvement session. Four members of the public were in attendance. A member of the public (MP1) reported that a campaign called Keep Shropshire Beautiful had been set up to oppose the planned Solar Farm on the Norton Estate. The Solar Farm is planned for 130 acres of farmland. The campaign supports renewable energy but not on farmland. The campaign is concerned about the damage to wildlife as there are protected species on the land including barn owls, curlews and skylarks. MP2 reported that Shropshire Council had not required an environmental impact assessment from the developer and they were concerned about the increase of heavy traffic on the local roads. There is also an increase in crime at solar farms. They are concerned about the loss of high-quality land causing a reduction in food production. Also the risk of increased flooding and the effect upon local businesses. The campaign has a website and the support of Stuart Anderson MP, Campaign to Protect Rural England, RSPB and the Barn Owl Society. Cllr Finch quoted a letter from the developer which stated that the land would be returned to agricultural use after the 40-year term. MP2 stated that during that time the present wildlife would be displaced.

26/050 Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meetings on the 21st May 2026:
RESOLVED: that the minutes were a true record and they were signed by the chair.

26/051 Reports from Representatives:

- i. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford reported that SC will be closing Helena Lane Day Centre and the Park and Ride at Meole Brace and Ludlow. The library services are also under scrutiny. Alex Wagner, Deputy Leader, has stated that SC will only be providing services that are required by statute. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has issued a Best Value Notice to Shropshire Council. The Notice is a formal notification that MHCLG has concerns about the council and its financial position. There are also concerns about leadership capacity, governance, and culture which were identified in reports from the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge and External Auditor in 2025. Cllr Stanford is now vice chair of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Committee. The Chair of the Southern Planning Committee is now Cllr Beverley Waite.
- ii. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Viv de Haan reported that after the Annual meeting in June more people had come forward to support the hall and it was agreed to ask the Parish Council to become Sole Trustee

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of the Hall. The football events had been very well attended. There is a vintage ploughing event on the 5th September.

- iii. South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Robin Gatehouse reported that the committee had discussed the Local Plan.
- iv. Louisa Powell Almshouses – Cllr Peter Williams had attended the meeting. The houses are on a sound financial footing.

26/052 Update on the Proposed Solar Farm at Norton Estate, SY7 9AS: The council have received a letter from ILOS energy who are the developers of the proposed solar farm. It explained the need for renewable energy supplies, why they have chosen this site and brief details of the proposal. The planned construction would take approximately 10 months with most deliveries during the 2nd month. A community information event will be held at Onibury Village Hall from 3-7pm on 15th September.

26/053 Consider Expressing an Interest to Shropshire Council to Provide Streetscene Services: there is no legal obligation to progress beyond expressing an interest.
RESOLVED: to express an interest.

26/054 Update on Shropshire Council's Request for Funding for Ludlow Library: to retain the library's present opening hours Shropshire Council are requesting that Ludlow Town Council and surrounding Parishes contribute a total of £20,000 per annum entering into a long term agreement. The contribution requested from Stanton Lacy Parish Council, based upon the number of card holders who live in the parish, is £300 per annum.
RESOLVED: to defer this to the next meeting.

26/055 Consider the Consultation on Shropshire Council's Local Plan: the council considered the consultation to be lengthy and not easy for the public to understand.
RESOLVED: to not respond to the survey and inform Shropshire Council of the reason.

26/056 Update on Parish Council Becoming Sole Trustee of Stanton Lacy Village Hall: the village hall committee resolved to request that the Parish Council become sole trustee at its Annual Meeting on the 23rd June.
RESOLVED: for the clerk to liaise with the village hall committee to make the changes on the Charity Commission portal.

26/057 Adopt the Website Accessibility Statement:
RESOLVED: to adopt the statement

26/058 Consider Data Protection Training: As part of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and to comply with Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return all councillors are required to be trained in General Data Protection.
RESOLVED: that all councillors will enrol on the Nimble E-learning course before March 2027 at a cost of £16 per councillor.

26/059 Finance:

- i. Note Income:
 - a. Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant £800 - noted
 - b. Shropshire Council Footpath Grant £150 - noted
- ii. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation:
Expenditure as of 1st July is £5,313.25 which includes the purchase of

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equipment under the Access to Work Scheme, funded by a grant received in March 2026. The remaining expenditure is within budget except a slight overspend on the subscription to Shropshire Association of Local Councils. As of the 3rd June the current account held £6,687.91 and the savings account £5,044.83.

RESOLVED: to accept the report and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllr Robin Gatehouse.

iii. Authorise Payments:

- a. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) invs 1031 £120
- b. H Coonick, Clerk (reimbursement stationery and software) £60.49
- c. H Coonick, Clerk (footpath Group equipment) £136.73
- d. SALC Training for Cllr Finch £130.00
- e. T Meeson (Auditor) £150

RESOLVED: to make the above payments.

26/060

Agenda Items for the next meeting: a. Update on Becoming Sole Trustee of Village Hall b. Consider Shropshire Council's Request for Funding for Ludlow Library c. Update on Expression of Interest for Streetscene Services d. Update on Progress of Proposed Solar Farm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7.30pm. Please note the change of date.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: