

SHREWLEY PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
Shrewley Village Hall – Tuesday 5th May 2026 – 7pm

Minutes

1. Apologies WDC Cllr David Armstrong

In attendance

WDC Cllr Richard Hales

WCC Cllr Jan Matecki

Clerk Eleanor Choudry

Members of public 7

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th February 2025 – approved and signed as a true record.
3. Open Forum and any other matter raised by an elector of the parish – None.
4. Chairman's closing remarks - Cllr Wesbury thanked the representatives for their reports (copies were available at the back of the Village Hall) and on the shrewleyparish.gov.uk website.

PARISH COUNCIL (PC) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Council

Councillor Rachel Hinton resigned from the Parish Council in September 2024 and I would like to thank her for her contribution. Garry Rollason, a resident of Hatton Station, volunteered to fill the vacancy and was co-opted at the May meeting.

Planning

The PC, as a statutory consultee on planning applications, has commented on 9 applications during the year. Shrewley Parish is in the Green Belt and any new development must meet the requirements of both the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Warwick District Council (WDC) Local Plan.

In support of local residents, the Parish Council submitted a detailed objection to an application to erect 34 affordable homes on a small site at the rear of Oakdene Crescent in Hatton Station. I am pleased to say that the application was refused.

South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

A new South Warwickshire Local Plan is currently being developed. This is a new joint plan with Warwick and Stratford upon Avon District Councils working together to produce a plan to cover the combined area to 2050.

A particular concern to local residents, especially those in Hatton Station, is a proposal to build a new community of over 5,000 homes on the Arkwright Estate to the east of Hatton Station. A community group 'Keep Hatton Station Rural' (KHSR) has been formed and submitted a detailed response which the Parish Council fully supports.

Representatives from Budbrooke, Hatton, Shrewley and Beausale, Haseley, Honiley and Wroxall parish councils and Keep Hatton Station Rural (KHSR) have also formed a Joint Parishes Liaison Group (JPLG) and met in February to discuss a joint response to the proposal.

Concerns were raised about plans describing the three phases as separate "villages," despite them effectively forming a single settlement of around 13,000 people — more akin to a small town. Reference was also made to Warwick District Council's stated aim of protecting existing community identities, something residents feel would be undermined by a development of 5,250 homes.

Consultation on the draft Local Plan is expected to begin by 8th June for six weeks and public meetings will be organised across affected parishes, alongside wider information sharing. JPLG and KHSR will continue gathering evidence to oppose the B1 development and prepare an effective response. More information on recent developments is available on the Keep Hatton Station Rural website:

<https://www.KeepHattonStationRural.com/latest-news>

Highways and Rights of Way

After a road traffic accident in 2019, the new vehicle activated sign (VAS) outside Barn Close Nurseries was destroyed. A new sign was finally installed in 2022. However, it stopped working within a few weeks and following repeated requests to WCC Highways to repair it, it was finally repaired in May 2024. However, it stopped working again in July 2025 and we are still waiting for it to be repaired.

The PC uses a local contractor to maintain the village green at Shrewley Common and as part of the PC Biodiversity Action Plan, areas to the rear of the visibility splays at Shrewley Common crossroads will be left unmown until late July 2026 to encourage wild flowers.

The bus shelter on the Shrewley Common crossroads was blown over in the gales at the end of 2024. This shelter was erected in 1953 to celebrate the Coronation of

Queen Elizabeth II and it has been a local feature for over 70 years. The PC is grateful to a local resident who volunteered to fix it back with concrete posts at minimal cost and this has now been done.

Our notice board in Case Lane needed replacing and this has been done by a local contractor.

A number of Highway and Rights of Way problems have been reported to the County Council by Councillors over the year and progress on fixing these is regularly monitored by the PC.

Grants to Local Organisations

The PC received a £6000+ Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant last year and it was agreed that this would be given to the Village Hall to assist with their proposed improvements to the facilities. This work has not yet commenced.

The PC also gave grants to the Ferncumbe Youth Club to support their activities and to the Hatton PCC to assist with Church repairs.

Finally, my thanks to our Clerk, all Councillors and members of our local organisations for their support over the year and their contribution to our community. After many years as Chair, I have decided not to stand for re-election this year. However, I will remain a Parish Councillor to support the Council and the newly elected Chair, in particular the PC response to the proposal to build over 5,000 homes on the Arkwright Estate land as part of the new South West Warwickshire Local Plan.

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT – Clerk

The budget set by Shrewley Parish Council for 2025/26 was £10,046, increasing to £11,723 for 2026/27. In 2024, the Council received £6,250 in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. Of this, £1,000 has already been allocated to the Village Hall Committee, with the remaining £5,250 to be paid shortly to support improvements to this important community facility. The Council also set aside £1,000 to support local groups delivering tangible benefits to residents. This grant continues to be used each year to assist local organisations. In 2025/26, Ferncumbe Youth Club received £300 to support its valuable provision for young people in the area. We are pleased with the ongoing grounds maintenance, which has ensured that the village entrance at the crossroads remains tidy and welcoming. The Reserve Account balance stands at £5,131, of which £3,500 is ringfenced for future election costs. The parish precept for 2026/27 equates to £26.68 for a Band D household.

