

Shropshire Group

Minutes of the 468th meeting of the Shropshire Group held at Haughton Hall Hotel, Shifnal, on Monday 28th April 2025 commencing at 7.31pm.

Present

In the Chair Mr. R. Barnwell (RB)
 Secretary Mrs. A. Barnwell (AB)
 Treasurer Mrs. L. Tenan (LT)
 Committee Members: Mr. B. Boaden (BB), Mr. G. Searson (GS)

468/1. Apologies for Absence
 Mr. I. Jarrett (IJ).

468/2. Elections
 The retiring officers had indicated that they were willing to re-stand for office. The elections proceeded as follows:-

Role	Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by	Vote
Vice Chairman	Mr. R. Barnwell (RB)	En bloc	En bloc	Carried
Future Events Editor	Mr. B. Boaden (BB)	En bloc	En bloc	Carried
Motor Sports representative	Mr. I. Jarrett (IJ)	En bloc	En bloc	Carried

468/3. Minutes from the 467th meeting
 The minutes were agreed and signed off.

468/4. Matters Arising
 There were no matters arising.

468/5. Correspondence

a) The following is a full list of correspondence received and forwarded to Committee members or raised at the meeting indicated, as appropriate:

Received	Title	Forwarded
13.2.25	Re: Shropshire Group – Promotional email	-
18.2.25	2025 Member Day Volunteer Opportunities	-
18.2.25	Reminder: 2025 Boundless Volunteer Survey – Closing 4pm, Thursday 20 th February	-
4.3.25	Groups Charter 2025	-
7.3.25	Invitations for Club Leader Nominations	10.3.25
1.4.25	Club Leader Election	1.4.25
10.4.25	To our Club volunteers, our Club Council and to our Governors	10.4.25
15.4.25	Member Communities Volunteer Recognition Announcement	15.4.25
22.4.25	Past, Fast & Future Charity Auto Show	Replied 22.4.25
23.4.25	Re: Past, Fast & Future Charity Auto Show	-

b) The following is a list of communications with those indicated:

Date	Title	Reason	From/To
11.2.25	Re: Shropshire Group – Promotional email	Request update on status of request	To K. Crichton
6.3.25	Shropshire Group – eshot request	Feedback after eshot on 5.3.25	To Member Comms
21.3.25	Shropshire Group – Visit 21.3.25	Thanks for visit	Midland Air Amblnce
16.4.25	Shropshire Group – Charter and Register	Signed Charter and current Register	To Member Comms
22.4.25	Re: Past, Fast & Future Charity Auto Show	Requested earlier notice for 2026	To Ruth Blackhurst

The Volunteer Recognition Announcement email was met with dismay that such changes could be thought beneficial in any way. Nobody was interested in going to a selective invitation only 'gala' dinner, in fact at least one committee member would not be able to go even if invited due to carer responsibilities. Whilst no-one becomes a volunteer for financial gain, no-one wishes to be financially impacted either. So, providing an annual donation to cover costs is appreciated; it is not considered 'transactional' and does 'celebrate the meaningful contributions' that volunteers make. It has nothing whatsoever to do with 'sharing best practice', 'promoting the value of volunteering' or 'building stronger connections across groups'; these aims can and should be realised in other more appropriate ways.

AB raised the email received from Ruth Blackhurst (a CSMA member) regarding a motor show that she was organising in Shrewsbury for mid May, inviting the Group to have a presence there. AB had replied to say that the Group was interested, but it was rather too short notice to become involved this year, and asked to be kept in the loop for 2026. Ruth was pleased to include the Group when planning for the 2026 show. The Committee agreed it would be a good idea when more details are known to contact HQ and discuss how the Group/Club can be involved.

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468/6. Newsletter

BB continued to issue the Forthcoming Events each month, and to add any new members to the circulation. The Committee members expressed their thanks.

468/7. Competition Matters

IJ had provided an updated list of rallies to BB for inclusion in the monthly Forward Schedule.

468/8. Review of Activities

a) Past Events

Date	Event	Venue	Attendance	Comments
2025				
12.2.25	Gizmos & gadgets – Kath Reynolds	HHH	16 members 8 partners 6 guests	Kath delighted in her usual upbeat way, reminding us of the latest must-have gadgets of our youth. Surprisingly, some of them are still in use!
12.3.25	It's Not Just Iron – Kate Cadman	HHH	15 members 6 partners 1 guest	The spotlight moved from iron onto the ceramics and associated industries that also existed in the Ironbridge Gorge. A very interesting talk from Kate, curator of the ceramics museum.
21.3.25	Midland Air Ambulance visit – Carl Williams	Air Ambulance HQ, Cosford	10 members 4 partners	Carl welcomed a small party into the HQ of the Midland Air Ambulance, and we were able to get up close to the helicopter and cars, plus talk to the pilot and medical staff (Dr and Nurse) on duty. A very interesting tour, another will be arranged for the autumn for those unable to attend this event.
9.4.25	AGM + Living with an Electric Car – Roger Davis	HHH	14 members 4 partners 1 guest	The business soon over, Roger regaled the meeting with the reality of living with and using an electric car. When and where to charge, planning journeys, costs, etc. An entertaining and informative talk on the real practicalities of EVs.

