



Committee and Date

Council

16 July 2026

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2026

In The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ
10.00 am - 12.05 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Duncan Borrowman (Chairman) Heather Kidd (Leader) Gary Groves (Vice-Chair), Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader), Sho Abdul, Caroline Bagnall, Elizabeth Barker, Bernie Bentick, Neil Bentley, Ed Bird, Jeremy Blandford, Thomas Clayton, Susan Coleman, Rachel Connolly, Tom Dainty, Jamie Daniels, Rosemary Dartnall, David Davies, Pamela Davies, Andy Davis, Julian Dean, Joshua Dickin, Greg Ebbs, Susan Eden, Craig Emery, Brian Evans, Roger Evans, Adam Fejfer, Rhys Gratton, Andy Hall, Kate Halliday, Harry Hancock-Davies, Nick Hignett, Alan Holford, George Hollyhead, Ruth Houghton, Dawn Husemann, Peter Husemann, Benedict Jephcott, Robert Jones, Duncan Kerr, Christopher Lemon, Nigel Lumby, Sarah Marston, David Minnery, Vicky Moore, Mark Morris, Alan Mosley, Malcolm Myles-Hook, Chris Naylor, James Owen, Mark Owen, Wendy Owen, Ed Potter, Rosie Radford, Sharon Ritchie-Simmons, Carl Rowley, Charles Shackerley-Bennett, Jon Tandy, Colin Taylor, Dan Thomas, Teri Trickett, David Vasmer, Beverley Waite, David Walker, Sam Walmsley, Alison Williams and Rob Wilson

1 Election of Chairman

The Interim Chief Executive confirmed that she had received the resignation of the Chairman Councillor Duncan Borrowman. The Vice Chairman Councillor Gary Groves took the Chair.

It was proposed, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** that Councillor Duncan Barrowman be elected as Chairman of Shropshire Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of Council on 14 May 2026

Councillor Barrowman then took the Chair and subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before being invested with the Chairman's badge of office.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Boddington, Mandy Duncan, Brendon Mallon, David Minnery, and Colin Stanford

3 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

The Interim Chief Executive received the resignation of the Vice Chairman.

It was proposed, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** that Councillor Gary Groves be appointed as Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of Council on 13 May 2027

Councillor Groves subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before being invested with the Vice-Chairman's badge of office.

4 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillor Mark Morris declared an interest in Agenda Item 18b Notice of Motion as he has a contract with Shropshire Council to provide home to school transport. He made the declaration as soon as it became apparent and left the room and took no part in the debate or vote.

5 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

6 **Announcements**

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 26 February 2026, which had been circulated by email

Statement by Deputy Leader

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Alex Wagner made the following statement:

"We are deeply saddened by the rise in incidents of hate crime reported in recent weeks across the country, and here in Shropshire, where we have seen incidents of intimidation and abuse towards our residents, our staff and our councillors.

As leaders across all political groups, we stand united against abuse, intimidation and hate in all its forms. We are committed to treating one another with respect and to ensuring Shropshire remains a place where everyone feels safe and valued, and where council staff are able to serve our communities with confidence.

This is not about policies, views or beliefs. It is about how we stand up together for our shared values - treating each other with respect and tolerance and making Shropshire a place we are all proud to be part of, where everyone belongs.

Some of the items on today's Full Council agenda remind us of the importance of respect and of tackling abuse. In light of recent reports in the news and activity on social media, we want to make this clear statement. We ask others in the chamber today to join us in standing against abuse, intimidation and hate."

7 Public Questions

The Chair advised that 4 questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.

Question from Graham Betts regarding parking on Darwins Walk and Bowbrook Meadows

Question from Geoff Lowe regarding Road and Public Open Spaces in Market Drayton.

Question from Peter Gilbert regarding the Council's net zero target. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder confirmed that there were plans to screen the public emergency film and that he would get back to him when further details were available.

Question from Paul Williamson regarding the use of the Halesfield recycling site by residents of Shropshire. In response to a supplementary question regarding the expected timescale for a resolution the Portfolio Holder advised that discussions were currently taking place between officers to try and resolve this situation and that it was hoped there would be a speedy resolution to the benefit of all residents.

The full questions and responses can be found here [Public Questions Council 14 May 2026 with Responses.pdf](#).

8 Questions from Members

The Chairman advised that 6 questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.

Question from Councillor Beverley Waite regarding the Local Transport Plan 2026 – 2038. There was no supplementary question.

Question from Councillor Julian Dean regarding the removal of flags from street furniture. There was no supplementary question

Question from Councillor Brian Evans regarding Cornovii. There was no supplementary question.

Question from Councillor Carl Rowley regarding the flying oof flags. There was no supplementary question

Question from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall regarding Shrewsbury Moves. By way of supplementary question Councillor Dartnall commented that without greatly improved bus services, including buses on Sundays, Shrewsbury Moves will struggle to get off the ground and asked the Portfolio Holder whether he would re-establish a cross-party working group?

Question from Councillor Elizabeth Barker regarding the Afghan Resettlement Scheme. By way of supplementary question Councillor Barker asked would a public apology be made to residents of Cosford and Albrighton for being given misleading information? The Portfolio Holder agreed to follow this up with officers and report back to Councillor Barker.

The full questions and responses can be found here [MEMBER QUESTIONS COUNCIL 14 MAY 2026 WITH RESPONSES.pdf](#)

9 Scrutiny Reorganisation/Housing Supervisory Board

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and seconded by Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Housing Supervisory Board be removed from the Constitution.
2. That the Scrutiny Committees and their terms of reference be approved as follows:

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	- Financial Management and the delivery of the Financial Plan - Overall Council Performance (including financial, quality and activity) - Effectiveness and delivery of the Improvement Plan - Effectiveness and delivery of change at the Council Priority Ambition(s): - A Council that is financially	Chief Executive Executive Director Section 151	Leader Finance Transformation and Economic Growth

	sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel		
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)	- The Council's duty of health and wellbeing including needs assessments, strategies, prevention, commissioning - Planning and delivery of Health Services (HOSC) - Integrated Care System (including Council services) - Neighbourhood working Priority Ambitions: - People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs - Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life - An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing External focus: Health Trusts which are based in, impact on or provide services in the Shropshire Council Area Integrated Care System in the Shropshire Council Area	Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)	
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)	To scrutinise health issues that impact on the wider health system in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin	Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)	Adult Social Care and Public Health
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	- Housing (including affordable and social housing and homelessness/temporary accommodation, housing register, housing allocations and HomePoint) - Cornovii - Shropshire Town and Rural Housing (STAR) - Planning Policy (Housing) inc. Local Plan and Place Plans	Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships Executive Director – Public Health (DPH) Service Director – Place Shaping	Housing Planning

	- Planning Development Management - Developer Contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements) Priority Ambitions: - People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs		
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Services for adults including: - Social Care, - Safeguarding, - Special needs services, Services for children including: - Social Care - Safeguarding - Special needs services - Schools and learning - Home to school transport (including SEND transport) - Youth Services Priority Ambition(s): - People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs - Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life	Executive Director - DASS Director of Children's Services (DCS) Service Director – Care and Wellbeing (interim DASS)	Adult Social care and Public Health Children and Education Communities and Environment
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	- Planning Policy (Economy) inc. Local Plan - Planning Development Management (Highways) - Economic growth - Highways infrastructure and connectivity - Climate strategy and action plan - Environmental Management (Waste Management etc) - Community Safety (required focus) - Culture and Leisure - Flooding and water management (required focus) 16+ Education and learning and skills	Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships Service Director – Place Shaping	Communities and Environment Transformation and Economic Growth Planning Highways and Waste Transport and Regeneration

	Priority Ambition(s): • Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure • An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing • A thriving economy that benefits everyone		
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10 Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and seconded by Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2026/27 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

11 Scheme of Delegation

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and seconded by The Leader Councillor Heather Kidd that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Members resolve that the updated Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be agreed as outlined within this report and as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

As she had an interest in the following item The Interim Chief Executive left the chamber during the consideration of the report

12 Appointment of Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)

It was proposed by The Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council confirm the appointment of Tanya Miles to the permanent Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), with effect from 1st June 2026.

13 Appointment of Monitoring Officer (Service Director Legal and Governance)

It was proposed by The Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council confirm the appointment of Richard Phillips as the Council's permanent Monitoring Officer (Service Director - Legal & Governance) and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with effect from Monday 29th June 2026.

14 Shropshire Council Corporate plan 2026/27-2030/31

It was proposed by The Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Approve the Corporate Plan 2026-2030
2. Note the underlying need for financial recovery and sustainability, the need to align delivery commitments to the Council's financial position, and the potential impact on service standards

15 Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care and seconded by Councillor Rosie Radford that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Approve the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029
2. Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

16 Adoption of the Jo Cox Civility Pledge

It was proposed by The Leader Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. The Leader supports the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics' Civility Pledge, and encourages all members sign up to the following commitments:

"to

- ***use a civil and constructive tone in debate;***
- ***act with integrity, honesty and compassion;***
- ***behave respectfully towards others, including those you disagree with."***

2. That the Pledge is referenced on all Cabinet and Committee agendas as a reminder to members.

17 Adoption of Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review

It was proposed by Councillor Dan Thomas and seconded by Councillor David Walker, Portfolio Holder for Planning that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Shropshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority 'makes' (i.e. adopts) the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review (as set out in Appendices 1 and 2) and brings it into force with immediate effect as part of the development plan for Shropshire

18 Motions

Motion received from Councillor Brendan Mallon and supported by the Reform Group

The Chairman advised Members that due to a procedural error at the last meeting Councillor Mallon was denied his right of reply prior to the vote being taken following a closure motion and that there will be no debate on this motion but Councillor Mallon will be given his right to reply prior to a vote being taken and that as Councillor Mallon was unable to attend today, this would be read out by Cllr Harry Hancock-Davies

Globally, the transition to 'Net Zero' energy systems is in a state of rapid collapse. No large economy is persisting with this and only a handful of lesser economies are still fully committed. The US is unequivocally out. Russia, India, most of Asia and South America were never really in (despite the Paris Agreement) and China simply lies.