The 2025/26 financial year ends with a healthy balance of just over £9,979, including £5,250 in CIL funds earmarked for the village hall.

All parish financial information is available on the Parish Council page at www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk

THE CONNIE NEWTON TRUST

The Trust provides assistance for persons over the age of 30 who live or have lived within Shrewley and neighbouring parishes and are suffering financial hardship.

The Trust made awards totalling over £20,000 during the year ending September 2025.

If you feel that there is someone you know who could benefit, please contact a local Trustee in confidence. You will find their contact details on the Parish notice boards and more information on the Charity and the contact details of the Trustees are also available on the Charities page of the Shrewley Parish website: www.shrewleyparish.gov.uk.

Warwick District Council ANNUAL REPORT for 2025/6 to Parish Councils, Kenilworth Abbey and Arden Ward

Prepared by: Cllr Kyn Aizlewood and Cllr David Armstrong, April 2026

Over the past year Warwick District Council has continued to address major strategic issues while also delivering practical local improvements for residents and communities across Abbey and Arden ward. Set out below are some of the highlights.

1. Key decisions and council activity

A major focus has been the future shape of local government in Warwickshire. During 2025 the Council considered options for Local Government Reorganisation, including either a single unitary authority for Warwickshire or two authorities covering North and South Warwickshire. In July, Warwick District Council agreed that a two-unitary model was its preferred option, while further consultation continued into 2026.

The Council also agreed its 2026/27 budget, including a 2.99% council tax increase and the retention of the additional fly-tipping response team following positive public feedback. Other notable developments included continued progress on the new Abbey Fields swimming pool, which is proceeding on budget and is due to open

in July 2026 and support for a shared-use path through Abbey Fields to improve walking and cycling links.

2. South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

The South Warwickshire Local Plan has remained one of the most significant issues for residents and parish councils. The Preferred Options consultation generated a very high level of public interest, with more than 6,000 respondents and over 23,000 representations submitted, a major increase on the previous consultation stage.

During the year, further work took place on consultation analysis, site assessment, infrastructure liaison and growth strategy testing. Representation summaries were later published online, and officers reviewed around 150 site proposals from the third Call for Sites, retaining roughly half for further consideration. Concerns were also raised locally about specific sites, including around Hatton Station, where ward councillors joined officers and campaigners in discussion on site constraints.

By January 2026, the timetable for the final Regulation 19 consultation had been revised, with consultation expected no later than 8 June 2026. Councillors expressed concern that delays could put at risk the timetable for final submission.

3. Environmental improvements

The Council has made strong progress on biodiversity and climate resilience. Through its Biodiversity Action Plan, new grassland, hedgerows, ponds and scrapes have been created or enhanced, helping with flood mitigation, habitat recovery and urban cooling. By March 2026, 30% of Council land was being managed for biodiversity ahead of schedule under the “30 by 30” commitment.

Tree planting has also been a major success, with over 16,000 trees supported through council, community and farming initiatives. In addition, recycling performance improved significantly following the introduction of soft plastics collection, with the district recycling rate rising from 53% to 61.4%.

Overall, the year has combined major strategic debate with visible local action, and parish councils remain important partners in shaping future priorities.

Your councillors for Kenilworth Abbey and Arden are: please feel free to contact us with any issues.

Kyn Aizlewood – Kyn.aizlewood@warwickdc.gov.uk

David Armstrong – David.armstrong@warwickdc.gov.uk

Richard Hales – Richard.hales@warwickdc.gov.uk

HATTON COMBINED CHARITIES

The Hatton Combined Charities include: The Charity of Catherine Throckmorton founded before 1652, The Charity of Jane Baker founded in 1849, The Charity of Jane Norcliffe founded in 1897, The William Edwards Coat and Gown Charity founded in 1818, together with a bequest made by Mr. Butler-Miles. The first four charities were “combined” in 1909, and the Butler-Miles bequest added later.

50% of the income from the Throckmorton Charity continues to be used for the upkeep of the fabric of Hatton Church – the incumbent rector becomes a Trustee upon appointment. The remainder of the Charity’s income is used to provide some immediate short-term assistance to residents and students in need.

First and foremost, the Trustees would like to say thank you to Simon Waterworth for his dedicated service over several years as Clerk. Simon has now handed over the role to Penny Beddow, and the Trustees are pleased to welcome Penny to the team.

The Trustees meet three to four times each year to review the Charity’s funds and to agree how best to support eligible individuals within the local parishes. This year, the Charity has been able to continue providing financial assistance to residents with their household bills and essential items.

