

Minutes

of a Parish Council meeting

held at 7 pm on Thursday 29 September 2022 at Rhydycroesau Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Martin Jones (Chairman), Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Iain Campbell, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Roger Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Jas Singh, Cllr. Steve Watts, Cllr. Mike Weston, Chris Woods.

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Approximately five members of the public

1477 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new clerk, Kathryn Lloyd.

1478 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Paul Milner (Work related) and Cllr Joyce Barrow (other commitments).

1479 Police Report

The following written report was received from the Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team:

03/09/22 – Theft (of parcel). Morda.

06/09/22 – Public Order offence. Morda

09/09/22 – Assault. Morda

13/09/22 – Public Order offence. Mile End

13/09/22 – Dogs loose on highway. Trefonen

14/09/22 – Road related offence. Maesbury

14/09/22 – RTC (Road Traffic Collision) – Racecourse.

15/09/22 – Road related offence. Maesbury

16/09/22 – RTC. Sweeney

17/09/22 – Road related offence. Mile End

20/09/22 – Road related offence. Mile End

23/09/22 – Traffic disruption. A483

25/09/22 – Suspicious activity (lone male is suspicious circs) – Maesbury

26/06/22 – RTC. A5

28/09/22 – Suspicious incident – person selling puppies. Morda

Incidents that have been omitted due to data protection –

Domestics – 2

Crimes (other) – 0

Concerns for Safety – 1

Other - 3

NOTED.

1480 Shropshire Council Report

The following written report was received from Cllr. Joyce Barrow:

- More potholes to be tackled by Multihog machines in October.
- News from our partners, those 65 and over are being urged to book their COVID 19 Autumn Booster vaccination.
- The administration at Shropshire council has welcomed the news that the department of Health and Social Care has approved the strategic business case submitted by Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System to configure the area's acute hospital services. This is an important step forward for something that has been many years in the planning and discussion, which will allow plans to redevelop services at the area's two main hospitals that serve Shropshire, the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford to finally progress. It can also bring very badly needed investment into the whole of the area's health care system to start to tackle a range of challenges in both primary and secondary care.
- Veolia UK and Shropshire Council have teamed up offer £15,000 in funding to the County's local community groups and clubs. The first ever EnviroGrant scheme in Shropshire enables clubs and groups to apply for £1,000 in funding for projects that benefit the local community or environment.
- Work to enhance services with 5G have been shortlisted for a trio of national awards.
- Council Apprenticeship levy transfer funding pot opens. Shropshire Council is offering small to medium businesses and other non-levy paying organisations in the county a chance to apply for free training through apprenticeships. The transfer of Shropshire's unspent apprenticeships funds allows it to help smaller enterprises by covering the cost of apprenticeship training, enabling them to take on and train new staff or boost the skills of existing staff. The council has approximately £140,000 available to businesses that are not currently subject to the government's Apprenticeship Levy.
- Enforcement Officers continue to monitor activities on a field in Croesaubach amid concerns from residents. The new owner has said he is returning the field back to pastureland and as such is levelling up the ground.
- New recycling bins. The contractors putting out the bins in the area, say that they will have completed deliveries by the end of the week. I strongly suspect that a number of properties will not be located, some are very difficult to find. I think in that instance, people need to report the lack of delivery to the customer service desk. I think this will be passed over to Veolia, who know where all the properties can be found.

1481 Public Participation

One member of the public referred to item 17 Road Safety and advised that following the meeting of the Road Safety Committee on 29 August 2022, he had not had sight of any write up. He had emailed the committee on 20 September and had not yet received a response. The resident requested the report be published on the Parish Council website. The Chairman advised the report from the Committee meeting was as an agenda item for this evening and would be considered by members.

One member of the public advised the Council that the whilst the agenda had been published on the Parish Council website the supporting reports / documents had not. The resident reminded the Parish Council that being a statutory Local Authority under the Local Government Act 1972, these should be made available to the public. The new Clerk apologised for this oversight and confirmed these would be published on the website in future. The clerk advised all agendas and supporting documents had been issued to Councillors one week ahead of the meeting and published on the parish noticeboards.

1482 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 25 August 2022 were considered for approval. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1483 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether they should disclose an interest at this meeting. Members were also reminded they should not make decisions with a closed mind and must declare a bias and not vote on matters where their decision could be pre-determined.

Cllr Martin Bennett declared a bias on item 10b application 22/04163/FUL, Morda Methodist Church.

1484 Dispensations

None requested.

1485 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

1486 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**:

| Planning Application Details | Planning Proposals |
|--|--|
| 22/03442/FUL Westwinds, Rectory Close, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9FF | Erection of double garage Decision: Grant Permission |
| 22/03257/CPE Pleasant Grove, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HT | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of a residential annex in the form of a static caravan including gravel drive to the rear of the existing residential dwelling namely Pleasant Grove Decision: Certificate - Not Lawful |
| 22/02688/FUL 13 Nant Y Caws, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9AP | Erection of two storey rear extension (revised scheme) Decision: Grant Permission |
| 22/00671/TPO 50 Milars Field, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9PU | Reduce by approx. 3ft either side of 1No. Sycamore tree protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (The Llwyn Mopsis, Trefonen Road, Morda) TPO 2003 Decision: Grant Permission |
| 22/01215/VAR (validated: 11/03/2022) Land To The North of Weston Road, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire | Variation of condition no. 2 (approved drawings) attached to 21/00442/FUL to allow replacement block plan Decision: Grant Permission |
| 22/03101/FUL The Coppie, Woolston, West Felton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8HY | Erection of part two storey and part single storey extension to include juliet balcony Decision: Refuse |

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

Prior to considering application 22/04163/FUL, Cllr Martin Bennett and Cllr Singh left the room before being invited back to continue with the next application.

| Planning Application Details | Planning Proposals |
|---|--|
| 22/03959/FUL Morrin, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HQ | Erection of porch extension to front of house. Supported |
| 22/04163/FUL Morda Methodist Church, Trefonen Road, Morda, Shropshire | Conversion of chapel into a single dwelling, replacement of existing outbuilding and formation of a dropped kerb for vehicle access. Cllr Watts commented there were concerns with the garage being constructed over a dropped kerb and traffic accessing the property being in close proximity to the junction. Cllr Martin Jones stated the Parish Council had supported this application at the previous meeting. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application. |
| 22/04289/AGR Aston Hall, Shrewsbury Road, Aston, Oswestry, Shropshire. | Extension to agricultural machinery building Noted |

1487 Clerk's Report

A member questioned why items from the Clerk's report were no longer on the agenda and gave the cost of the School Uniform as an example. Members were advised that where the Council requested the Clerk to act, any response would be reported back via the Clerk's report. This prevented the agenda from being clogged up with agenda items which had already been actioned. Any item can be placed back on the agenda if requested to do so or if it was felt it had not been adequately dealt with.

Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings

1488 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure to 30 August 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income received to date of £45,355.15 and gross expenditure to date of £23,102.59 be APPROVED.

b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations to 30 August 2022.

Cllr John Davies queried the bank reconciliation statement. The Clerk confirmed the bank account balances were to 30 August 2022 and that bank transfers requested at the previous meeting had been actioned in September 2022 and therefore not affected.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations for August 2022 totalling £275,488.44 be APPROVED.

The Clerk advised members that she was proposing to change the format of financial statements, including a forecasted outturn position and a more detailed / update to date bank reconciliation statement.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the proposals for changing the format of financial statements.

c) Payments for September 2022

Members considered for approval payments for September 2022.

The Clerk advised members that the clerk's expenses on the statements issued electronically had been overstated by £21.00. This error had been amended on the payments schedule for signing.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **AGREED** that the following payments for September 2022 be **APPROVED**.

| Date | Details | Gross £ |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| 15/09/2022 | WiFi Mini mobile broadband | 16.39 |
| 15/09/2022 | Grant Funding | 1,000.00 |
| 20/09/2022 | Bank charges | 10.00 |
| 22/09/2022 | Monthly Mobile Charge | 12.00 |
| 30/09/2022 | Clerk's expenses/reimbursements * | 1,314.63 |
| 30/09/2022 | PAYE/NI | 94.61 |
| 30/09/2022 | Grounds maintenance | 570.00 |
| 30/09/2022 | Bus shelter cleaning | 60.00 |
| 30/09/2022 | Bus shelter cleaning | 25.00 |
| 30/09/2022 | Reimbursement for ACER Extensa 15 intel core laptop | 599.97 |
| 30/09/2022 | Reimbursement for Business mobile, printer, wireless keyboard, and mouse | 810.93 |
| | Total | 4,513.53 |

d) Quotes from Colin Turner

Members considered for approval the quotes received from Colin Turner to:

- Replace noticeboard located at the bus shelter at Maesbury Marsh
- Replace wood, clean and paint metal frame of seat located in Back Lane Maesbury £450
- Clean rear panels and remove moss off the top of the bus shelter near the school at Morda £25
- Remove moss off the top of bus shelter in Weston Road £25
- Annual varnishing of all notice boards £400
- Installation of no parking sign at Treflach Green £260

Cllr Bob Kimber reminded members the parking sign was currently located at his home address.

A member advised member there was no noticeboard located at the bus shelter at Maesbury Marsh as this was in situ further down Coed y Rae Lane.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **AGREED** that the quotes from Colin Turner be **ACCEPTED** and **APPROVED**.

Members **NOTED** the following:

- e. Potential financial liability exceeding £3,000 relating to 2017 outstanding invoices from SP Energy
- f. Signing of Unity Trust submission papers for changes to signatories
- g. Signing of Cambridge & Counties Bank change of details form (account holders / signatories)

Cllr Bennett asked whether the reason for the potential liability for outstanding invoice was due to the originals being sent to Shropshire Council. The Clerk confirmed this was the case and provided an update to members.

1489 Budget request 2023-24 – Coronation Gift

Members considered the request proposed by Cllr Martin Bennett for the 2023-24 budget to include a sum to allow for a suitable Coronation Gift to be presented to each child in Primary Education attending a school within the area served by the Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

Cllr Bennett advised members that there will be a coronation for the King next year and that a suitable amount of funding be set aside in the 2023/24 budget for a commemorative gift. Cllr Bennett advised that for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Oswestry Town Council had provided commemorative coins and that his request was an indication of approval in principle. A question was raised as to the number of eligible primary school children in the Oswestry Rural Parish Council area and the type of gift being considered.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to:

- Investigate the types of gifts available and costs to commemorate the King's Coronation
- To establish the number of children of primary school age within the Parish

1490 Audit

a) Members considered the recommendation by the Clerk to restate the figures of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return (AGAR) 2021/22 (Accounting Statement -Section 2) and for resubmission to the external auditors. This was in response to a number of queries raised by the external auditor.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the figures of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return (AGAR) 2021/22 be restated and resubmitted to the external auditor.

b) Members considered, that prior to the completion of the AGAR 2022/23, to seek advice from next year's approved external auditors and consider asset valuation methodology.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that prior to the completion of AGAR 2022/23, to seek advice from next year's approved external auditors and consider asset valuation methodology.

1491 Oswestry Leisure Centre

Cllr John Davies provided an update to members regarding the proposal for alternative fitness / exercise opportunities. He advised as he was still waiting for advice from Trefonen Village Hall regarding availability for sessions, he would report fully to Council as the next meeting. Cllr Martin Jones, asked in terms of proposal if the Parish Council was being asked to fund this and for an indication of the cost implications. Cllr John Davies explained what was being considered, with expected costs to be in the region of £3k - £4k, covering a ten-week trial for two sessions per week at two venues. A member advised that a fitness club had recently collapsed due to a lack of interest. Any proposals for these fitness / exercise classes will be announced on Facebook.

1492 Planning Advice

Cllr Iain Campbell advised members that as declared at the last Parish Council meeting, he had attended a Biodiversity training programme where he had met an expert in this field. He advised that the Council had agreed in principle for the setting aside of funding for individual specialists as and when required.

