

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

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## Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 23 February 2021 by Zoom online video conference

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### **Present:**

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

### **Clerk to the Council:**

Sharon Clayton

### **In attendance:**

Approximately 17 members of the public.

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

Inspector Claire Greenaway, Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team.

### **929 Chairman's Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to the last meeting at which a member of the public had made a rude remark about a Parish Councillor. He informed that any member of the public wishing to speak must have their video turned on otherwise they would not be allowed to speak. He also explained that the 'Wiseman Report' would be discussed in the confidential session because it was under investigation by the police, and it referred to the Clerk and staffing matters could not be discussed in public.

### **930 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Phil May who was poorly.

**This apology was accepted and AGREED as APPROVED absence.**

### **931 Police Report**

Inspector Claire Greenaway was in attendance on behalf of Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team. She introduced herself and explained that she had only officially been in post for a week. She said that crime remained low but there had been several COVID breaches. She was asked if rural lanes were patrolled, and she said that they were, but because the area was huge, various areas would be patrolled in accordance with the number of incidents. County lines were examined each week and the police worked with partner agencies. An entire team of officers worked on local and organised crime. There were many concerns about drug dealing and members of the public were asked to inform the police about any information they had to help the police with their enquiries.

**NOTED.**

### **932 Public Participation**

One member of the public referred to the notice board at Gwern-Y-Brenin and said that one of the doors was stuck. She asked if knobs could be fitted to make opening them easier and that a magnetic catch might be better than the swivel catches already in place. There were also signs of damp.

The Chairman informed that the Council would be discussing notice boards later in the meeting.

One member of the public referred to Coed-Y-Go and making it a safer place. Highways would be reminded to install a speed counter to help to get a 30mph speed limit. She asked if the tractors carrying rocks could take an alternative route rather than drive back through Coed-Y-Go. She also asked whether there were any byelaws to restrict speed limits on roads near to cemeteries and was informed that the Council was not aware of any.

One member of the public spoke on behalf of the TRPG and reiterated members' support for the Parish Council's position on the Housing Local Plan where it referred back to the Housing Needs Survey 2018 carried out by the Parish Council which concluded that truly affordable homes through rural exception sites was the best way of supporting local needs for local people.

### 933 Minutes

a) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 15 December 2020 were considered for approval.

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

b) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 26 January 2021 were considered for approval.

Cllr. Pam Broomby said it had been agreed that the Clerk should send copies of all her communication to Councillors, and this was not reflected in the minutes. The Clerk explained that this was not a decision that could be made as the Clerk had delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Council and did not have to include Councillors in correspondence.

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

### 934 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.

The following interests were declared:

COUNCILLOR	INTEREST
Peter Richardson	Pecuniary interest, as a close neighbour, concerning agenda item 25, Fairhaven Camping.
Les Maguire	Non-pecuniary interest as a Town Councillor to Oswestry Town Council with reference to the boundary review.
Martin Jones	Pecuniary interest, as a close neighbour to Morton Ley Farm (21/00692/EIA).
Paul Milner	Non-pecuniary interest, as a Shropshire Councillor and Town Councillor to Oswestry Town Council.

### 935 Dispensations

None requested.

### 936 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

### 937 Planning Matters

#### a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

<b>Planning Decision Details</b>	<b>Proposals</b>
20/01371/FUL Pentre Cefn, Craig-Llwyn, Trefonen	Conversion of existing stone barns into garage, storage and self-contained accommodation ancillary to main dwelling (amended scheme) Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 16 February 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
20/01372/LBC Pentre Cefn, Craig-Llwyn, Trefonen	Conversion of existing stone barns into garage, storage and self-contained accommodation ancillary to main dwelling affecting a Grade II Listed Building (amended scheme) Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 16 February 2021
20/04145/FUL Proposed development land off Mile End Roundabout, Oswestry	Construction of prefabricated steel pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the central carriageway of the newly created A5 north, with a span of approximately 59m by 3.5m wide with ramped access on either side; landscaping scheme and all ancillary works Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 19 February 2021
20/04852/FUL Fairhaven Barn, Ball Lane, Maesbury	Erection of stables for private use Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 12 February 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
20/05020/FUL Pentregaer Ucha, Croesau Bach, Oswestry	Conversion of redundant agricultural building into two holiday lets Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 27 January 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>

#### b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

<b>Planning Application Details</b>	<b>Proposals</b>
21/00279/FUL Aston Hall, Shrewsbury Road, Aston	Erection of one agricultural storage shed for equipment and materials which are currently stored outside in this area. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support, subject to consideration of the trees around the site.</b>
21/00394/FUL Lavender Cottage, Morda Bank, Morda	Erection of porch; replacement roof tiles to garage and render front elevation. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.</b>
21/00431/TPO 11 St. Anne's Drive, Morda	Reduce tree back from conservatory, balance crown and crown raising 2/3m in width one Sycamore tree protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Morda House, Morda, Oswestry) TPO 1977. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object and that the tree should remain as it is.</b>
21/00442/FUL Land to the north of Weston Road, Morda	Rural exception site for the erection of 20 affordable dwellings with associated roads and formation of vehicular access. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to object because:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Morda was already over-developed.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Further development would add to flooding issues already present in this location.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Morda C of E Primary School was already at capacity.</b></li> <li>○ <b>There were other more suitable sites for this type of development.</b></li> </ul>
21/00692/EIA Morton Ley Farm, Morton	Erection of extension to an intensive poultry unit including silos and all associated works.  Having declared an interest Cllr. Martin Jones left the meeting.  <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support the application provided that atmospheric dispersion was monitored, and public footpaths kept clear.</b>  Cllr. Martin Jones returned to the meeting.

<p>21/00765/PMBPA Barn at The Byg Farm, Old Racecourse, Oswestry</p>	<p>Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town &amp; Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the Change of Use from agricultural to one residential dwelling; with all associated works. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.</b></p>
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### 938 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 informed that she had spoken to the Chair of Governors at Morda C of E Primary School to discuss future infrastructure requirements. The school was in the process of improving the School House following it being made available to them from the Diocese. A number of ongoing projects for renovation were being prioritised to benefit pupils in the first instance, especially those categorised as SEN and vulnerable. The school had provided details of the projects.

Tarmac had agreed to arrange a meeting with local residents later this year and the quarry was likely to re-open for a couple of weeks to sell from stock although no further extraction or processing of rock was proposed over that period.

**NOTED.**

### 939 Councillor Reports

- Cllr. Peter Richardson informed Members that he had received calls from the local media concerning the Parish Council's objection to the Change of Use from pony paddock to a gypsy/traveller site at Croesau Bach. He said that recent vandalism was not condoned by the Parish Council.

**NOTED.**

- Cllr. Les Maguire informed Members that he had received an email from a local resident at Coed-Y-Go who was concerned about excess water flooding the road and not able to run away. As vehicles drove past the water spray was going over garden walls and residents asked if warning signage could be installed. Residents had also expressed concern about tractor traffic along the road and the erosion of the road.

**NOTED.**

### 940 Shropshire Council

Members had received a comprehensive update by email from Cllr. Joyce Barrow concerning activity at Trefarclawdd Farm following concerns regarding the intensification of the use of the site including increase in traffic, impact of vehicles damaging the verges, increase in traffic through the village and drainage matters. Planning application 20/04866/FUL for the erection of a holding yard for 500 cows before milking was not valid and was subject to a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for the erection of a covered holding yard and all associated work in relation to a dairy herd. A planning contravention notice had been served in 2020 due to issues primarily in relation to quarrying of stone.

Whilst there were some issues with the new access it was a much better and safer access point to the farm.

There was clearly verge and edge of carriageway erosion and maintenance work was required, and highway officers would follow up the damage to the highway verge although it was difficult to demonstrate which vehicles were the cause, and evidence was required before action against the farm could be taken.

Shropshire Council's Land Drainage Team had been on site to investigate the flooding issue affecting Coed-y-go and discovered that the construction of additional drainage infrastructure around the new Trefarclawdd Farm access and works to create a new/larger ditch course was running towards the properties. Although possible that some land drainage historically flowed from the fields towards the properties the works had more than likely increased the volumes and rates of discharge, contributing to the flooding and issues of siltation of the highway drainage gullies.

Shropshire Council act as both the Land Drainage Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority and if a landowner wishes to undertake certain works on a watercourse (which includes piped drainage systems) which alter the way the watercourse flows, they must first apply for Consent from Shropshire Council.

No formal action could be taken presently, and Planning Enforcement can only respond to a breach in planning control when it has happened and not pre-empt what is likely to take place. The highway authority would liaise with the farm owner to re-instate the damage to the verge and look at ways to reduce this in the future.

Blocked drains were due to be cleared.

**NOTED.**

#### **941 Consultation**

Members considered for approval a response to Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review, Regulation 19: Pre-submission Draft. Cllr. Bob Kimber had drafted a response, taking into account comments from the Trefonen Rural Protection Group and local councillors.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the response as drafted by Cllr. Bob Kimber should be submitted to Shropshire Council.**

#### **942 Financial Matters**

##### **a) Income and Expenditure and Bank Reconciliations**

Members considered for approval income and expenditure and bank reconciliations up to 31 January 2021.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 January 2021 be APPROVED.**

##### **b) Payments for February 2021**

Members considered for approval payments for February 2021.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following payments for the month of February 2021 be APPROVED.**

<b>PAYEE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT £</b>
Viking	Stationery and postage stamps	68.41
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	177.95
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	929.05
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1260.41</b>

##### **c) Grant request**

Members considered for approval a grant request of £113.76 from Rhydygroesau Village Hall towards the maintenance costs of the AED.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a grant of £113.76 be paid to Rhydygroesau Village Hall towards the maintenance costs of the AED.**

#### **943 Road Safety**

a) The Clerk informed Members that she had received information from Shropshire Council's Highways Department concerning speeding at Kingfisher Way, Morda. The section of the road was unadopted past number 16 and therefore the responsibility of the local housing developer and Shropshire Council would forward concerns to the developer. Traffic calming measures in that location would cost in the region of £15,000 to £20,000.

**NOTED.**

**Cllr. John Davies reported that the VAS should be erected in the next two weeks.**

**NOTED.**

Cllr. Les Maguire expressed concerns on behalf of the residents of Coed-Y-Go regarding flooding and water spray and asked that appropriate warning signage should be installed. Residents had also asked for the traffic counter to be installed.

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

- **Damage to the roads between Trefonen and Morda, and the Morda Road be reported for repair to Shropshire Council.**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked to install the traffic counter and signage at Coed-Y-Go.**
- **The Parish Council should not support any future development without appropriate traffic calming.**

b) Members received road traffic data from a traffic survey held along Woolston Bank, Maesbury.

**NOTED.**

#### **944 Newsletters**

a) Members considered a draft newsletter for approval.

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

b) Members considered a draft 'Election Special' newsletter for approval.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the 'Election special be APPROVED.**

#### **945 Future Meetings**

a) The Clerk informed Members about the implications of returning to face-to-face meetings and the need to comply with the COVID-19 Regulations if the government did not extend legislation to allow the continuation of virtual meetings beyond 7 May 2021.

**NOTED.**

b) Members considered bringing forward the date of the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled to take place on 18 May 2021 to avoid the implications of face-to-face meetings and the need to comply with COVID-19 Regulations. The Clerk also advised Members that the Annual Parish Council Meeting scheduled to take place on 25 May 2021 needed to be brought forward because, in an election year, it had to be held within 14 days following the day on which newly elected councillors take office.

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

- **The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Tuesday 20 April 2021 as a virtual meeting.**
- **The Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place on 18 May 2021.**

#### **946 Village Halls**

Cllr. Bob Kimber informed Members that he had sent detailed information about Trefonen Village Hall to Lanyon Bowdler and had not received a response.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer a response to Lanyon Bowdler concerning registration of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall and Trefonen Village Hall and the matter should be discussed further at the next meeting.**

#### **947 Trefarclawdd Cemetery**

Members considered for approval the installation of boundary fencing around the new land at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

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

- **3 quotes should be sought for the installation of a new access from the cemetery into the additional cemetery land.**
- **The boundary of the additional land should be marked to indicate where a new boundary fence/hedge could be laid.**
- **A new fence/hedge should be laid around the perimeter of the additional land and the damaged hedge repaired.**
- **If the fallen tree was within the additional cemetery land it should be taken away.**
- **The adjacent landowner should be informed of the proposed works and permission sought to enter their land if necessary.**

#### **948 Notice Board Maintenance**

Cllr. Pam Broomby proposed that handles should be installed on the notice boards to make it easier to open the doors which were swelling with the damp weather.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Malcolm Lainsbury should be asked to quote to fit handles and make the doors easier to open and carry out any necessary maintenance.**

**949 Litter Bin at Morton Playing Field**

Members considered a request from Morton Playing Field Committee for the Parish Council to pay for the annual cost to empty a new litter bin at Morton Playing Field. The Committee would pay for installation of a new bin.

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.**

There were no proposals to support emptying the bin and it was **AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked to empty the bin free of charge.**

**950 Flood Plain at Morda Village Hall**

Cllr. Les Maguire informed Members that a mound of earth had been banked up causing the river Morda to overflow and flood the area near to Meadowbrook Cottage. The mound of earth had taken the flood plain away.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Environment Agency should be asked to determine whether recent development had led to the flooding.**

**951 Ford at Coed-Y-Rae Lane, Maesbury**

Cllr. Martin Jones informed Members that water from the river Morda was being pushed down towards Maesbury and flooding the ford and causing damage to vehicles that had to drive through it.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the state of the road should be reported to Shropshire Council and flooding should be reported to the Environment Agency.**

**952 Roadside Verges**

There was no discussion as Cllr. Paul Milner had nothing to report.

**953 Mud on the Road**

Cllr. Tony Milner explained that he was awaiting information from the Agricultural Vehicle Liaison Group established by Cllr Joyce Barrow in response to numerous complaints about agricultural vehicles leaving mud on the road and damaging verges.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this issue should be considered further at the next meeting.**

**954 Fairhaven Camp Site**

Having declared an interest Cllr. Peter Richardson left the meeting.

Cllr. Claire Mahoney informed Members that, in response to a letter from Owen Patterson MP to Natural England about local concern regarding activities at Fairhaven campsite, a response had been received from Natural England. The response outlined its responsibilities and that it had issued a warning notice to the campsite outlining the steps the campsite should take in order to avoid the withdrawal of the exemption certificate.

**NOTED.**

Cllr. Peter Richardson returned to the meeting.

**955 Boundary Review**

Members received information from Oswestry Town Council outlining its response to the proposed boundary review.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a response to Shropshire Council's Boundary Review should be considered at the next meeting.**

**956 CIL/Neighbourhood Funds**

Members received information from Morda C of E Primary School about future plans for the school.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the allocation of CIL monies and Neighbourhood Funds to assist with future plans for Morda C of E Primary School be considered at the next meeting.**

**957 Place Plan**

Members considered for approval updates to the Place Plan and the allocation of CIL monies and Neighbourhood Funds.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this be considered further at the next meeting.**

**958 Correspondence**

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.
- b) Information about training events for councillors.
- c) Public Sector Deposit Fund Factsheet.

**NOTED.**

**959 Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

It was **AGREED** that the following matters should be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting:

- o Flood plain (Cllr. Les Maguire)
- o The Elms (Cllr. John Davies)

**960 Date of Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place by Zoom video on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

**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.

**961 The Wiseman Report**

Cllr. Peter Richardson informed Members that the report written by Mr Wiseman had been passed to the police and was with the Economic Crime Unit. Investigations into the content of the report were ongoing.

Concern was expressed about the non-disclosure of the affordable homes alluded to in Mr Wiseman’s Report which, if more information had been reported to the Parish Council at the time the Council considered earmarking £92,000 towards the redevelopment of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall, the resulting situation could have been diffused and dealt with earlier last year.

**It was AGREED that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting.**

**962 Village Halls Financial Information**

Members received financial information from Morda and Sweeney Village Hall Management Committee, Rhydycroesau Village Hall, and Trefonen Village Hall.

**NOTED.**

**963 Planning Enforcement**

Members received notification of a recent planning enforcement.

**NOTED.**

The meeting closed at 21:45

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

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