China's wind and solar 'farms' are merely a shop front for the planet's primary manufacturer of that equipment. Meanwhile, they rapidly expand Coal and Nuclear use. China alone is 32% of global emissions (Our World in Data), more than the combined developed world. Chinese per capita emissions surpassed the UK in 2022 and are now already double the UK's, with no slowdown in the increase. China plus just the USA and India make up fully half of global emissions.

The latest domino to fall is Germany. Previous dependence on Russian gas and their abandonment of Nuclear makes Germany now heavily dependent on coal and lignite (14% - AG Enrgiebilanzen) and LNG and thus the EU's largest emitter at 22% of the total (EDGAR 2024 report). Unaffordable energy has resulted in large scale off-shoring of German heavy industry. Thus, Chancellor Merz's announcement to reverse their energy policies, maintaining Net Zero in name only.

What remains is a handful of smaller European economies plus Australia still pursuing Net Zero to a similar extent as the UK, with a combined output circa 7% of global emissions (Net Zero Tracker and EDGAR 2024). Canada nominally has Net Zero policies but, unlike the UK, continues with extensive hydrocarbon production. Clearly, 7% of Net Zero is little more than a rounding error. Thus, any further spending on Net Zero is an obvious waste of money.

A number of Councils around the country, including Labour-led Islington, have heavily curtailed or suspended Net Zero spending. In the context of our Financial Emergency, in order to reduce both capital and revenue spend, we move that the Council immediately suspend all Net Zero related spending, pending a review of value-for-money beyond clearly ineffectual reductions in CO2 emissions “

Councillor Hancock Davies read out the statement from Councillor Mallon and following a vote the motion fell

Motion received from Councillor Carl Rowley and supported by Councillors Elizabeth Barker, Brian Evans, Harry Hancock-Davies and George Hollyhead

Motion: Removal of Canal Towpaths from the Safe Walking Routes Policy

This Council notes that:

1. Shropshire Council's approach to assessing walked routes to school allows a wide range of routes to be treated as "available", including public footpaths and other non-highway routes, where risk is judged primarily on traffic and highway considerations.
2. Canal towpaths are routinely subject to risks wholly distinct from adopted footways, including:
 - o Unfenced watercourses and unprotected edges;
 - o Seasonal flooding, surface degradation, ice and low-light conditions;
 - o Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and other users;
 - o Limited access for emergency services.
3. The current assessment framework assumes accompaniment by a responsible adult, an assumption which does not reflect the reality of many working families or older primary-age children walking independently.
4. These assumptions are not consistently supported by objective evidence, real-world behaviour, or safeguarding standards, and do not reflect the lived experience of many families, particularly working parents and older age children walking independently.
5. Treating canal towpaths as "safe walked routes" has the effect of removing entitlement to home-to-school transport, transferring risk and responsibility from the local authority to families.

This Council believes that:

1. Assumption must never replace evidence where child safety is concerned. A route that is "theoretically walkable" is not necessarily practically or safely walkable for children on a daily basis.
2. Policies which depend on presumed adult supervision or ideal conditions place inappropriate responsibility and risk onto families rather than the local authority.
3. Recreational access infrastructure should not be reclassified by assumption as safe school transport infrastructure without clear, objective and child-specific safety criteria.
4. A lawful policy is not automatically a reasonable or proportionate one when measured against safeguarding principles.

This Council resolves to:

1. Remove canal towpaths from classification as “safe walking routes” for the purposes of school transport eligibility within Shropshire Council policy.
2. Amend the walked route assessment framework so that assumptions of accompaniment, surface condition, seasonal usability and comparability with footways may not be relied upon in determining route safety.
3. Ensure that no child or family is denied statutory home-to-school transport on the basis of a route whose safety is assumed rather than objectively evidenced.
4. Instruct officers to report back to Cabinet/Council with revised policy wording.

On taking a vote the motion fell.

19 Future Meeting Dates

RESOLVED:

That meetings of the Council in 2026 – 2027 will be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00 am.

16 July 2026
24 September 2026
10 December 2026
25 February 2027
25 March 2027
13 May 2027

Signed (Chairman)

Date: