

ADDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Adderley Parish

Held at Adderley Village Hall

on Wednesday 27th May 2025, starting at 7.00 pm

1. Welcome: Cllr Coulon welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Agreement of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 10th April 2024

The Parish Clerk reminded everyone that these draft minutes had been on the Adderley Parish website since the meeting and everyone present agreed that they were a true and accurate record of proceedings at that meeting.

3. Chairman's Report – Cllr Coulon

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to attend this, your Parish Meeting, from which I hope you will gain some insight as to what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf.

An Agenda for this evening is on your chair.

Firstly, I wish to thank all the Councillors, our outgoing Unitary Authority Councillor, Paul Wynn and welcome our new Unitary Authority Councillor. I would particularly like to thank our Parish Clerk, Jane, for all their hard work and their efforts during the past year.

Regrettably, she is leaving us this year and will be sorely missed. Thank you for all your support, guidance and help over the past nine years, it has been greatly appreciated.

We also say farewell to three long standing Parish Councillors and I thank, Paul Nash for all his work on the Parish website and the successful Neighbourhood Plan, which without him would not have been completed. Iain Wilson who has driven forward the A529 project and run the Parish Speed Camera as well as being our representative on the Village Hall Committee and Finally Louise Dowley and again for her support to the A529 improvement scheme. Our thanks go to them all and we wish them every success in their future venture.

Again, this year we have had a number of successes and a number of issues to resolve on behalf of the Parishioners by whom we are elected.

During the year we have given a financial grant to St Peter's Church for the upkeep of the grave yard, and a further grant has been agreed to the "Village Planters" for the Spring & Summer flowers, which I hope you agree are looking "good". I am sure you will agree that they do a great job in keeping the village bright with the flowers, money was also given for the Village Christmas Tree and lights.

We continue to be responsible for the upkeep of the Children's Playground, which is being refurbished with a new "activity" and the fencing areas are being renovated for safety reasons. We also continue to maintain and service the Village Defibrillator NS "Stab Kit" at the Village Hall, replacing the batteries and "Paddles" as and when required and used.

We are also responsible for the upkeep of the Village "Bus Stop/Village library", soon to be decorated ready for "Armed Forces Day" in June.

Our ongoing work has included continuing with the Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, thanks to Cllr Evans and am pleased to announce the very successful completion of the Three Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, with thanks to Cllr Nash, which I am glad to report completed this year.

We have had an input into and tried as hard as we can through our "Road Improvement" Sub-Committee to influence the changes that will be happening on the A529 and some Traffic calming measures at the village entrances will hopefully be introduced, at some time along with the 20mph speed limit outside the school.

We have also completed our normal and statutory business of maintaining a watch on the highways and byways of the village (pot holes being a prime example), ensuring the street lights work, Dog Poo Bins are emptied and Grit Bins filled.

We have approved or objected to planning applications and maintain a working relationship with all Shropshire Councils sub-groups, NALC and SALC.

This alongside keeping the village tidy with hedge and grass cutting.

We also continue to provide the Parish Welcome Packs which we send to every new householder of the Parish when they arrive.

Overall, another busy year with a number of successes for which I thank all the Councillors who have been responsible for them, and for giving up their spare time with no remuneration or expenses.

As we move into the next “Parish” year we will strive to continue with our statutory duties as well as look at ways to improve our Parish and its infrastructure.

But 2025 will be a challenge for us as a number of Councillors have stood down and we welcome Cllr John Crennell as a new Cllr BUT this still leaves two vacancies to fill. If anyone is interested please talk to Jane asap who can give you the details of the duties and time commitment. It is a very worthwhile “job” and shows your interest in the Parish. Thank you.

4. Shropshire Council Report, Prees Ward – Cllr Myles-Hook

Newly-elected Liberal Democrat Shropshire Councillor Malcolm Myles-Hook introduced himself to the meeting and advised everyone that he would be attending the monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings if anyone has anything they wish to raise with him or want him to take forward at Shropshire Council on their behalf. Cllr Coulon asked if anyone had any questions for Cllr Myles-Hook at this point, no-one had.

5. Adderley Church update – Cllr Swindale

VE Day 80th Bell Ringing Thursday the 8th of May: John Roycroft, the mastermind behind the bell restoration, started to ring dead on 6.30 pm together with all the other churches in the UK. The church had a display by the lectern from the George Butter Heritage collection showing the church in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A delicious selection of home-made cakes and tea & coffee were enjoyed by all. The Adderley School's Poppy wreath was placed in front of the altar. Some 50 people came to the church to ring the bells and explore the history. Most had a go at ringing the bells and at times we had a peel of the 3 bells rung together enthusiastically but not to a musical peel. The evening concluded with a flypast by a Soviet Yakover Yak 3 (the Soviet equivalent of our Spitfire) which flew three circuits of the tower.

