

Minutes  
of a Parish Council meeting  
held at 7 pm on Thursday 25 August 2022 at Trefonen Village Hall

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**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:**

Sharon Clayton

**In attendance:**

5 members of the public  
Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow  
Kathryn Lloyd

**1424 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**1425 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Paul Milner.

**1426 Police Report**

There was no report from the Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team due to IT problems.

**NOTED.**

**1427 Shropshire Council Report**

Cllr. Joyce Barrow had nothing to report.

**1428 Public Participation**

One member of the public referred to the Parish Council's Community Grant Policy and asked why a grant application from Morda United FC was not awarded after being considered by the Parish Council in October 2021. The Chairman explained that the grant application was on the agenda for this evening and would be re-considered later in the meeting.

One member of the public referred to a statement produced by members of the public campaigning about the current state of the NHS with Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin being one of the worst performing areas in England. Waiting times for ambulances had led to deaths and patients were unable to be discharged from hospital even though they were perfectly fit because the after care they needed was not available. Campaigners were requesting that a CQC investigation be carried out into the causes of failing healthcare in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin and asked the Parish Council to support their endeavours to lobby government to provide sufficient funding for adequate health and social care. The Chairman said that this request was on the agenda for this evening and would be considered later in the meeting.

**1429 Minutes**

- a) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 28 July 2022 were considered for approval. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- b) The minutes from a Personnel Committee meeting held on 28 April 2022 were **NOTED and ADOPTED.**

**1430 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.

As a close neighbour Cllr. Bob Kimber declared an interest in relation to planning application 22/03442/FUL.  
As Chair of Oswestry Ethos Group and Governor of the Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Trust Cllr. Martin Bennet declared an interest/bias/ or pre-determination in relation to the discussion concerning the NHS Crisis.

**1431 Dispensations**

None requested.

**1432 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality**

None declared.

**1433 Planning Matters**

**a) Planning Decisions**

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

<b>Planning Application Details</b>	<b>Planning Proposals</b>
22/01386/LBC The Wharfingers House, Maesbury Marsh	Replacement of 8 sash windows to front and rear elevations. WITHDRAWN 11 August 2022. <i>The Parish Council had no objection to this application.</i>
22/02462/FUL Bridge Cottage, Ball Lane, Maesbury	Erection of single storey extension (re-submission). Permission GRANTED 28 July 2022. <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
22/02616/FUL Ty Nant, Sychtyn, Trefonen	Erection of ancillary accommodation to main house, following partial deconstruction of former bothy/workshop outbuilding, erection of workshop/stables (re-submission). Permission GRANTED 16 August 2022. <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council.</i>
22/02941/FUL Willow Cottage, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen	Proposed installation of ground mounted solar panel array. Permission GRANTED 19 August 2022. <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council.</i>

**b) Planning Applications**

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
22/03360/FUL Proposed agricultural workers dwelling north of Tramway Farm, Crickheath	Erection of replacement agricultural workers dwelling. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to make no comment.</b>
22/03442/FUL Westwind, Rectory Close, Trefonen	Erection of double garage.  Having declared an interest Cllr. Bob Kimber did not participate in the discussion nor decision.  <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/03447/FUL Proposed solar farm to the north of Rhydycroesau	Formation of solar park consisting of 3,240 solar panels and associated electrical equipment namely inverters, site and DNO substations, battery energy storage units, 2m high deer fence with gates, formation of a permanent access road, CCTV cameras and infrared lighting and a weather station mounted on galvanised steel masts inside the solar park. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support with the condition that, when the solar panels were no longer required or reached the end of their life, all installations should be removed and the land restored to its original condition.</b>
22/03569/FUL The Fields Barn, Maesbury Marsh.	Erection of single storey lean-to extension (replacing existing structure) and alterations to barn outbuilding to accommodate swim spa (re-submission). <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection provided the conditions in the bat report were adhered to.</b>
22/03624/FUL Belle Ecole, Maesbury Marsh	Proposed demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of 2 storey rear extension. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.</b>
22/03669/FUL Schoolhouse Bridge Cottage, Crickheath	Erection of a double garage with office/storage above; timber frame construction with larch cladding/render to exterior link attached to existing cottage. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/03679/FUL Proposed residential conversion of outbuilding at Canal View, Maesbury	Refurbishment, conversion and alterations to create new dwelling.  Concern was expressed about the heritage of the Bone Works especially as the Parish Council had previously attempted to have the building listed but Historic England rules that the application did not meet the criteria required.  Situated on the Montgomery Canal its chimney was of significant importance because it had glazed tiles within it that could provide illumination at night. It was also one of the few remaining buildings of its kind.  <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>To request a time extension for the Parish Council to respond to this application so that a more informed response could be formulated in accordance with planning policy.</b></li> <li>○ <b>To contact Shropshire Council's Conservation Officer to express the Parish Council's concerns relating to the heritage of the building.</b></li> <li>○ <b>That the historic significance of the Bone Mill and its status as a non-designated heritage asset being material considerations [Policy MD13 of the SamDev], to ask Councillor Joyce Barrow to request that Shropshire Council's North Shropshire Planning Committee make the decision concerning this application.</b></li> </ul>