The Charity has continued to support students in school and further education by providing funding for one-to-one coaching through the ‘Head Start’ programme. The programme offers careers advice and guidance to students who are uncertain about their next steps.

The Charity provided a small gift to all Year 6 leavers from Ferncumbe Primary School in 2025.

The Charity has also continued to make donations to The Friends of Ferncumbe to support the Curriculum Enrichment Programme. The programme aims to broaden pupils’ experiences and includes Forest School sessions and music activities. In 2025 the Charity was pleased to award an additional grant to fund an extra member of staff to support the School’s Forest School sessions.

The Charity was also pleased to provide financial support to two students from Henley High School, who have worked hard to raise funds to take part in an expedition to Kenya later this year. The expedition will support vital projects, and the Trustees wish all participants a rewarding and memorable experience.

Hatton Combined Charities can give monetary help to:

- Those struggling on a low income.

- People who have unexpected bills to pay.
- Individuals with a change in financial circumstances.
- Students and apprentices for the cost of books and tools.
- People struggling to get to and from hospital appointments.
- Those in need of help with funeral costs, beds, soft furnishing or white goods.
- Students who are in school or at college, feeling lost and wondering what to do next (via the Head Start Programme).
- Unexpected issues and traumas that have left individuals needing monetary assistance.

Only those who are resident in the Parishes of Beausale, Hatton, Haseley and Shrewley are eligible to benefit from the charity.

There is an advertisement in the Ferncumbe News giving details on how to contact the Charity. If you are aware of someone who would benefit, or you yourself needs help, and meet the above criteria then please do get in touch.

FERNCUMBE YOUTH CLUB – David Dyke

2025 has been a good year for the youth club, with our members enjoying the physical activity, interaction, fun, games and tuck shop treats.

We meet every Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm, open to all children in school years 5 and above for football, pool, table tennis or just to chill out with friends.

The first week is free and then £1.00 per week.

Open access to all the children of the local Parishes with weekly attendance now at 35 + every week.

We remain indebted to our volunteers who make the club happen and have been encouraged by incredible new support this year. We deeply appreciate the support from all the local parish councils & charities as this makes a vital difference to the running and existence of the Youth club.

SHREWLEY VILLAGE HALL 2025 – Chairman Charles Stevens

The last year has seen some changes to the governance of the village hall, in that its charitable status remains, but it is now incorporated, as an incorporated charity. This gives extra protection to the trustees who manage the hall, the land on which the hall stands is now the property of the hall itself, and changes to the committee are easier and less complicated.

Physically these changes make no difference to the appearance of the hall, nor its day to day running, which due to the now embedded online booking system and our own website, is running smoothly.

The usage of the hall continues to grow, albeit slowly. SVH has its faithful regulars, the WI, the tutor for children, and now Zumba, Pilates, and other keep fit organisations. A combination of the new signage outside, and the closure of the Ardencote, has brought new bookings too. Family parties continue to book too, birthdays, remembrances, and reunions all feature.

The changes that might be noticed by the general public are the signs outside already mentioned and doing their job, and the ramp inside, giving wheelchair access to the stage. This means that everywhere is accessible now.

The building works and internal changes to the kitchen and toilets were postponed to allow the transfer to the incorporated status and will take place later in 2026. The outside work for which planning consent was obtained, is on hold awaiting funding, but the internal works, the kitchen extension, and the new toilets, ladies, gents and accessible will undertaken during the quieter period during the summer. The first real beneficiaries will be the attendees at the village show in the late summer.

At the forthcoming AGM, scheduled for the end of May, a number of the committee will be stepping down, due to age, infirmities and other reasons, so the call is out to the villagers to come forward and help run this valuable village asset. In the past some people have been put off by the potential personal liability but this has been also eliminated by the change in constitution, downwards to £10! - rather than unlimited as before.

The next year will see the completion of the works and the village of Shrewley will have a well run, accessible, valuable asset, so come and join in!

LITTLE SHREWLEY TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Little Shrewley telephone box was purchased by the Parish Council in 2017 and remains a focal point in the village, maintained by local residents. A map of the village together with its history is shown inside. Paint has been provided for the refurbishment of the kiosk and it is hoped that this will be carried out this summer.

SHREWLEY SOCIAL CLUB REPORT FOR MAY 2025 TO MAY 2026 – David Lawrie

The Club continues to be very well supported, and during the year screened seven movies:

2025 May	"Invitation to Murder"
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	July	"Lee Miller"
	September	"Runaway Jury"
	October	"The Penguin Lessons"
2026	March	"Two Mothers"
	April	"Mission Impossible"

On 29th May the Club will be screening "The Choral", and new members are always welcome.

During my unavoidable absence for much of the year the club was managed very competently by Mrs. Annette Thomas, and I am most grateful for her support.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

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