Lest we Forget Soldier Silhouettes: The Parish Council had purchased 4 more “Lest we Forget” soldiers which included 2 ladies, this gave the village a total of 6. Ben Wrathall and his son Dexter placed 4 in line by the church and one in the graveyard southside which when illuminated produced a stunning silhouette on the church wall. The 6th soldier was placed at the northern entrance to the village by the school. In addition, 80th anniversary plaques were placed strategically in the village with an excellent display in our bus shelter bookstore.

The Bees & Their Nests: To our surprise last month, the bees had locked us out of the church by nesting in 2 keyholes in the main door. With some difficulty the holes were unblocked and temporary screws inserted to prevent their return. In exchange Andy Davidson of Audlem Wildlife and Ecology Group has made and gifted two bee/bug houses to the Churchyard which now provide superior bee accommodation and perhaps, you never know, we may have some St Peter's honey at the end of year.

Joint AMICA Benefice Council Proposal: An AMICA Benefice meeting was held at Calverhall Village Hall on Tuesday the 18th of March 2025 chaired by The Rural Dean. The meeting was convened to make our final decision on The Revd. Martin Heath's (our AMICA Priest in Charge) proposal for a Joint Benefice Council. This proposed Council would have centralised all the churches into one Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the individual PCCs would have been dissolved with all matters including finance centralised. A vote was taken on establishing a Joint Benefice Council. The proposal was rejected by 4 Parishes (Adderley, Moreton Say, Calverhall & Ightfield) and only Ash voted in favour. As a result of the vote all PCCs will remain as the legal governing bodies of the churches and no Joint Benefice Council will be formed and our independence retained. To remain independent, we need your continued support at our social events such as the Harvest Supper and perhaps consider subscribing to the Village Crier monthly magazine for only £10 per year. Without the support of the village the church, a heritage site, will have an uncertain future.

Cllr Coulon asked if anyone had any questions about Adderley Church, no-one did.

6. Adderley Heritage Project – Mr Paul Nash

Mr Nash explained to the meeting that it was almost 3 years since this project had got its grants and September 2025 marked the end of the funding period. He went on to advise that over the last 3 years so

much had been achieved and now Adderley had its own unique Heritage Trail and a heritage website with details of almost 3000 documents, originally collected by Geoff Butter over a 50-year period. He added that going forward the Parish Council had agreed to take on the maintenance of the website, with its relative costs, for which he was very grateful.

Mr Nash finished by saying that the biggest thank you had to go to all those people who had volunteered over the last 3 plus years, and continue to volunteer, to make this community asset a reality and he suggested that if anyone would like to join these volunteers then just let him know.

7. Flower Group update – Lesley Norman

Hello, I'm Lesley Norman and I live in Post Box Cottage and am the team co-ordinator of the Rectory Lane planting group.

BARRY - 8 years ago, before John and I lived here, we came to visit a friend in Meadow Bank. Directions were to go up Rectory Lane and turn right onto the road with all the flowers lining the entrance, you can't miss it! The person responsible for this lovely show, not only had flowers on Meadow Bank, but also all around the village, Barry Hales. Barry's flowers made Adderley an attractive place to live.

Over the years Barry has supplied, planted, watered and tended the village flowers. Barbara Slack and I, followed by Richard & Angela Milhill, would give Barry a hand for rectory Lane to help carry the watering cans up and down the lay-by to water his 12 large planters, and also the other 18 flower pots.

BUS SHELTER GARDEN - To further enhance the village, Peter and Barbara Slack cleared the ugly plot beside the bus shelter. Peter dug out the massive stones, and they cut back, weeded and cleared the plot. They planted evergreen shrubs and covered the soil with plum coloured slate. They created a 'garden' which looks lovely today.

BARRYS HEALTH – Unfortunately, Barry's health let him down and he could no longer continue supplying, planting, and caring for the village flowers.

Barbara, Richard, Angela & I set up a group to carry on Barry's legacy and keep the village in flower but we could not continue to care for the 115 pots that were distributed around the village! Barry always joked that the pots would just mysteriously multiply! Barry had done all the work solely, but we just couldn't!

PARISH COUNCIL - We approached the parish council with a request to purchase planters with reservoirs for the village and a hose pipe to assist Rectory Lane with the task of watering. Ian Wilson generously gave a lot of his time to assist us. He sourced, ordered, and delivered the planters that we now see around the village.

Ben Wrathall was also a huge help in collecting and clearing Barry's larger pots ready for the planters.

PLANTERS VILLAGE HALL - Concerning the planters at the village hall. Formerly there was a chain across the wall to protect cars reversing over the drop. As the chain no longer exists, planters were placed along the wall. The original planters have since been replaced with new planters with reservoirs to assist in the watering rota.

When the large village planters were ordered, it was agreed that should a team not be able to care for the planters, that the tubs could be taken to the Village Hall where they could be reused.

SETTING UP GROUPS OF VOLUNTEERS - The next task was to set up groups of volunteers. One group for each location in the village with one allocated person to co-ordinate the team via WhatsApp.

Rectory Lane group took on the task of ordering and sorting the various displays. There is a winter and a summer planting for a continuous show.

Our group gets together twice a year to decide which plants are best suited to each location and try to order plants that give a good display at a reasonable cost.