22/03691/VAR Morda C of E Primary School, Morda	Variation of Condition No. 4 pursuant of 12/02905/FUL to allow for the retention of the demountable accommodation for a further temporary period of ten years. The date by which the building is to be removed and the land re-instated to read as '22 August 2032'. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support but request that more permanent accommodation be provided.</b>
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#### 1434 Clerk's Report

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

#### 1435 Financial Matters

##### a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure to 31 July 2022.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income received to date of £44,283.85 and gross expenditure to date of £16,638.68 be APPROVED.**

##### b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for July 2022.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations for July 2022 totalling £280,860.05 be APPROVED.**

##### c) Payments for August 2022

Members considered for approval payments for August 2022.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
EE	Wi-Fi mini monthly plan	12.78
Sharon Clayton	Clerk's salary/expenses/reimbursement	992.87
HMRC	PAYE/NI	277.12
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance and tree pruning	570.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1945.77</b>

d) Members considered for approval transferring a further £10,000 to the Unity Trust current account.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £10,000 be transferred to the Unity Trust current account.**

#### 1436 Audit

Members considered for approval not to opt-out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements and to allow SAAA to choose the external auditor for the Parish Council.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to opt-out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment.**

#### 1437 Oswestry Leisure Centre

Cllr. John Davies informed Members that he would be putting a proposal forward for consideration at the next meeting.

**NOTED.**

#### 1438 Planning Advice

Cllr Iain Campbell, who had previously asked the Council to consider appointing a planning advisor, said that appointing one particular individual may not be ideal as information may be compromised. He recommended that a bank of specialists should be compiled so that the Council could call on appropriate advice as and when required in accordance with the expertise needed to assist the Council to respond to planning consultation.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer a decision to a future meeting.**

#### **1439 IT Equipment**

Members considered for approval allocating a budget for the purchase of IT equipment for the Clerk's home/office use.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a budget of up to £2,500 be assigned for the purchase of suitable IT equipment including a mobile phone.**

#### **1440 Morda and Sweeney Village Hall**

Members considered for approval a recommendations put forward by Cllr. Martin Bennett concerning the future of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall. He asked that the Parish Council re-affirmed its without prejudice interest in a scheme for the creation of 5 dwellings to provide an income stream to support improvements to the village hall, that the council should nominate a representative to the Morda and Sweeney Village Hall charity, and that the Parish Council invites existing trustees and Shropshire Council representatives to meet and discuss the possibility of taking these recommendations forward and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:**

- **A Working Group be established whose terms of reference would be to examine documentation held by the Parish Council relating to Morda and Sweeney Village Hall.**
- **Working Group members would include Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Martin Bennett and Cllr. Steve Watts.**
- **The Working Group would advise the Parish Council on how best to ensure that Morda and Sweeney Village Hall could provide adequate facilities for the local community via improved facilities.**

#### **1441 Grant Application**

Members considered for approval a grant application from Morda United FC which had previously been considered in October 2021 when the Council agreed that a grant of up to £1,000 may be awarded on the production of an invoice for work to make improvements to the football stand.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £1,000 be awarded to Morda United FC and that receipts be submitted once the work was complete.**

