

Minutes  
of a Parish Council meeting

held at 7 pm on Thursday 28 April 2022 at Rhydycroesau Village Hall

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**Present:**

Cllr. Paul Milner (Chairman), Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Iain Campbell, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Steve Watts, Cllr. Mike Weston.

**Clerk to the Council:**

Sharon Clayton

**In attendance:**

6 members of the public  
PCSO Charlie Iremonger

**1306 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr. Martin Jones for standing in as Chairman whilst he was unable to attend due to work commitments. He then informed everyone that he had just received a resignation email from Cllr. Les Maguire.

**1307 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Roger Jones  
Cllr. Jas Singh  
Cllr. Chris Woods

Apologies were also received from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

**1308 Police Report**

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

03/04/22 - Dropped 9's. A return call was made and all in order.

05/04/2022 - An attempted burglary in the Crickheath area, persons were disturbed, and offenders made off.

07/04/2022 - Abandoned vehicle in the Trefonen area and an area search had been carried out, but no vehicle located.

07/04/2022 - Road Traffic Collision in Coed-Y-Go. All parties safe and well.

14/04/2022 – Theft of cooking oil from the Maesbrook Industrial Estate. No CCTV at location.

15/04/2022 – 2 vehicle Road Traffic Collisions at Mile End Roundabout. One person taken to hospital as a precaution.

16/04/2022 – Burglary/theft of oil from outside oil tank.

18/04/2022 - Concern for Safety/Anti-Social Behaviour. Two males were seen on roof of the nursery school, Maesbury Marsh. Officers attended the location and the two persons had gone from the area.

19/04/2022 - Theft of heating oil from external tank.

21/04/2022 – Dropped 9's. Police then made contact with caller, and it was an accidental call on the 999 number.

22/04/2022 – A suspicious vehicle was seen driving around the Morton area. Police have had no further reports of this vehicle in the area of late.

25/04/2022 – Dropped 9's to the Police. Police made contact with the caller, and it was an accidental call of the 999 number.

PCSO Charlie Iremonger also informed that the Community Speed Watch Scheme was seeking volunteers to participate in the scheme.

**NOTED.**

### **1309 Shropshire Council Report**

There was no Shropshire Council report.

### **1310 Public Participation**

One member of the public asked PCSO Charlie Iremonger for the location of a recent road traffic collision at Coed-y-Go and was informed it was close to Morda.

One member of the public said that at the last meeting it was agreed to defer a review of the council's H & S policy to this meeting, but it did not appear on the agenda. She asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

One member of the public asked for a speed watch meeting with local residents to discuss the speed limit at Coed-y-Go. He queried where a suggestion of asking for a 40mph speed limit had originated as local residents wanted a 30mph limit. He then referred to his written request to all Morda councillors asking them to consider a review of the public participation section in Standing Orders and asked for a response from them. He also asked why the agenda states that public participation does not include the discussion of matters relating to the Council's administration.

### **1311 Minutes**

- a) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 31 March 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 13 April 2021 were **NOTED and ADOPTED.**

### **1312 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether or not 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 considered to be pre-determined.

### **1313 Dispensations**

None requested.

### **1314 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality**

None declared.

### **1315 Planning Matters**

#### **a) Planning Decisions**

The following planning decisions were **NOTED.**

<b>Planning Application Details</b>	<b>Planning Proposals</b>
22/00747/FUL Sewage Disposal Works, Maesbury Road, Oswestry	Installation of Returned Activated Sludge (RAS), Secondary Activated Sludge (SAS) & Tertiary Solids Removal (TSR) kiosk, Aeration MCC kiosk, Combined Motor Control Centre (MCC) kiosk and Polymer Dosing kiosk and the provision of associated landscaping. Permission GRANTED 27 April 2022. The Parish Council supported this application.
22/00815/FUL Springfield Bungalow, Oak Lane, Treflach	Erection of single storey side extension with elevational alterations. Permission GRANTED 21 April 2022. <i>The parish council had no objection to this application.</i>
22/00847/FUL Morda Methodist Church, Trefonen Road, Morda	Conversion of chapel into a single dwelling, replacement of existing outbuilding and formation of a dropped kerb for vehicle access. WITHDRAWN 20 April 2022. <i>The parish council supported this application.</i>
21/05983/FUL Trenant Chapel, Chapel Lane, Trefonen	Demolition of existing dining room and kitchen structure and erection of new rear extension with roof extending over patio. Demolish and re-position retaining wall in garden and various internal alterations. Permission GRANTED 14 April 2022. <i>The parish council supported this application.</i>
22/00765/FUL Bridge Cottage, Ball Lane, Maesbury	Erection of single storey extension. Permission REFUSED 4 April 2022. <i>The parish council supported this application.</i>
22/00782/FUL Barn, south of Nant Farm, Morda	Erection of three bay garage (re-submission). Permission GRANTED 4 April 2022. <i>The parish council had no objection to this application.</i>

