

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 17 December 2019
at Morda Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. Pam Broomby, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Shirley Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Claire Mahoney, Cllr. Phil May, Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr. Robert Milton, Cllr. Tony Milner, Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones.

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
10 members of the public

551/19 Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone present.

552/19 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies since all members were present.

553/19 Local Policing Team Report

There was no one from the local policing team able to attend the meeting and, instead, the following written report was submitted which included the following incidents that took place between 16 November and 17 December 2019:

- 2 missing persons
- Stolen vehicle in Morda
- 6 ASBs
- 1 road traffic collision
- 4 road related offences
- 4 concerns for safety
- 1 highway spillage
- 3 thefts
- 1 suspicious activity
- Historic offences
- 2 RTC (1 damage only)
- Sexual offences
- Sheep on highway
- 3 highway disruptions
- 1 broken down vehicle
- 1 criminal damage

554/19 Shropshire Councillor Report

Cllr. Joyce Barrow had no report due to the recent general election.

NOTED.

555/19 Public Participation

The chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public referred to planning application 19/04841/DIS (Black Country Metal Works). She drew attention to a letter on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal which refers to an external lighting plan associated with the discharge of Condition 12. The plan however was not included with the application documentation as the letter suggests. She asked the parish council to ask Shropshire Council to include the external lighting plan on the Planning Portal as she considered that any possible breaches would not be able to be identified with incomplete information.

The chairman said that the clerk would ask Shropshire Council to upload the external lighting plan to its Planning Portal.

One member of the public said that Shropshire Council had marked the lower part of the road where it had been damaged by traffic from Rhydycroesau Quarry, but they had not marked the road further up. He said that all of the damaged road needed to be repaired, preferably before the onset of winter weather. He also said that the owners should be paying for the repairs rather than the repairs being paid from the public purse.

The chairman said that the clerk would inform the highways department at Shropshire Council.

One member of the public asked when members of the public would be able to learn about a community led scheme for affordable housing as parish council discussions thus far had been discussed in closed session. She said that the chosen registered provider should be one who understands the term “affordable housing”.

The chairman explained that Shropshire Council had provided the parish council with the names of two registered providers and that a community led scheme for affordable housing was likely to be brought forward in Morda. The parish council was invited to be involved in the scheme and to set up a Steering Group and, once a registered provider had been chosen, members of the local community would be invited to be involved with the project.

556/19 Minutes

The minutes of a parish council meeting held on 26 November 2019 were considered for approval.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

557/19 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Cllr. Les Maguire declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application no. 19/04083/FUL for the erection of a single storey annex at Blue Court Cottage, Brookside, Morda.

558/19 Dispensations

None.

559/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None.

560/19 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

19/02730/FUL Martindale, 1 Offa House Estate, Treflach, Oswestry	Replacement conservatory and existing flat garage roof with a pitched roof Permission GRANTED 31 October 2019 <i>This application was supported by the parish council</i>
19/04328/OUT Land west of Morda Mill, Morda Bank, Morda	Outline application (all matters reserved) for residential development (12 apartments); including the removal of trees. Permission REFUSED 11 December 2019. <i>The parish council had no objection provided that environmental matters are taken into consideration and that the trees are retained for environmental purposes. Trees provide visual amenity and help counteract global warming. The council is also mindful that there should be sufficient school places for any children moving into any new properties.</i>
19/04787/FUL Coedygaer, Llansilin, Oswestry	Change of Use of land from agricultural to tourism use for the siting of four shepherds huts, construction of vehicular parking and all associated works. Permission REFUSED 13 December 2019.

	<i>The parish council agreed that the comments made by the Shropshire Area of the Ramblers should be noted and further information is required concerning the provision of toilet facilities and appropriate sewage disposal.</i>
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b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/04083/FUL Blue Court Cottage, Brookside, Morda	Erection of single storey annex incidental to use of existing building. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support. Cllr. Les Maguire abstained from the vote.
19/05292/FUL Moreton Ley Farm, Morton, Oswestry	Erection of 3 bay detached carport and store It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.

561/19 Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the clerk on action taken following decisions made at the last parish council meeting.

The clerk also gave the following verbal update:

- She had applied for the grant awarded from the PCC for the provision of 2 VAS in Trefonen.
- She had applied for grant aid towards the inscription on the War Memorial at Maesbury.

NOTED.

562/19 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations

Members considered for approval income and expenditure and bank reconciliations for November 2019.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 30 November 2019 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for November 2019

Members considered for retrospective approval payments for November 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the following payments for the month of November be retrospectively APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Llanyblodwel Parish Council	Closed churchyard maintenance costs	1116.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath and crosses for Remembrance Sunday	62.50
HMRC	PAYE/NI	175.82
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors	Land registrations	460.80
Lawrence Direct	Newsletter printing	65.00
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	939.95
	TOTAL	2874.07

c) Payments for December 2019

Members considered for approval payments for December 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the following payments for the month of December be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
ICO	Data processing	35.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	175.62
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	707.00
SALC	Clerk training	27.00
SLCC	SLCC annual membership for the clerk	246.00
Viking	Stationery	76.27
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	900.55
	TOTAL	2221.44

d) Clerk's Membership of SLCC

Members considered for approval the clerk's continued membership of the SLCC.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the clerk's continued membership of the SLCC should be APPROVED at a cost of £246 for 2020.

563/19 Review/Adoption of Policies

a) DPI Dispensation Procedure.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the reviewed policy be APPROVED and ADOPTED.

b) Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the reviewed policy be APPROVED and ADOPTED.

564/19 Strategic/Action Plans

Members considered for approval the following reviewed documents:

- o Strategic Plan Monitoring – completed tasks update November 2019.
- o Updated Strategic Plan Monitoring 2019.
- o Updated Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:

- a) **Completed tasks should be removed from the Strategic Plan Monitoring Report.**
- b) **The Business Plan 2018 – 2022 would be re-named the Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.**
- c) **The Plans would continue to evolve and would be considered further at the next meeting.**

565/19 Tree Planting

a) Members considered whether the parish council should seek funding to participate in the Urban Tree Challenge.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that councillors should identify where trees might be planted and Cllr. John Davies would take the lead in identifying associated costs.

b) Members considered for approval a request from the Trefonen WI to plant trees on the War Memorial Green at Trefonen as part of a tree planting project.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, subject to there being no utility surveys preventing planting, permission be GRANTED for the WI to plant trees on the War Memorial Green.

Cllr. Bob Kimber abstained from the vote due to his wife being a member of the WI.

566/19 Canal Bridges and the Bone Mill

Members received a written update concerning bridge no. 79 at Maesbury Marsh, Spiggots canal bridge (no.80) and the Bone Mill. Cllr. Tony Milner was keen that Spiggots canal bridge should be Listed but Shropshire Council was unable to pursue the listing due to work pressures but had advised that the parish council could pursue the listing itself and, if necessary, Shropshire Council would provide advice and guidance. **Cllr. Tony Milner PROPOSED and after being SECONDED it was unanimously AGREED that the parish council would apply for Spiggots canal bridge be Listed.**

567/19 Rhydycroesau Quarry

Members considered concerns from local residents about activity at Rhydycroesau quarry.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:

- a) **Shropshire Council should be asked to monitor activity of vehicle movement to and from the site.**
- b) **A site meeting should be convened for some time in January 2020 when the parish council and Shropshire Council could discuss residents' concerns with the quarry owners.**

568/19 Notice Boards

- a) Members considered for approval that the notice board at Nantmawr be replaced as priority number one due to a recent petition from the local community.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the notice board at Nantmawr would be replaced before the other notice board replacements.

- b) Members considered for approval whether locks should be fitted to all notice boards.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that no locks would be fitted, although postings of notices by members of the public would be monitored.

569/19 Funds for Safer Roads to School in Maesbury

Cllr. Claire Mahoney expressed concern that traffic on the road to Maesbury school was travelling far too fast and that the road is not designed for excessive speed in a 30mph limit. She said that attempts should be made to slow the traffic.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. Claire Mahoney would complete an application for funding from the PCC to assist with traffic calming on the road to Maesbury school.

570/19 Comments in Response to Planning Applications

Members considered what questions should be asked of Shropshire Council planning officers when they evaluated the parish council's comments in response to planning applications.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that members should formulate appropriate questions and forward them to the clerk who would then pass them on to Shropshire Council planning officers for them to provide a response at the next parish council meeting.

571/19 Weston Road

Members considered when the 30mph speed limit would be introduced at Weston Road. The clerk informed members that it had been confirmed by Shropshire Council that the work would be carried out within this financial year.

NOTED.

572/19 Knotweed

Cllr. Paul Milner expressed concern about knotweed by the nursery in Morda.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the clerk should report the presence of knotweed to Shropshire Council.

573/19 Public Footpaths in Morda

Cllr. Phil May informed members that he had received concerns from local residents about overgrowth on the footpath alongside the river Morda which was causing difficulty to walkers.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the footpath officer should be asked to take a look at the footpath alongside the river Morda to assess whether the overgrowth was causing a problem for walkers.

574/19 Councillor Reports

Cllr. Bob Kimber reported that tractors were causing damage to the road from Morda to Trefonen.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that a letter of concern should be sent to the owners of the tractors.

575/19 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.

NOTED.

576/19 Consultation

No consultation had been received for consideration.

577/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Black Country Metal Works – adherence to planning application Conditions
- Installation of a new notice board at Sweeney
- Footpaths in Maesbury (Cllr. Phil May)
- Traffic calming
- Response from Mark Barrow concerning road re-surfacing at Shands Lane
- Ambulance response times (Cllr. Paul Milner)
- Coed y Rae Lane and heritage railway (Cllr. Martin Jones)
- Rhydycroesau Quarry (Cllr. Shirley Road)

578/19 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at Morda Village Hall.

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.

579/19 Grounds Maintenance

Members considered the following for approval:

- a) A revised specification for grounds maintenance.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the revised specification be APPROVED.

- b) The period for which a new grounds maintenance contract should apply.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the award of a new grounds maintenance contract should apply for a minimum period of 3 years.

- c) That tenders should be sought to provide grounds maintenance in accordance with the revised specification.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that tenders should be sought to provide grounds maintenance for a minimum period of 3 years.

580/19 Internal Audit

Members considered the following for approval:

- a) The Internal Audit Checklist Review for 2019/2020.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the revised Audit Checklist Review be APPROVED.

- b) The appointment of an internal auditor.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Bernie Morris be appointed as the internal auditor for the 2019/2020 financial year and his appointment be reviewed after 12 months.

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

581/19 Affordable Housing

Members considered information about registered providers of affordable homes. However, since there was only information from two registered providers it was;

PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to defer deliberations to the next meeting once more information had been received.

582/19 Planning Enforcement

Recent cases were **NOTED**.

The meeting closed at 21:10.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____