



# Minutes

## Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

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**Held on:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7:30pm  
**Place:** The Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour

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**Present:** Cllrs Will Spencer (Chair), Anna Corser (Vice-Chair), James Seccombe

**In attendance:** Laura Callow (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the public:** 2

**22/25 WELCOME and APOLOGIES** - Apologies accepted from Dominic Skinner

**23/25 Declaration of Interest** - There were none to receive

**24/25 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

**Proposed:** Cllr Spencer

**Seconded:** Cllr Corser

**All in favour**

**25/25 Open Forum** - None received

**26/25 Alscot Estate** - Paddy Hoare gave updates. They are 80% happy with how everything is going so far. They will be overseeding in September and thinking of getting 4-5 longhorn cows to do conservation grazing. There is about 2000m of new hedging to be planted. There are currently a few different surveys taking place around the estate. A walk & talk is being organised for both Clifford chambers and Preston on Stour, date to be confirmed. There is an APP you can now download which shows you wildlife in your area plus extras. £1000 was raised for the club at the cricket event. Looking to do their own composting, 8-9-week process and put on the concrete opposite Hawkscroft. No update on lower farm or the old forge building.

**27/25 DC Dominic Skinner** - No report received

**28/25 CC David Curtis** - CC David Curtis gave updates. His full report is attached below. **Appendix A**

**29/25 ST, Mary's Church** - No report received

**30/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation was approved
- iii. 3 invoices were approved for payment

Inv 7	W Spencer	£70.72	Office supplies
Inv 8	Laura Callow	£448.65	Clerks wage
Inv 9	Parish Online	£258.00	Website

**Proposed** Cllr Spencer

**Seconded** Cllr Seccombe

**All in favour**

**31/25 Councillors Reports and items for future agendas**

- i. **Website-** Cllr Seccombe has been working on the transition to the new website and emails. Once it is all ready to be up and running the public will be made aware of the new links.4
- ii. **Sewage** - the sewage tank by lower farm has been overflowing. Severn Trent are aware and should be doing a sight visit.

**32/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7:00pm

**33/25 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The meeting was closed at **08.41pm**

**Proposed: Cllr Spencer    Seconded: Cllr Corser                      All in favour**

**34/25 PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**SIGNED:**

**Appendix A**

**Warwickshire County Council Report  
Councillor David Curtis**

**District**

1. Just a reminder that the District Council is now publishing an email newsletter The Online View. This is available to anyone who has signed up for it on <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/communications/email-newsletter.cfm>. These are now being published each week.
2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee next meets on 27 August and South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust will be attending to describe the future use of the Ellen Badger Hospital.

In the meantime, a site visit is being provided by SWFT on 8th August, to Ellen Badger, for members of SDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Manuela Perteghella, MP for Stratford on Avon has requested the Secretary of State to call in the decision of the Interim Care Board not to allocate any inpatient

beds to Shipston. This call in was supported by SDC on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

3. Local Government Reorganisation: At SDC's meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July, it was agreed that the best proposal for a unitary authority was for Warwick and Stratford Districts, to take on County Council responsibilities by combining to create one South Warwickshire Unitary Authority.
4. The submissions on the South Warwickshire Local Plan are under consideration.
5. Round 3 of the Climate Change Community fund is now open  
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-fund.cfm>
6. Criteria for the Community Grant fund are still to be confirmed
7. Free summer activities for children at local leisure centre | Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138560> As part of the national Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, Stratford Leisure Centre and The Greig Leisure Centre in Alcester - managed by Everyone Active in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council - will host an array of free activities, all accompanied by free lunches.

Activities over the summer holidays include TagActive and junior gym sessions - both of which are designed to appeal to different age groups and interests.

TagActive is an interactive indoor obstacle course that tests strategy, speed, agility and bravery, all while promoting fun, fitness and competition. Meanwhile, the junior gym sessions will help promote social, mental and physical activity for younger members.

Family swimming sessions at Stratford Leisure Centre, Studley Leisure Centre, Southam Leisure Centre and Shipston Leisure Centre will also be on offer as part of the programme.

Every session will include a free nutritious and balanced lunchtime meal.

**8. Prostate, diabetes and cholesterol screening**

For men and women aged 18 and over - tests on offer cost £14 each, subsidised by the District Council and are:

For men over 40 - PSA (Prostate Screening)

For men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

The events are taking place at:

Saturday 2 August at The Greig Leisure Centre, Kinwarton Road, Alcester, B49 6AD

Saturday 13 September at Stratford Leisure Centre

Saturday 11 October at Shipston Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4EW

10am until 2pm at each location and people are able to book at a discounted rate of £14 for each test.

Spaces are limited and need to be booked in advanced at:

<https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/>

## County

1. The Reform UK Leader of County, elected in his absence and then on holiday for 4 weeks has stood down due to ill-health. Reform UK has chosen as their Group Leader his Deputy, George Finch.

Full Council meets on Tuesday to elect the new County Leader and it's not known whether the County Conservative Group will continue to support Reform UK under the leadership of such an inexperienced Leader, especially after his, and Reform UK's, very public and personal attacks on the CEO at County.

The personal attacks on the CEO have not gone well with the officers at County but from my experience that are acting with great professionalism.

I would have thought that the Administration would have more pressing priorities than flags but apparently not.

Attendance by Reform Portfolio holders at OSC has been poor with those attending unable or unwilling to answer questions. OSC are the Public Fora in which the Administration should be held to account.

DOGE. Reform UK is keen to bring in a DOGE team but at the same time is wasting officer time by not turning up to meetings and now they plan to spend £190K on Political Assistants.

2. SEND deficit. The Government has extended the 'Statutory Over-ride for a further 2 years, meaning the circa £90m deficit is essentially 'off the books.' This is not as a result of bad financial management at County, it is the result of government's refusal to fund SEND provision properly.
3. Councillors' Grant Fund [Councillors' Grant Fund - Warwickshire County Council](#)  
The applications window for Round 1 of the Councillors' Grant Fund 2025-2026 opened on 9 June, closing on Sunday 20 July at 5.00pm.

The Fund provides each Councillor with £8,000 to support local projects in their divisions. There are two rounds each year and it is at a Councillor's discretion how they split their £8,000 between the two rounds.

The Councillors' role is to review and make decisions on the applications submitted, with officers undertaking due diligence and scoring.

All applications must be submitted via our website, which also includes full details on the eligibility criteria and guidance on how to apply - Councillors' Grant Fund - Warwickshire County Council

The Round 1 timelines are:

- 9 June - application window opens.
- 20 July - application window closes.
- 23 July to 10 August - officers process applications, including due diligence checks and scoring.
- 11 August to 29 August - officers discuss applications with Councillors individually, and Councillors decide on awards.
- 1 September to 5 September - decisions are shared with applicants.

I welcome proposals that have the support of PCs, and, given the tight timescale, my proposal is that at least 50% of the fund is carried fwd to round 2