

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 FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2nd July 2026

AT ST PETERS CHURCH, WORFIELD, 7PM

Present: Councillors E Aldridge (Chairman), J Crowther, S Edwards, J Goulding, D Hodson, D Plain, R Taylor, G Tudor and M Writtle.

In attendance: Mr R Morgan (Clerk) and D Husemann (Shropshire County Councillor).

46.2026/27 Chairman's Report: The Chair had nothing to report.

47.2026/27 Apologies: Councillors I Dick, R Greaves, G Humphries, K Rouwenhorst and G Timmins.
Resolved that the apologies are noted.

48.2026/27 Declarations of Interests: As per Registers of Interests.

49.2026/27 Public Session: There were no members of the public present.

50.2026/27 Co-Options for the Vacancy for Ackleton Ward

There were no applications to consider. However, the Chair informed those present that the Council had re-advertised the vacancy on its social media and that people living in Ackleton had been approached by Councillors asking if they wished to become Parish Councillors.

51.2026/27 Reports from West Mercia Police

Each Councillor received a copy of the report provided by the Police for this meeting which contained a list of incidents/recorded offences within Worfield and Rudge for May 2026. These were as follows:

- Dog bite job – No further action taken.
- Harassment/Stalking – No further action taken.
- Suspicious behaviour x 2 - Nothing recorded as no apparent offences
- Drink Drive – Drive whilst disqualified – Arrested and Charged
- Burglary – pending forensic analysis
- Actual bodily harm – No further action taken.
- Road traffic collision x 1 – Attended – phone fell off dash but sent out alarm to police
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition ANPR – 2: 1xpursuit denied – 1x off patch (lost sight)
- Theft of motorbike – 1 x No further action taken.

The Police are currently working with their analysis team to collate and provide more up to date information for the meetings.

Cllr D Hodson stated that he had seen two suspicious men in the field by his house with lamps and had reported this to Police. However, he had not received any acknowledgement or feedback but this can sometimes depend on which officer is dealing with the issue.

52.2026/27 Reports from Shropshire Council

Councillor D Husemann informed Councillors that there is going to be a walk of the wards with the Chief Executive Officer of Shropshire Council over the next few months. She is gathering a small representation of Councillors, farmers and business owners to attend an event at St Peter's Church

in July which will be invitation only. Councillor D Husemann then discussed the report she had provided, a copy of which each Councillor had received. In her report she informed Councillors of:

- The Local Plan for Shropshire encouraging everyone to respond to the consultation.
- Highway Issues regarding the conditions of the roads.
- Delays in Blue Disabled Badge applications.
- The condition of the land in Stableford following the vacating of the site by the illegal caravans. Work is continuing to ensure the site is returned to its original status prior to the caravans being on site.
- Shropshire Council Business which also included the forthcoming Local Transport Plan consultation and housing.
- Cllr D Husemann then informed those present that the digital switchover will happen on 27th January 2027 and asked the Parish Council to help inform people of this and what help is available for residents.

The Chair thanked Councillor D Husemann for the work carried out and her comprehensive report.

Councillor D Husemann then left the meeting at 1940hrs.

53.2026/27 Minutes of the Full Council meetings

To approve the accuracy of the minutes taken at the Council Meeting held on 4th June 2026.

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

54.2026/27 Matters arising from Minutes

Grass cutting Russell Close – The Clerk stated that he would liaise with Councillor D Hodson to ascertain the exact locations to enable a Land Registry search for ownership of the pieces of land in question.

Fingerpost sign opposite The Wheel Public House – Councillors were informed that the contractor had been away and that the work will be started upon his return.

Smartwater signs – Councillors suggested that there should be seven signs if possible, three located at Russell Close, three for Ackleton and one for Chesterton. The Clerk informed Councillors that PC Nicolas Hall will be attending the Council meeting on 1st October.

Footpath Worfield Village Hall to Wyken – The Clerk was asked to enquire how much the contractor would charge to clear and tidy up the path.

55.2026/27 Financial Reports

- a. To approve the schedule of payments for June 2026.

Resolved that the schedule of payments for June 2026 are ratified and accepted as a true record.

- b. To receive the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2026.

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

- c. To receive the financial budget summary as at 30th June 2026.

Resolved that the financial budget summary as of 30th June 2026 is noted.

56.2026/27 Planning

- a. Councillors considered the following planning applications:

- i. 26/02038/LBC

The Fold, Chesterton Farm Barns, Chesterton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
Installation of 2 air conditioning units.

Resolved to support this application.

- ii. 26/02245/FUL

7 Waterworks Houses, Stratford Lane, Hilton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Proposed double storey side/rear extension and single storey side extension.

The Councillors had no comment to make regarding this application.

- iii. 26/02295/TCA
Rock Cottage, Worfield, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 5LW.
Reduce overall crown spread by max. 2m of 1no. Yew within Worfield Conservation Area.
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. 26/01066/FUL
Chadwell House, Chesterton, Bridgnorth, Shropshire.
Proposal: Erection of stables and manège.
Shropshire Council granted permission on 11th June 2026.

57.2026/27 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.
Resolved to note the contents of the email and send the proposed motion to Stuart Anderson MP.

58.2026/27 Reports from Parish Councillors and Outside Bodies

Cllr J Crowther informed members that the tree that had fallen blocking Church Bank has now been removed. Concerns were raised that in an emergency such as this nobody can be contacted at Shropshire Council. The Clerk was asked to write to Chloe Evans at Balfour Beatty to request a tree survey is carried out regarding the trees on Church Bank and trees from the pool to China Bank. Cllr J Crowther stated that he or Cllr D Plain would be happy to meet with them to show them the exact locations. With the current extreme weather exacerbating problems with trees there are also Health and Safety concerns regarding the trees. Cllr J Crowther also requested that the shrubbery around the bus shelter opposite The Wheel Public House is cut back and the rubbish removed from the shelter. Contamination tests are currently being carried out at the petrol station on Bridgnorth Road A454 as a new tank is being installed along with the removal of the current petrol tanks.

Cllr D Hodson asked Councillors if they had seen this Council's response to the Shropshire Local Plan consultation. After discussing the response, it was **resolved** that the amended version be sent to the Clerk for submission prior to 15th July 2026. The Chair thanked Councillors D Hodson and G Timmins for formulating this council's response and the work and time taken in doing so.

Cllr J Goulding informed those present that Openreach had been seen erecting wires in the area to provide fibreoptic connections but was unsure how to find out if the area in which he lived now had this facility. He was informed to go onto Openreach website, put in his postcode and this would tell him.

Cllr M Writtle stated that an enforcement notice has been issued at Roughton House stating that the kennels must be removed as they do not have planning permission and that work to develop the stables had been reported to Historic Environment. The owners have been informed of the risks they may face if they carry on work at this location. There currently has been no further work at Roughton Lodge for at least a month.

Cllr D Plain informed Councillors that there had been an issue with parking for the school's sports day. Cars had been obstructing the road in Worfield making it impossible for delivery vans or emergency services to get past. He was eventually asked to open the gates to the field for additional parking but was unaware of the event. He had recently discovered that there is a school fete on 11th July and this coincides with services at St Peter's Church. Cllr J Crowther also stated that he has had no contact with the school either.

Cllr E Aldridge is concerned about the lack of communication between the new headteacher and the Parish Council and local residents and asked the Clerk to invite the Headteacher to the next Council meeting on 3rd September. If this is not suitable then to arrange an appointment for some Councillors to visit her.

59.2025/26 Date of next meeting

The Chairman informed Councillors that the next Council meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2026 at St Peter's Church, Worfield commencing at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 2040hrs.

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