#### b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

<b>Planning Application Details</b>	<b>Planning Proposals</b>
22/01371/FUL 31 Sweeney Drive, Morda	Erection of first floor extension over existing garage. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/01376/FUL Willow Cottage, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen	Erection of two domestic outbuildings. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/01386/LBC The Wharfingers House, Maesbury Marsh	Replacement of 8 sash windows to front and rear elevations. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/01494/FUL 1 Brookside, Morda	Erection of a two-storey rear extension and front porch. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/01535/FUL Weston Cotton House, Weston Lane	Change of Use of first floor of double garage from storage to self-contained annex ancillary to the main dwelling. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that permission, if granted, should be conditional to ancillary use for residents only.</b>
22/01540/FUL 13 Nant Y Caws, Morda	Erection of two-storey rear extension. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>
22/01864/FUL Sycamore Cottage, Malthouse Lane, Trefonen	Erection of single storey side extension. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.</b>

Because Cllr. John Davies needed to leave the meeting early, in accordance with Standing Order number 1(a), the Chairman changed the order of business and brought forward the following item.

### 1316 Oswestry Leisure Centre

In response to concerns received from a member of the public Members considered the rising costs at Oswestry Leisure Centre.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to take no action until further information had been received concerning the reasons for the increase.**

### 1317 Clerk's Report

- a) Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings.
- b) Members received responses from Helen Morgan MP concerning loss of communication during power outages, and the Levelling Up White Paper. They also received a response from Shropshire Council concerning management and protection of water courses.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write back to Helen Morgan MP and thank her for her responses, and write to the Leader of Shropshire Council and ask who was to take responsibility for the Levelling Up agenda. It was further AGREED to arrange for a site meeting with Shropshire Council and parish councillors concerning the maintenance of Spiggots Bridge.**

### 1318 Financial Matters

#### a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure from 1 April to 31 March 2022.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income received to date of £88,120.56 and gross expenditure of £38,739.14 be APPROVED.**

#### b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for March 2022.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations to the end of March 2022 totalling £253,214.88 be APPROVED.**

#### c) Payments for April 2022

Members considered for approval payments for April 2022.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
EE	Wi-Fi mini monthly plan	16.39
Morton Playing Field	Grant	1000.00
Scottish Power	Street lighting electricity	481.27
SALC	Affiliation fee	1748.08
Sharon Clayton	Clerk's salary/expenses/reimbursement	825.27
HMRC	PAYE/NI	371.52
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	540.00
HSBC	Bank charges	8.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5076.03</b>

#### d) Maintenance Grant

Members considered for approval that the maintenance grant of £1,500 received from Shropshire Council had been spent in accordance with the grant terms.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the grant had been spent in accordance with the grant terms.**

#### e) Reserves

Members considered the reserves as at 31 March 2022.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following reserves be APPROVED.**

BUDGET HEADING	NEIGHBOURHOOD FUNDS	UNALLOCATED RESERVES	ALLOCATED RESERVES
	£	£	£
Traffic calming	17500		
Treflach VAS	6500		
Litter picking equipment			100
Hanging baskets			1000
Play improvements	10000		
Cycling and walking facilities	10000		
Cycling and walking promotion			5000
Dog waste/litter bins	3000		
VAS – Maesbury	7500		
Promotion of meeting facilities			2000
Green spaces and infrastructure	5000		
Sub-total	<b>59500</b>		<b>8100</b>
Plus reserves previously agreed			
Professional/legal fees			1000
Councillor training			275
Streetlights – new	2000		
AED			400
Sub-total	<b>61500</b>		<b>9775</b>
Plus unallocated Neighbourhood Funds	79514		
Neighbourhood Fund reserves 2021/2022	<b>141014</b>		
Allocated reserves			9775
Unallocated reserves		102426	
Total reserves as at 31 March 2022	<b>253215</b>		

### 1319 Neighbourhood Fund

Members considered for approval Neighbourhood Funds received and allocated to date as follows:

- Total funds received - £168,699.45
- Total funds available - £141,014.02
- Total funds allocated - £61,500.00
- Total funds spent - £27,685.43

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Neighbourhood Funds received and allocated be APPROVED.**

### 1320 Morton Closed Churchyard Maintenance

Due to an annual inflationary increase of £31 Members considered for approval increasing the Parish Council's annual contribution to Llanyblodwel Parish Council towards the grounds maintenance of Morton closed churchyard.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would contribute an additional annual cost of £31 towards the grounds maintenance of Morton closed churchyard.**

### 1321 Asset Register

Members **NOTED** the contents of the Parish Council's asset register, and that the land for which the parish council is responsible was acquired in pursuance of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

### 1322 Road Safety

Members received a response from Shropshire Council concerning the Parish Council's request for a 30mph speed limit to be introduced at Coed-y-Go. Shropshire Council had advised that traffic data collected for the area suggested that a 30mph limit would not be suitable although a 40mph speed limit could be considered.

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

- a) **That, in the interim, the Parish Council should write to Shropshire Council and request a 40mph speed limit but, at the same time, express its disappointment that Shropshire Council's response was against its Road Safety Policy of 2013 concerning community concerns.**
- b) **Cllr. Dean Carroll should be invited to attend a meeting with the Road Safety Working Group to discuss Shropshire Council's decision.**
- c) **Road safety stickers should be purchased for local residents to stick on their waste disposal bins.**

- d) **Shropshire Council should be asked for an update on the Parish Council's request for an extension to the 30mph speed limit to the north of Back Lane in Maesbury.**

#### **1323 Village Hall in Maesbury**

Members considered the lack of a village hall at Maesbury. Attempts had previously been made to find such a facility but without success. When Maesbury school was closed Shropshire Council was asked if the building could be used as a community facility, but the building had already been valued and was sold and there was no suitable alternative within the locality.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that it would not be economically viable to build a community village hall in Maesbury even if land was available.**

#### **1324 Litter Bin**

Members considered for approval the purchase and installation of a new litter bin at the bus stop in Maesbury Marsh. Members were informed that there had previously been a litter bin at this location, but it had disappeared.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked to replace the litter bin and, if not, the Parish Council would pay for a replacement.**

Cllr. John Davies left at this point in the meeting.

#### **1325 Website**

Members considered for approval the addition of a new page on the Parish Council's website dedicated to the Road Safety Working Group.

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

- a) **A new 'Road Safety' page should be added to the Parish Council's website.**
- b) **The page would evolve over time.**

#### **1326 Consultation**

Members considered for approval a response to the Local Policing Charter by providing the Parish Council's top three concerns.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following response should be submitted.**

- **Concern number 1 – speeding within the parish.**
- **Concern number 2 – low level drug use.**
- **Concern number 3 – anti-social behaviour.**

#### **1327 Date for Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting (Annual Parish Council meeting) would take place on Thursday 26 May 2022 at Trefonen 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.

#### **1328 Morton Post Box Area**

Members considered for approval a quote for improvements to the Morton post box area.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a quote of £540 from Colin Turner be accepted to make improvements to the Morton post box area.**

#### **1329 Tree Survey**

Members considered for approval a quote for a tree survey to be carried out on the trees for which the parish council is responsible.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a decision be deferred to the next meeting.**

#### **1330 Staffing Matters**

Members considered for approval a pay increase for the Clerk as recommended by the Personnel Committee following her annual performance review.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk's work had been exemplary, and that her salary be increased to SCP26 effective from 1 April 2022.**

**1331 Planning Enforcement**

There were no planning enforcement cases.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:22.

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

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