#### **1442 Environment Working Group**

Members received a report from the Environment Working Group. Cllr. Roger Jones had contacted the planning officer concerning planning application 22/02774/EIA for Trefarclawdd farm to express concern that a suitable and sufficient Environmental Impact Assessment had not been provided and that work continued without respect for the planning process. Shropshire Council was also concerned about future growth at the farm. The Group had expressed their concerns to Helen Morgan MP who had received a response from Shropshire Council about the enforcement notice and she urged that the local community should communicate their concerns to Shropshire Council and the Planning Inspectorate. The Group asked that the Parish Council should make representations when the application was considered at a meeting of Shropshire Council's Northern Planning Committee.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:**

- **The Parish Council should make representations at a meeting of Shropshire Council's Northern Planning Committee when it considered planning application 22/02774/EIA for Trefarclawdd Farm.**
- **The Environment Working Group would develop a response to be considered and approved at the next Parish Council meeting or, if a response was required before the next Parish Council meeting, at an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting.**

The Group had liaised with Shropshire Council concerning the sewage disposal works at Maesbury Road and Shropshire Council had received a response from Severn Trent who advised that the proposed works would deliver sufficient capacity to accommodate expected development in its catchment to a design horizon of 2033 which was in line with its investment protocols for a treatment works the size of Mile End Water Treatment Works. The Group asked the Parish Council to write to Shropshire Council and ask whether the population figures quoted by Severn Trent that the treatment works could deal with were accurate within the timeframe quoted.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should write to Shropshire Council and ask for confirmation about the accuracy of the figures quoted for the Mile End Drainage Disposal Works to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the population within the area.**

#### **1443 NHS Crisis**

Members considered for approval asking the local MP to lobby the government for the Hospital Discharge Programme and related funding to be given a secure medium to long-term future for health care in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin and that the CQC should be asked to investigate the cause of failing healthcare.

Having declared an interest Cllr. Martin Bennett left the room at this point in the meeting.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would support the campaign to lobby government to provide sufficient funding to improve health and social care within Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin.**

Cllr. Bennett returned to the room.

#### **1444 Notice Board at Morda**

Members considered for approval the purchase of a replacement notice board to be installed at the corner shop in Morda.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a new notice board should be installed at the corner shop in Morda and that quotes should be sought.**

#### **1445 West Midlands Ambulance Service**

Members considered for approval requesting an update on the latest ambulance response times from West Midlands Ambulance Service for the post codes SY10 and SY9.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that an update on response times be requested from West Midlands Ambulance Service for the post codes SY10 and SY9.**

#### **1446 Montgomery Canal and Shropshire Council's Place Plan**

Members considered for approval a request from the Montgomery Waterways Restoration Trust that Shropshire Council be asked to include improvements to the Montgomery Canal and restoration of the Cambrian Railway in the Place Plan as set out by the Trust.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support the Trust's request that improvements to restore the Montgomery Waterways and the Cambrian Railway be included in the Place Plan for Oswestry.**

#### **1447 Consultation**

Members considered for approval a response to Shropshire Council's Draft Empty Homes Strategy.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to submit the following response:**

- **The Housing Strategy [2020-2025] should include accessibility so that less able people could be accommodated.**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked to include Holiday and Second Homes in the proposed Matrix to identify these properties and avoid false reports being made of vacancies. [Para 2.5].**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked what resources would be allocated to achieve its objectives: [Para4.1].**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked what targets had been established to achieve desired outcomes, and how success or failure of the Empty Homes Strategy would be measured.**

#### **1448 Date for Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 29 September 2022 at Rhydycroesau Village Hall.

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#### **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

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

#### **1449 Trefarclawdd Cemetery**

Members considered how to deal with a complaint received from a member of the public concerning a recent burial at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

At this point in the meeting, **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to suspend Standing Order number 3(x) to enable the meeting to exceed more than 2 hours**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:**

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- **The Chairman had dealt with the complaint in accordance with the Parish Council's Complaints Policy.**
- **The Clerk had acted lawfully and in accordance with the Parish Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations.**

**1450 Planning Enforcement**

No planning enforcement cases had been received.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and, as this was the Clerk's last meeting, on behalf of the Council he congratulated Sharon Clayton on her exemplary performance during her time with the Council and wished her well with her future endeavours.

The meeting closed at at 21:15.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_