THERE ARE 5 GROUPS, each group is responsible for looking after their planters ie. to plant up in summer & in autumn, to water mainly in the summer months, deadhead the flowers and renew top compost when needed.

Station Road looked after by Sarah & Chris Gilbert

Green Bank by Val Nash & Keith Mycock

Meadow Bank by Marius and Fiona Coulon, Liz and Stuart Adams, Andrew and Shelagh Swindale, Ruth and Chris and John and Grace Crennell

The Village Hall by Ben Wrathall, Ken Greetham & Peter and Elaine Bruty

The Church by Peter & Barbara Slack who not only care for the planters but also tidy, trim, remove moss and generally help keep the church garden looking good!

Rectory Lane – the Lay by – and the Bus Shelter Garden by Barbara & Peter Slack, Richard & Angela Milhill & myself

Our group on Rectory Lane works on a rota basis. We are very lucky to have water on tap, kindly supplied by Jon Bernardes to whom we are very grateful. We fill the planter reservoirs 3 times a week and dead head the flowers to encourage more blooms. It works well and it only takes 25 – 30 minutes of each individual's time once a week, not a lot of time to ensure a good display.

If I'm not mistaken, I think only Station Road and Green Bank are the two locations that don't have water on tap.

THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS - I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the village, to thank every volunteer for their time, spent in making the village a more attractive place to live, including Yvonne in Green Bank who can no longer participate. Volunteers' efforts are much appreciated by both residents and visitors alike.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - Volunteers are always welcome to join the groups, the more people that are involved, the less time spent so if you would like to join a group or know of anyone who may be interested who may not be here this evening, please let either myself or Barbara know and we can put you in touch with the team organiser. Many thanks

8. Adderley Village Hall update – Mr Ken Greetham & Mr Iain Wilson

Mr Greetham started by thanking the Parish Council for management of Village affairs and efficient use of public money. No increase in precept this year! Also, thanks to the volunteers within the village for keeping it tidy and well decorated with flowers.

The village was described by a person regularly passing through as a "Village that cares." Not something that you could say about some communities which we travel through.

Mr Greetham then gave a presentation of entitled 'Adderley Village Hall – A Community Building for All'.

In the presentation it was explained:

- History - of the Village Hall
- Where we are now – The Committee comprised of representatives of key village organisations and key user groups, detailing who these committee members were.
- Finance – The income and expenditure were explained and it was highlighted that currently the Village Hall is generating £11k per year net income, which is totally attributable to the significant input of volunteers. This has led to a bank balance of £156,000, accumulated over the last 15 – 20 years.
- The Process – Leading up to the consultation on the future of the Village Hall
- Presentation of the Results – Mr Greetham and Mr Wilson had collated all the responses of the recent consultation with residents' views on the Village Hall and its future. Mr Greetham explained that of the 200 properties that received the consultation 69 responses had been received which was very pleasing.
- The Village Hall today – Some of the responses to the consultation regarding current and future use of the Village Hall were reviewed. Mr Greetham explained that it would not be possible to go through all the comments received from the consultation but there were handouts detailing everything that people had said, along with links on the parish website and Facebook page and also a QR code which Mr Wilson had created and so it was possible for everyone to read the entire document containing all the responses received and he encouraged everyone at the meeting to do this.
- Short Term fixes – Mr Greetham ran through a few short-term fixes including communication of events were highlighted and it is hoped that a noticeboard, possibly digital, may be out on the side of the Village Hall to show events etc.
- Long Term – Mr Greetham then explained that leading on from the consultation they would now be researching potential funding for work on the Village Hall and creating a Business Plan.

The need for volunteers was explained and slips of paper were made available so that anyone who wished to get involved could give their contact details.

Cllr Coulon asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the Village Hall and the following were made:

- Stuart Adams - What was the timeline for the Business Plan? Mr Greetham explained that once they understood what funding may be available then they would be compiling the Business Plan.
- Val Nash – A very big thank you to Ken and Iain for all their hard work in compiling the responses to the consultation, it takes a long of time. Also, there currently a petition being raised to ask the Government to give funding to community buildings which people may want to sign up to.

9. Public Session

There were 18 members of the public, along with 5 Councillors, at the Parish Meeting and in addition to those questions and comments raised as the meeting progressed, the following issues were discussed:

- Val Nash suggested that to compliment the lovely flowers it would be good to have a village street clean/tidy-up one morning. It was agreed that anyone interested in this proposal could speak to Val and the idea would also be promoted at the next Saturday Coffee Morning.
- Rob Cope asked if he was right in thinking that the southern parish boundary with Market Drayton had been moved and was there anything that could be done about this. Cllr Coulon confirmed that there had been a government initiative to balance out the number of electors represented by Unitary Councillors which had the knock-on effect of Adderley parish losing the southern area of land to Market Drayton. The Parish Council had strongly objected to this lose but to no avail.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.40 pm

Proposed and accepted as a true record at the meeting dated 27th May 2025

Signed by the Chairman