Cllr Roger Jones expressed it was reasonable to establish a list of specialists which the Council could use in the future. Cllr Iain Campbell proposed:

- To establish a register of experts to be used on an individual basis as and when and according to specific needs of the Council i.e., Planning, Environmental issues
- Additional people to be added as required
- No funds to be spent without Full Council approval

Cllr Martin Bennett suggested that if the Parish Council wished to maintain a list of experts in various fields the hourly rate / cost should also be included and maintained

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a register of experts in various fields be established and maintained together with the hourly rate / costs.

1493 Road Safety

Members received a written report from the Road Safety Working Group with the following proposals:

1) For Oswestry Rural Parish Council (ORPC) to increase its budget for the speed reduction scheme at Coed y Go by a further £5,000 (total £20,000) to allow for any price increase in materials. Current speed reduction costs were £19,727

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for an additional budget of £5,000 (total £20,000) be allocated to the speed reduction scheme at Coed y Go.

2) For ORPC to write to Shropshire Council and the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner asking for a discretionary speed limit to be placed on the road at Weston.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to Shropshire Council and the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner asking for a discretionary speed limit to be placed on the road at Weston

3) For ORPC to resubmit the concerns of residents of Morton and request initial work be undertaken to assess the speed and volume of the traffic to provide a rationale for a reduced maximum speed limit. Members were reminded Shropshire Council had been approached on this matter in the past.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED the concerns raised by residents of Morton to be resubmitted to Shropshire Council and to request initial work is undertaken to assess the speed and volume of the traffic to provide the rationale for a reduced maximum speed limit.

4) To agree the complaint regarding HGV and request for suitable signage be submitted to Shropshire Council. Members discussed this noting the issue with Satnav and the photographic evidence of the HG vehicles which clearly demonstrated the issues.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to agree the complaint regarding HGV and request suitable signage be submitted to Shropshire Council.

5) ORPC to write again to the Leader but also submit a written Question to the next available Shropshire Council meeting. In view of the matter of HGV Operators' Licences being a further item on the Agenda, it was agreed to defer the recommendation of the RSG to give precedence to the Agenda Item (minute 1496)

6) Members noted that the RSG had discussed requirements for Community Speed watch and would make an approach to Whittington Parish Council regarding their Speed Watch Group.

7) That Cllrs Bennett, Cllr Jones, and Cllr Kimber meet with 3 Councillors from Llanyblodwell Parish Council to discuss some joint working.

Members were advised that two Councillors from Llanybodwell Parish Council had volunteered to discuss some joint workings.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for Cllrs Bennett, Cllr Jones, and Cllr Kimber to meet with three Councillors from Llanyblodwell to discuss some joint workings.

1494 Morda and Sweeney Village Hall (charity number 1111603)

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members that due to attention being focussed on the farm and annual leave there was no further update from the Morda and Sweeney Village Hall Working Group. He had been made aware by The Clerk of two folders containing documents / deeds which maybe of use.

1495 Environmental Working Group

Members received a report from the Environmental Working Group.

1) Councillors from the EWG had met with Oswestry Town Clerk to see if they could work together on environmental issues affecting Oswestry. The minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to The Clerk.

2) The EWG met on 5 September and agreed the format of the proposed ORPC three-minute presentation to be presented at the Northern Committee Meeting in October 2022. Cllr Jones asked members for their agreement to this.

A member asked if the presentation had been timed as only three minutes were allocated under public speaking. It was confirmed this had been done and the presentation was within the time allowed.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the proposed three-minute presentation to be presented at the Northern Committee Meeting being held in October 2022.

a) Members were advised a Councillor should be nominated to make representation at the Northern Committee meeting. It was suggested that Cllr Martin Bennett be nominated as he was familiar with and had the knowledge and experience relating to the planning aspects of the presentation.

It was AGREED For Cllr Martin Bennett to be the nominee.

b) Cllr Iain Campbell advised members he had been in contact with Friends of the Earth. He was aware the Chief Operating Officer had now left. Whilst members of staff were familiar with similar situations to the farm, they were no longer available to provide support due to funding issues.

c) Cllr Roger Jones advised members he had communicated with neighbours and advised they should make their own representations.

d) Cllr Roger Jones advised that Cllr Joyce Barrow would be able to speak for longer the allocated three minutes and he would contact Cllr Barrow to ask if she would be willing to make representation on behalf of the Parish Council.

e) Cllr Jones advised members the report from NPC will be issued one week before the meeting on 11 October which will include highlights. The EWG will meet during the week to identify any changes required to its presentation. EWG have been informed the preliminary venue of Shire Hall at 2pm. Details will be on available on the County Council website. It was suggested that people attending the meeting check access and parking facilities.

f) Members were advised that the EWG had taken the opportunity to invite Cllr Martin Bennett to their meeting and the group thanked him for his valuable and constructive contribution.

Cllr Martin Bennett stated that the Officers report would not be issued until the week before the NPC meeting. If the recommendation is to approve the application, then it will be important to ask that the number of cattle be limited, there is no further expansion of the farm and to detail any mitigations.

Cllr Weston asked if the Council were aware that in the last revised noise assessment, the consultant had stated facilities would house 750 beasts.

1496 HGV License

Cllr Martin Jones advised members of the final response received from the Minister for Department of Transport. Reference:408673 (Case Ref: HM3718). Referring to the application for commercial enterprise, The Parish Council does not have any recourse to input on objections unless it owns land adjacent to the business. However, The Parish Council may approach Shropshire Council to act on its behalf. The response from Shropshire Council received by Helen Morgan MP stated the Council had not been formally consulted on these matters. This gave cause for concerns and Helen Morgan welcomed the thoughts of the Parish Council. There was a brief discussion with reference to both letters and questions raised around the Application and Decisions publication, Legislation Act and whether staff at Shropshire Council were aware of the publication. Cllr Bennett stated he would prepare a response to Helen Morgan MP and draft a letter which she could send to the Department of Transport. This would be to challenge the assertions made and to request the rationale. The Parish Council has 21 days in which to respond.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for Cllr Bennett to prepare responses which will be emailed to the Clerk to action.

There was a discussion on HGV license applications being advertised in Local Papers. Members acknowledged how detrimental HGV were for residents and that the Parish Council needed to be proactive.

1497 Midlands Ambulance Service

Cllr Steve Watts presented members with the latest data on ambulance response times from West Midlands Ambulance Service for the post codes SY10 and SY9. Members commented the figures were disappointing. The Council had previously requested a quarterly update and in previous discussions requested a representative from Midland Ambulance Service attend a Parish Council meeting. Cllr Bennett advised that improvements to the service were unlikely to be dealt with quickly. Adaptations to a person's home previously had a two-year waiting time. Recruitment and training for care is difficult due to the special skill set required.

Members **NOTED** the response times.

It was AGREED to approach Oswestry Town Council to request West Midlands Ambulance Service send a representative to attend a meeting to provide details and explanation for the response times. This meeting would be open to all Parish Councils within the Oswestry area.

1498 Montgomery Canal

Members **NOTED** Schoolhouse Bridge, Long Lane, Crickheath Road closure from October 2022 to 30 September 2023 whilst restoration work is undertaken.

1499 Consultation

Members **NOTED** the response from Shropshire Council following the Parish Council's submission on the Draft Empty Home Strategy (Action Plan 1447)

1500 Warm Welcome Hubs

Members were advised of Shropshire Council's partnership works to support residents struggling with the cost-of-living rises. This included the setting up of warm welcome spaces in venues such as libraries. Concerns were raised as to what rural residents will do. Shropshire Council's home installation / Boiler replacement scheme was all in place except for the sign-off of providers.

1501 Date for Next Meeting

To NOTE that the next meeting will place on Thursday 27 October 2022 at Trefonen Village Hall

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it will be PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present

1502 Planning Enforcement

Planning enforcement cases were **NOTED**.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.34 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman