

Worfield & Rudge Parish Council
Chairman: Cllr E Aldridge
Vice Chair: Cllr G Timmins



Clerk/RFO: Mr R Morgan
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th MAY 2026 AT ST PETERS CHURCH, WORFIELD, 8PM

Present: Cllrs: E Aldridge (Chair), I Dick, J Goulding, R Greaves, D Hodson, G Humphries, D Plain, R Taylor, G Timmins and M Writtle.

In Attendance: Mr R Morgan (Clerk/RFO) and Cllr D. Husemann (County Councillor).

01.2026/27 Election of Chairman

- a. Cllr E. Aldridge thanked all Members of the Council for their work over the last year, noting that this has been one of the busiest and successful years of this Council. Thanks were extended to outgoing Councillors Ingrid Millington and Deidre James. The full Annual Report from the outgoing Chair was given at the Annual Parish Meeting copies of which will be published on the Parish Councils website.
Nominations were requested to elect the Chairman of this Parish Council commencing 7th May 2026 to May 2027. Councillor E Aldridge was nominated by Councillor D Plain and seconded by Councillor D Hodson. There were no other nominations. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Elaine Aldridge be elected to serve as Chairman of Worfield & Rudge Parish Council for the municipal year 2026/27.
- b. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr E. Aldridge read and signed the declaration in presence of the Proper Officer.

02.2026/27 Election of Vice Chairman

- a. Nominations were requested to elect the Vice-Chairman of this Parish Council commencing 7th May 2026 to May 2027. Councillor G Timmins was nominated by Councillor J Goulding and seconded by Councillor D Hodson. There were no other nominations. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gary Timmins be elected to serve as Vice Chairman of Worfield & Rudge Parish Council for the municipal year 2025/26.
- b. Cllr G. Timmins read and signed the declaration in presence of the Proper Officer.

The Chair thanked Councillor G Timmins for the support and advice provided to her during 2025/2026.

03.2026/27 Co-Options

Members were asked to consider any eligible applications for one vacancy for co-option for the Ackleton Ward. However, there were no applications.

04.2026/27 Apologies: Councillors J Crowther, S Edwards, K Rouwenhorst and G Tudor.
Resolved that the apologies are noted.

05.2026/27 Declarations of Interests: As per Registers of Interests.

06.2026/27 Reports from West Mercia Police

A report on the activities of the Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was provided at the Annual Parish Meeting. A brief summary is contained within the minutes of that meeting.

07.2026/27 Reports from Shropshire Council

Each Councillor received a copy of the report provided by Councillor D Husemann, the focus of which has been on representation, challenge, transparency and persistence, particularly where residents face unresolved or long-running issues. These included:

- Potholes and general road conditions where repeated reactive reporting was ineffective and that the approach should be on repair quality which should only be carried out once.
- Speeding and road safety particularly on B4176, Hilton and Ackleton.
- Unauthorised caravans at Stableford.
- Concerns regarding unauthorised structures at Roughton House (Grade II Listed).
- Rindleford listed footbridge where permits have finally been issued and works scheduled.
- Regular liaison with West Mercia Police.
- Wider strategic and committee work benefitting parish Councils.
- The volume of work and commitment.
- Priorities for the year ahead.

When asked about the unauthorised building works being carried out at Roughton House, a listed building, Councillor Husemann stated that the Retrospective Planning Application route used by developers is being abused which is extremely frustrating. She thanked everyone for making her feel very welcomed and asked that if Councillors had any priorities they wished her to address for the forthcoming year, then to let her know.

The Chair thanked Councillor D Husemann for all the work that she has carried out within this and surrounding Parish Council areas.

08.2026/27 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 2nd April 2026

Councillors were asked to approve the accuracy of the minutes taken on 2nd April 2026.

Resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

09.2026/27 Matters arising from Minutes

The Clerk informed Councillors that the defibrillator had now been installed at The Hobbins.

10.2026/27 Appointment of Members to Standing Committees

Resolved that Under Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, S101, the following Committees to be arranged for the discharge of functions on behalf of the Parish Council and that the Councillors listed, be elected to these Committees:

a. Human Resources Committee

Councillors S. Edwards, J. Goulding and R Taylor.

b. Planning Committee

Councillors I Dick, D. Hodson, R Taylor and G. Timmins.

11.2026/27 Appointment of New Committees

Councillors considered the requirement for the appointment of new committees.

Resolved that there is no requirement for any other committees.

12.2026/27 Confirmation of Policies & Procedures

Each Councillor received copies of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy for this Council to review.

Resolved that Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment and Management Strategy are adequate for this Parish Council.

13.2026/27 Councillors Code of Conduct

Each Councillor received a copy of the Councillors Code of Conduct to review.

Resolved that the Councillors Code of Conduct is accepted.

14.2026/27 Representatives on Outside Bodies

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following Members as Parish Council representatives on the following Outside Bodies:

a. Ackleton Village Hall: Cllr G. Timmins

b. Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group: Cllrs D. Hodson and G. Timmins

- c. Bridgnorth Energy Reduction Group: Cllrs D. Hodson and G. Timmins
- d. Friends of Stanmore Country Park: Cllrs D. Hodson
- e. Shipley Liaison Committee: Cllrs E. Aldridge and R. Taylor
- f. Shropshire Association of Local Councils: Cllrs E. Aldridge and G. Timmins
- g. Worfield Village Hall: Cllrs G Humphries and G. Tudor
- h. Worfield School: Cllrs J Crowther and G Humphries

15.2026/27 Affiliation/Membership to other organisations

Councillors reviewed the Council's membership to the following organisations:

Resolved to renew this Council's membership to:

- a. The Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and affiliation fees of £1,190.44
- b. Campaign to Protect Rural England

16.2026/27 Meetings 2026/2027

Each Councillor received a draft timetable for Council meetings during 2026/2027.

