

STANTON LACY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting on the 19th March 2026

Present: Cllr Phil Parker (Chair), Robin Gatehouse, Jenna Hossbach, Phil Jones and Peter Williams. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

26/020 Apologies for Absence and Acceptance of Apologies: Cllrs Martin Finch, Viv de Haan, Emma Gatehouse and Corin Redman. Cllr Colin Stanford (Shropshire Council).

26/021 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

26/022 Public involvement session. No members of the public were in attendance.

26/023 Approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on the 5th February 2026:

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair.

26/024 Reports from Representatives:

- i. Shropshire Council – Cllr Colin Stanford had sent a report: Shropshire Council has received extraordinary funding support as a loan of £193.8 million from Central Government to stop it going bankrupt. The first £71.4 million is for this financial year and the remaining £121.4 million for 2026/27. Interest could amount to about £5 million. The recent council tax increase will raise an additional £8.8 million. He now has a regular meeting with highways to raise concerns and get feedback on problem areas. The current state of our roads is appalling and they do require significant investment. The Northwest Relief Road has been scrapped which is a disappointment to locals in the area and leaves many villages in the north of Shrewsbury suffering from ‘rabbit run’ type traffic trying to get around the town. The official policy to demolish the shire hall for housing has now been changed and 11 alternatives are being explored and costed. These include keeping part of the building, particularly the dome, which Shrewsbury Civic Society consider a heritage asset.
- ii. Stanton Lacy Village Hall – Cllr Jenna Hossbach reported that she will step down as treasurer and committee member at the AGM. The committee continue to struggle to get people involved in running the hall. Cllr R Gatehouse reported that the last of the Winter Warmers was on the 11th March with 38 people attending. They are grateful for the help of the Community Wellbeing Outreach Team. The spare money left at the end of the lunches was used to thank the volunteers and to purchase a blood pressure monitor for use parishioners.
- iii. South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Robin Gatehouse reported that Cllr Alex Wagner (Shropshire Council’s deputy leader) gave a presentation on devolution. He explained when the new administration took over last May they realised there was not sufficient funding to run the council. The devolution agenda aims to bring more control to parishes and town councils by allowing them to take over some services from Shropshire Council.

26/025 Update on Shropshire Council’s Devolution Agenda: The clerk reported that it is not clear yet which services will transfer and whether SC will transfer funds for this to the T&PC’s.

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

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

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- 26/026 Consider the Parish Council Becoming Sole Trustee of Stanton Lacy Village Hall:** The Clerk has spoken to Community Resource Shropshire who support Village Halls. They would be willing to come to a joint meeting with the village hall committee and members of the public to discuss the proposal.
RESOLVED: to invite Community Resource Shropshire to a meeting.
- 26/027 Update on Damage to the Highway on The Hope:** the Clerk has reported this on Fix My Street. Shropshire Council Highways accept the need for the work but are not able to give a date when the repairs will be completed.
- 26/028 Review Policies:** Complaints Policy and Procedure
RESOLVED: to adopt the policy and procedure.
- 26/029 Agree the Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21st May 2026:**
RESOLVED: to include a presentation by Community Resource Shropshire if they are available and an update on Shropshire Council's Devolution Agenda.
- 26/030 Agree the Neighbourhood Policing Priorities for 1 April – 30 Sept 2026:**
RESOLVED: to keep the priorities the same as the previous period: 1. Rural crime 2. Wildlife Crime 3. Drugs.
- 26/031 Environmental Maintenance**
- i. Agree the Application to the Environmental Maintenance Fund:
RESOLVED: to apply for a grant of £800 for 2026/27
 - ii. Agree the Hourly Rate for the Contractor:
RESOLVED: the rate was agreed.
 - iii. Confirm that 2025-26 Expenditure Adhered to the Grant Conditions:
RESOLVED: to confirm that the grant was spent in accordance with the grant conditions for 2025-26.
- 26/032 Finance:**
- i. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: as of the 6th March 2026 expenditure was £5,353.73 and within budget with slight overspends on insurance and subscriptions. The Clerk forecasts a carry forward of non-ringfenced money of £1,756.80. As of the 23rd February 2026 the current account held £3,202.31 and the savings account on the 9th March 2026 held £5040.48.
RESOLVED: to accept the report and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllr Phil Parker.
 - ii. Review the Asset Register
RESOLVED: to accept the Asset Register.
 - iii. Authorise Payments:
 - a. H Coonick and HMRC Salary Jan-March £614.50, Office Expenses £25.00 and travel £14.40
 - b. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) invs 949 £90.25, 935 £223.25 and £85.50 before the end of March
RESOLVED: to make the above payments.
- 26/033 Agenda Items for the next meeting:** a. devolution b. Sole Trustee of the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 7.30pm.

Signed:

Date: