

SUTTON UPON TERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Sutton upon Tern Annual Parish Council Meetings held at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 28th May 2025, at the Festival Drayton Centre.

Present: Cllr Michael Dams, Cllr Terry Hodge, Cllr James Danks, Cllr Lauren Carey, Cllr John Lugg, Cllr Deborah Saybrook, Cllr John Tomkinson and Cllr Andrew Radford (as at minute 35/25).

Clerk: Graham Bould.

Shropshire Council: Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley

RAF Shawbury: Louise Wallace.

Market Drayton Golf Club: Steve Fulcher

Three Parishioners

32/25. Annual Parish Meeting.

1.Welcome and discussion time for Members of the Parish Council to engage with, and to consult, Parishioners for their views on local matters.

The Chairman welcomed Members, Partners and Parishioners to the meeting and invited comments from the floor. As none were raised they moved to the next item of business.

2.Report from the Chair: Cllr Michael Dams gave an update of activity over the last year a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

3.Partner Reports: RAF, Police and Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley.

Louise Wallace updated the Parish Council covering areas of night flying operating over the next seven weeks from dusk till 2.30am between the 9/6/25 and the 25/7/25. The details of which can be found on the Station's Facebook, Twitter and website; the latter can also be used for any noise complaints on line. Hi-vis kits can also be ordered for horse riders. In terms of community project the Parish Council agreed to contact the responsible Officer at the Station directly with and activities for trainees to undertake with available dates. The use of drones and model aircraft is strictly controlled in military airspace; details can be found on the Civil Aviation Authority's website. Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley introduced himself as the new member for Cheswardine elected at the recent local elections. In doing so he highlighted the changes at Shropshire Council in that the Liberal Democrats have formed the administration and a new cabinet with Reform UK as the official opposition on Shropshire Council. The main theme of the new administration is to operate as an 'Open Council' in both word and deed. The scrutiny panels have been formed for example with equal political balance reflected both in membership and how they are chaired. Another example of the change is to re-open the cafe at the Guild Hall in Shrewsbury to offer a more friendly open access approach run at no cost to the authority. The Councillor also offered to provide a written report each month providing an update on progress and follow through on actions. One of the biggest issues to be tackled are the 'financial troubles' faced by Shropshire Council. Although the authority remains thirty three million over spent action has started to address the huge consultant budget and reviewing contracts. Continuing the theme of an 'Open Council' time and effort will be invested to create a Shropshire Partnership with local Town and Parish Councils who can often resolve problems and issues quicker at a local level. To enable this to happen a series of small grants are being looked at for local Councils to apply for to help deliver services. Councillor Bentley also indicated that he is the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Children and Education highlighting his career as a teacher and school leader. One of the local actions being followed up is the vehicle registration cameras promised for the A41 by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Chairman thanked the Partners present for their updates and then moved onto the next item of business.

Annual Meeting.

33/25. Election of the Chairperson: Cllr James Danks proposed and Cllr John Lugg seconded Cllr Michael Dams for Chair of the Parish Council 2025/26. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

34/25. Election of Vice Chairperson: Cllr John Lugg proposed and Cllr Deborah Saybrook seconded Cllr Terry Hodge for Vice Chair of the Parish Council 2025/26. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

35/25. Co-options: Andrew Radford from Crickmerry had indicated an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council and Cllr Terry Hodge has acted as his sponsor. Members agreed the co-option unanimously.

36/25. Confirm membership of the Rights of Way working group: Cllrs Dams, Hodge and Lugg.

Confirm membership of the Community led Housing working group: Cllrs Dams, Danks, Tomkinson, Lugg.

37/25. Election of other officers as representatives of external bodies: Area Committee North Shropshire (SALC) agreed Cllr T Hodge.

38/25. Apologies: None.

39/25. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests and Dispensations: None, members were reminded about their registration of interests to be completed on line and to return their election expenses returns.

40/25. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 27th March 2025.: Cllr Lauren Carey proposed and Cllr John Lugg, seconded the minutes of the 27th March 2025 as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Members agreed the minutes unanimously and the Chair signed the minutes in the presents of Councillors.

41/25. Clerks Report: The Clerk updated members on the contents of the report. Members agreed the actions being taken in terms of a new bin at the Golf Course and to carry forward any actions on the A41 and Public Transport to await feed back from Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley. Members further agreed that the Parish Policing Priorities should be speeding, crime/property theft and environmental crime. The EMG grant application details set out in the report were also agreed by members for 25/26 with the match funding being provided through the 25/26 precept.

42/25. Web site/social media updates: Cllr Lauren Carey indicated nothing had changed since their last report.

43/25. Planning Applications.

25/01161/OUT: Outline Self-build and custom housebuilding (2 plots) off existing access to include access and layout. Proposed Dwellings Land At Tern Hill Hall, Tern Hill. The Parish Council registers their **Objection** to the application as speculative open market property within open countryside which is against planning policies for the parish coupled with no local need associated with the application.

25/00509/FUL: Adastra Services, Tern Hill. Re-instatement of re-fuelling station. **No Objections.**

25/01152/FUL: Manor Farm, Woodseaves. Extension of livestock cubicle housing building. **No Objections.**

25/01643/CPE: Gulf Bungalow, Sutton Road, Tern Hill. Use of site for storage. **For Information Only.**

44/25. Finance and Audit Matters.

1. Members approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/25 as set out by the Clerk.
2. The payments set out below were agreed and cheques signed for the following Parish Council commitments. Members also added additional names as cheque signatures on forms circulated at the meeting.

Number	Name	Amount	Acts
100510	Festival Drayton (room hire)	£18.75	LGA 1972
100511	Susan Hartland (internal audit)	£50.00	LGA 1972
100512	SALC (affiliations)	£549.55	LGA 1972
100513	Zurich Municipal (insurance)	£331.26	LGA 1972
100514	Shropshire Council (energy costs 25/26)	£141.08	LGA 1972
100515	HMRC (PAYE)	£246.60	LGA 1972
100516	Q4 Clerks Salary (salary)	£1,216.68	LGA 1972
100517	SP Services (battery defibrillator)	£303.17	LGA 1972
100518	Groundwork UK – Tesco Bag Levy (repayment of grant)	£1,000.00	LGA 1972
DD	SSE (March)	£22.82	LGA 1972
DD	HSBC (March charges)	£8.00	LGA 1972
DD	HugeFox (April charges)	£11.99	LGA 1972

45/25. Highways & Footpaths.

1. Rights of Way Working Group update: Sutton Farm footpath - the entrance gates have been replaced by kissing gate during two days of activity.
2. Fly tipping campaigns: This project will be carried forward and reviewed early Autumn.
3. Crickmerry update: Cllr T Hodge to follow up with Shropshire Council the additional signage agreed.
4. Bottle/rubbish clean up A529: This area is being monitored for any more rubbish and will be added to the litter picking days
5. Sutton Lane – water erosion to the highway at Warner's Farm: Shropshire Councillor Neil Bentley agreed to visit this site and report back on potential action that can be taken by Shropshire Council.

46/25. Dates for future meetings:

Members agreed the following Parish Council meeting dates for 25/26: 24th September, 26th November 2025 & 28th January (precept), 25th March and 27th May 2026

47/25. Items for inclusion on future agendas: None.

The meeting then closed at 20.35pm

Signed:

Chairman.

Date: 30th July 2025