Resolved that the timetable for 2026/2027 Council meetings is accepted.

17.2026/27 Signatories for Bank Accounts

Councillors discussed the appointment of signatories for the Lloyds Bank Account.

Resolved that the signatories remain the same as Councillors E Aldridge and G Timmins and the Clerk R Morgan.

18.2026/27 General Power of Competence

The three conditions for eligibility for the Parish Council to exercise the General Power of Competence are as follows:

Resolution: The Council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Clerk.

Electoral Mandate: at the time the resolution is passed, at least two-thirds of the council must hold office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted).

Qualified Clerk: at the time that the resolution is passed, the Clerk must hold a recognised professional qualification (e.g. Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy) **AND** pass the 2012 CiLCA module relating to the general power of competence.

Resolved that from 7th May 2026, until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence.

19.2026/27 Insurance

Each Councillor received copies of quotes received for the Insurance for this Parish Council for 2026/2027.

Resolved to insure this Council through Zurich Municipal for three years at a cost of £630.39 per annum.

20.2026/27 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/2026

a. Annual Return

To complete the Annual Governance Statement. (Page 4 of AGAR)*.

Council considered each internal control statement in the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) as read out by the Chair and confirmed their agreement that each internal control statement was met. The Clerk completed the Annual Governance Statement to this effect and the Chairman signed the statement as approved by Council.

To confirm the Statement of Accounts. (Page 5 of AGAR)*

Members considered the Accounting Statements (Section 2) for 2025/26 and agreed their accuracy.

To receive the Annual Internal Audit Report. (Page 3 of AGAR).

Members received the Internal Auditors report, noting that Internal Control Objective C could not be responded to positively due to the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy not being reviewed within the financial year 2025/2026. All other Internal Control Objectives (A-L and N) were positively responded to.

b. Bank Reconciliation Details

Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026*

Resolved that the Bank Reconciliation as of 31st March 2026 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

c. **Resolved** that the Annual Governance Statements, the Explanation of Variances and dates for the publication of electors' rights are approved and that they are submitted to the External Auditors for review.

21.2026/27 Financial Reports

a. Each Councillor received a copy of the schedule of payments for April 2026.

Resolved that the Payments Transactions for April 2026 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

b. Each Councillor received a copy of the Receipts and Payment summary report for April 2026.

Resolved that the Receipt and Payments summary report for April 2026 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

c. Each Councillor received a copy of the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th April 2026.

Resolved that the Bank Reconciliation as of 30th April 2026 is ratified and accepted as a true record.

22.2026/27 Planning

a. Councillors considered the following planning application:

i. 26/01189/FUL

2 Brewers Lodge, Stanlow, Wolverhampton, Shropshire, WV6 7HZ.

Proposal: Two storey side extension.

Resolved to support this application.

ii. 26/01552/AG1

Rowley Park Farm, Worfield, Bridgnorth Shropshire, WV15 5NT.

Proposal: Erection of a new agricultural building for general agricultural purposes and storage.

Resolved to support this application.

b. Councillors were informed of the following planning application decisions made by Shropshire Council since the last Parish Council meeting:

i. 26/00720/LBC

Worfield C Of E School, Main Street, Worfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 5LF

Replacement of oil-fired heating system with low carbon Air Source heat Pump system.

Shropshire Council granted permission.

Worfield and Rudge Parish Council had no objections.

23.2026/27 Devolution of Services

Councillors discussed the data sheets provided for any proposed devolution of services from Shropshire Council. Due to the inaccuracy of the data, it was agreed to defer this to June's Parish Council Meeting and asked the Clerk to contact Shropshire Council requesting easier accessible documents with What3Words locations for the services stated as Councillors disputed Shropshire Council's version of what services they were providing and where.

24.2026/27 Neighbourhood Governance

Councillors were asked to discuss the email received from Shropshire Association of Local Councils with regard to the Neighbourhood Governance proposals through the English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill and the effect it could have on Parish and Town Councils. Due to the information contained within it was agreed to defer this item to June's Parish Council meeting.

25.2026/27 Fingerpost Sign opposite The Wheel at Worfield

Councillors considered a quote received to refurbish the fingerpost opposite The Wheel at Worfield using money from the recent Neighbourhood Fund (CIL). As someone had already cut the grass the Clerk was asked if this part of the quote could be removed.

Resolved that the quote is accepted for the refurbishment of the fingerpost only and that the money is to come from the Neighbourhood Fund (CIL).

26.2026/27 Reports from Parish Councillors and Outside Bodies

Councillor R Greaves stated that the new fence at Park View is obstructing driver's line of sight at the junction and that St Peter's Church Clock looked awful. Cllr G Timmins informed those present that it will cost around £16,000 to repair and renovate the clock and that money is currently being raised for this.

Councillor G Humphries informed Councillors that the Friends of Worfield School had recently had a very successful meeting with the new Head Teacher at Worfield School and asked if there could be a scarecrow competition held in the village.

Councillor M Writtle informed those present that the owners of Roughton House had knocked down an internal wall without planning permission and that he had informed Shropshire Council's Planning Enforcement Officers as it is a Grade II Listed Estate.

27.2026/27 Date of next meeting

As item 16.2026/27 had been approved the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at St Peter's Church, Worfield commencing at 7pm.

This meeting finished at: 2100hrs

Copies of signed minutes are kept on file which will be retained by the Parish Council.