



Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of Preston on Stour Parish Council

Held on: Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7:30pm
Place: The Three Parishes Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour

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

In attendance: Laura Callow (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 2

35/25 WELCOME and APOLOGIES - Apologies accepted from DC Cllr Dominic Skinner, WCC Cllr David Curtis.

36/25 Co-Option - chair introduced Emma Owen as the councillor who will be co-opting onto the council at our November meeting.

37/25 Declaration of Interest - There were none to receive

38/25 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting from 17th July 2025 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

Proposed: Cllr Spencer

Seconded: Cllr Corser

All in favour

39/25 Open Forum - Members of the public used this time to ask questions and express their opinions. MOP spoke about how they have been fundraising for the new kitchen at the village hall.

40/25 Alscot Estate - Report received from Tom Gurney. His full report is attached at the end of minutes **Appendix A**

41/25 DC Dominic Skinner - No report received

42/25 CC David Curtis - CC David Curtis gave updates. His full report is attached at the end of the minutes. **Appendix B**

43/25 ST, Mary's Church - no report received

44/25 PLANNING - 25//02002T1/TREE The Dell - Support - Unanimously agreed by full council. Clerk to submit a support with comment. Area is congested so opening up the space to allow other areas grow will be beneficial to the property.

44/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- i. The financial report was discussed and agreed
- ii. Bank Reconciliation was approved
- iii. Quotation for electrical connection of defib was approved for payment.
- iv. Invoices were approved for payment

Inv 10	Laura Callow	£488.87	Clerks wage
Inv 11	WALC	£42.00	Training

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Seccombe

All in favour

45/25 Councillors Reports and items for future agendas

- i. **Website**- clerk will contact parish online to find out how far along the new site is and try and hurry it along.
- ii. **Defibrillator** - Clerk will arrange for the defib to be fitted in the new month or so.
- iii. **Sewage works** - Cllr Spencer gave update about the sewage works at Lower Farm. This has now been sorted by Severn Trent.
- iv. **Purchase of Laptop/software** - Cllr Seccombe will research the purchase of a new laptop and software. Once quotes have been given to councillors this will then be approved and bought.

46/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

- o Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7:30pm to be confirmed

47/25 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The meeting was closed at **08.30pm**

Proposed: Cllr Spencer Seconded: Cllr Corser

All in favour

48/25 PERSONNEL and CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

None

SIGNED.....

Appendix A

**Alscot Estate Report
Tom Gurney**

Forestry

We have recently thinned some areas of dead wood Larch within the E-Wood (Top Park) and there is more to come out in the Spring of 2026, to improve the general health of the woodland.

As we have reported previously, we are planning to plant around 8,000 new trees between November and February across the Estate, in line with our Woodland Management Plan. We have also scheduled 1,250 metres of new hedgerow planting along the track from Atherstone on Stour to Clifford Chambers towards the end of November. We have already received interest from several residents in Clifford Chambers, Atherstone and Preston to volunteer to assist with planting and we welcome any further interest.

Flooding

Issues with a damaged culvert by the entrance to the Old Manor House, causing an overflow issue during periods of high rainfall, have been reported to the Council and we have been chasing for a response, before rainfall naturally increases as we head into the winter months.

In terms of wider flooding, we have already cleared the ditch from Top Lodge working down past Silvester Cottages and we have identified plans to trench in a new ditch along the boundary of the graveyard and the old orchard, to better channel and assist in picking up runoff from the fields behind

The roadside culverts will require further action once we know more from the Council, and we would welcome support from the Parish Council in leaning on the Council to address this.

Regenerative Farming

Baseline surveys to monitor improvements in soil health, plant life, and wildlife diversity have been in full force over the summer across the areas of soil fertility / structure building Herbal Leys and Legume Fallow crops. These will help us to build a valuable baseline dataset as the regenerative farming system develops.

We are also excited to announce the arrival of our new pedigree Longhorn herd this autumn (due middle of September). The herd, which includes five cows—Unity (with her calf Zabrina), Xola, Xeronema, and Ximena—will play a vital role in our regenerative farming system. Bred by Shropshire farmer Archie Corrie, they will graze our grasslands to help restore soil health, boost biodiversity, and take us a significant step closer to our goal of becoming a fully organic farm.

On 21st October we are due to present to PEG, to give an overview on the Regenerative Farming project (covering the first year's progress) together with and update on the Living Lab collaboration project and how the local community can assist in gathering data, with a demonstration on how to use the iNaturalist App.

To build on this, we would like to encourage people to follow Alscot on social media, and for those that do not have access, please check in with our website periodically where all information will be made available.

Appendix B

Warwickshire County Council Report Councillor David Curtis

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.

A reminder of the 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) and for men and women aged 18 and over - diabetes and cholesterol

The last event is taking place on Saturday 11 October at Shipston Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4EW. 10am until 2pm. Spaces are limited and need to be booked in advanced at: <https://sdc.mypsatests.org.uk/>

Councillors' Grant Fund [Councillors' Grant Fund - Warwickshire County Council](#)

The applications window for Round 1 of the Councillors' Grant Fund 2025-2026 has closed and grant have be awarded. I have managed to keep some funds from the first round back and added to the second round of funding giving me about £4500 for round 2, which will open sometime in October.