

CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU

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Minutes of the meeting of Craven Arms Town Council held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 commencing 7.00pm held at Craven Arms Community Centre

Councillors:

Cllr D Mills (Chairman), Cllr N Stephens (Vice Chair), Cllr R Pitt, Cllr J Fuller,
Cllr D Evans, Cllr R Conway, Cllr S Demos, Cllr T Willetts.
Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

7724 Apologies:

Cllr J Rickson

78/24 Members of the Public:

Lisa Thomas The Community Police Officer attended the meeting to provide an update on Local Police items which related to Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Speeding.

The Police Force for Church Stretton and Craven Arms area was now at full compliment with two police officers and three Community Police Officers.

There was one member of the public present who attended as an observer.

79/24 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr D Evans – Planning matters and Sale of Land, Cllr S Demos – Sale of Land.

80/24 Minutes:

The Town Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2024 and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

81/24 Matters arising from the Minutes:

Cllr D Evans reported on the granting of the planning application for the Craven Arms Hotel with the creation of 7 ground floor flats and it was hoped that the naming of the building will retain reference to the existing wording of Craven Arms.

82/24 Chairman's Items:

The Clerk referred to the Parish and Town Council Elections to be held on the 1st May 2025 and that the Meeting to be held on the 25th March 2025 will be the Annual Public Meeting and this will be followed with a meeting to be held on the 6th May 2025 which will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

83/24 Amenity Items:

a) **Craven Arms Flooding Scheme** – Cllr R Pitt reported that she is hoping to arrange a meeting of the Craven Arms Flood Group and was awaiting a response from M J Bellis Shropshire Council on whether he would be able to attend to provide an update on the Craven Arms Flooding Scheme.

Th Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with Andy Keyland Shropshire Council Highways to discuss the clearing and improvements to the Water Grill adjacent to Stokesay Hotel. The local contractor used by Craven Arms Town Council will continue to ensure the Grill is clear by a monthly inspection but because of Health and Safety regulations and Insurance purposes was only to allow to attend when the stream was low and not during high water levels and during a storm.

b) **Craven Arms Playing Fields** - There had been a survey of the Outdoor Gym Equipment by Creative Play who will be undertaking several repairs to ensure the equipment meets Health and Safety Requirements. The Clerk reported that he had received complaints concerning Dog Fouling particularly on The Children's Play Area which was the responsibility of Shropshire Council and had been reported to the Dog Warden and the Play Equipment Inspector.

c) **Remembrance Sunday** - Members formally expressed thanks to Cllr Demos for making the arrangements for events on Remembrance Sunday and again organising the Poppy appeal in Craven Arms

d) **Other Amenity Items** – Cllr T Willetts referred to the condition of the traveller's site at Long Lane which is in Wistanstow Parish which Cllr D Evans reported was now empty.

Cllr R Pitt had for information compiled a list of all the grassed amenity areas within Craven Arms identifying who was responsible for the maintenance of the areas for information and future discussion.

84/24 Highways Items

It was noted that Highway England had carried out some improvement to the outstanding highway matters in Craven Arms relating to highway lighting and street furniture.

The Clerk reported that for inventory, health and safety, planned improvements and certification of energy usage that there was a requirement to undertake a survey of the Town Councils Streetlights.

The Town Council agreed that a survey should be undertaken by Eon at a cost of £2,484 plus VAT.

85/24 Financial Items:

The Clerk had produced an Income and Expenditure Statement which showed that the Council had balances of £213,924 following approval of the expenditure listed below, and a statement of the balances held in the appropriate bank accounts to comply with the Council's investment policy.

Eon	214.78	Street Light Repairs
Eon	209.60	Street Light Repairs
Eon	176.28	Street Light Repairs
Grow Cook Learn	5,000.00	Grant Received from SC
Charges	8.50	Bank Charges
Eon	129.98	Lighting Public Cons
Hugo Foxe	287.86	Website Hosting
Parish online	162.00	Parish Maps Online
Creative Play	354.00	Survey of Outdoor Gym
Water Plus	80.95	Water Rates Public Cons
C Williams	750.00	Disbursement December
Inland Revenue	166.60	Tax December
G R Morris	600.00	Amenity Work
Charges	8.50	Bank Charges
J Konsey	1,080.00	Clearing Gully Repayable by SC
Eon	137.55	Electricity - Public Cons
Water Plus	78.41	Water Rates Public Cons
G R Morris	500.00	Amenity Work
C E Williams	750.00	Disbursement January
Inland Revenue	166.60	Tax January
Cyril Bason	11.00	Supplies

The Financial statement and accounts for payment were approved by the Town Council

The Clerk had produced a statement of anticipated Income and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/26 which was discussed by the Town Council and it was agreed that the precept for 2025/26 should be £67.000 which equates to an approximate increase of 3.5%.

86/24 Planning Items:

Planning application 25/00097/ADV – Facia signs and window graphics – Unit 6 Drovers House, Shrewsbury Craven Arms – No Objection

87/24 Reports from Shropshire Councillor and other organisations to which a representative has been appointed

Cllr D Evans reported on the financial problems faced by Shropshire Council with the precept likely to increase by approximately 5%.

88/24 Items for the agenda - next meeting.

No items declared.

89/24 Meetings for the Year 2024/25

28 January 2025, 25 February 2025, 25 March 2025 (Annual Public Meeting), 6th May 2025 (Annual Meeting of the Town Council).

90/24 Confidential Items Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2), to resolve to exclude Public and Press due to the confidential nature of business relating to the consideration of the sale and expressions of interest (subject to contract) of the Council Land adjacent Barclays Bank Corvedale Road Corvedale Road Craven Arms.

It was agreed by the Town Council to exclude the Public and Press from the meeting to enable a discussion on expressions of interest received for consideration of the sale of the Council Land adjacent Barclays Bank. Cllr D Evans and Cllr S Demos declared an interest in the item and left the meeting. After a discussion it was agreed by the Town Council not to sell the parcel of land.

The Chairman Closed the meeting.

Chairman