b) Future Events

Date	Event	Venue c=confirmed	Cost	Organiser
2025				
14.5.25 7.30pm	Into The Shadows – Chris Austin	HHH - c	A personal history of The Shadows and their music	AB
11.6.25 7.30pm	Life & Times of Patrick Lichfield – Judith Hubble	HHH - c	Hear about the life and times of Patrick Lichfield, 5th Earl of Lichfield	AB
9.7.25 7pm	Treasure Hunt in Shifnal – meet at Village Hall TF11 8DW	Shifnal	Walking treasure hunt around Shifnal	IJ
10.9.25 7pm	By River & Sea – Mark Sisson	HHH – c	Mark returns from his world-wide travels to stun us with his fantastic pictures of wildlife; this time by rivers and seas. It should be a good night.	BB
8.10.25 7.30pm	What's in a Word? – Alan Lewis	HHH - c	Discover the origin of some everyday words and phrases	AB
12.11.25 7.30pm	Shropshire Seasons from the Skies – Ric Morris	HHH – c	A different view of Shropshire, in all seasons	BB
3.12.25 7.30pm	Annual Quiz – Alan Cartwright	Norbury Village Hall – tbc ST20 0PA	The annual quiz, where we all find out how much we don't know	AB

AB confirmed that as the tour of the Midland Air Ambulance HQ was over-subscribed, another visit would be arranged for later in the year.

LT will contact Kate Cadman to discuss another talk, for a date in early 2026.

The current venue for events was discussed, as it is becoming increasingly clear that its suitability is declining. It changed hands during 2025 and the current management do not provide the required level of service. A few weeks ago a parking registration system was introduced without notice, whereby users of the car park have to enter their car registration number on a tablet to avoid a minimum £60 fine. The Committee members are now considering other venues for events.

Other events to be investigated:-

- Thai food night – AB/IJ
- Archaeology from the skies by Andy Wigley – AB
- Shropshire Wildlife – BB
- English Heritage re Wroxeter or Boscobel House – LT
- Evening event at Wappenshall Junction – AB
- BIFOR talk – AB
- Speaker in Wirral – IJ.

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468/9. Accounts

LT reported that £1000 was eventually received after a five week delay. LT will make a donation to Alzheimer's UK with £nn of the charity money that has been collected.

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE - 10.2.25 to 28.4.25

Date	Transaction	Status	Value £	Balance £
		2025 Budget		3200.00
	Cleared Imprest		-1000.00	
		Budget Remaining		2200.00
		Bank Balance	1294.45	
		Cash Tin	67.75	
		Total Monies Held		1362.20
		Of which Charity	332.00	
		Volunteer Reward		
		Total Funds Available to Group		1030.20

BANK ACCOUNT - reflecting committed expenditure

Date	Transaction	Status	Value £	Balance £
-		Start of period		1381.45
11.2.25	HH committee meeting	Visa	-99.00	1282.45
12.2.25	Speaker fee		-75.00	1207.45
13.2.25	HH room hire, event	Visa	-141.00	1066.45
5.3.25	Ironbridge Speaker fee		-80.00	986.45
12.3.25	Bank charges		-5.00	981.45
13.3.25	HH room hire, event	Visa	-141.00	840.45
21.3.25	Midland Air Ambulance donation		-200.00	640.45
22.3.25	Midland Air Ambulance donation		-200.00	440.45
9.4.25	Bank charges		-5.00	435.45
10.4.25	HH room hire, event	Visa	-141.00	294.45
11.4.25	Imprest		1000.00	1294.45
		End of period	-87.00	1294.45

CASH TIN

Date	Transaction	Status	Value £	Balance £
-		Start of period		104.45
10.2.25	Committee travel expenses		-31.50	72.95
10.2.25	Biscuits		-5.20	67.75
		End of period	-36.70	67.75

L Tenan, Treasurer.

461/10. Dates of Next Meetings

Date	Day	Start	Venue c=confirmed	Purpose
30.6.25	Monday	7.30pm	HHH – c	Committee meeting
15.9.25	Monday	7.30pm	HHH – c	Committee meeting
17.11.25	Monday	7.30pm	HHH – c	Committee meeting

468/11. AOB

The need for an alternate venue was discussed in Section 468/8 b). There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm. These minutes are a true record of the 468th meeting of Shropshire Group.

Signed:

Chairman's name:

Date: