

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 24 September 2019
at Rhydycroesau Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Claire Mahoney, Cllr. Phil May and Cllr Tony Milner.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
PCSO Charlie Iremonger, West Mercia Police, SNT Oswestry Rural South
9 members of the public

459/19 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

460/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Councillor	Reason
Pam Broomby	Holiday
Shirley Jones	Work commitment
Elliot Roberts Jones	Work commitment
Paul Milner	Another commitment
Robert Milton	Work Commitment

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

461/19 Local Policing Team Report

PCSO Charlie Ironmonger gave the following report:

- Suspicious vehicles driving around the area, one vehicle was challenged but had a genuine reason.
- Single road traffic collision at the Trefonen road junction.
- At least one call from a resident reporting prank calls purported to be from the police.
- There had been some cold callers.

NOTED.

PCSO Ironmonger was thanked for his report and he left the meeting.

In accordance with Standing Order number 1(a) the Chairman changed the order of business to allow Cllr. Joyce Barrow to present her report from Shropshire Council so that she could leave the meeting early for another engagement.

Cllr. Barrow reported as follows:

- Shropshire Council had appointed a new flood manager.
- The public consultation on Mile End junction improvements had begun.
- Shropshire Councillors had unanimously agreed funding and the transfer of land to allow Shropshire Council's Local Housing Company to start building on one site at St. Martins and one site in the south of the county. She hoped that the re-building/refurbishment of Morda village hall would be included in the next batch of development.
- Oswestry was set to benefit from a share of £40m government money for High Street action zones which will help to enhance/improve the town centre and refurbish unused buildings.
- Shropshire Council was expecting to set a balanced budget for next year.

- An update on the Maesbury canal bridge revealed that it was saddled in 1997 and has an assessed weight capacity of 40T. No accident damage in recent years had been noted to the structure and there were no concerns regarding the structural integrity of the bridge. The last inspection below the bridge had found it to be in good condition. Only minor repairs of low priority had been recommended and a couple of areas were being monitored for deterioration following the last inspection by divers underneath the bridge in March 2018. The Parish Council had previously expressed concern about the volume of traffic crossing the bridge, especially HGVs. Imposing a ban would need to be considered by traffic engineers as this involves imposing an environmental weight restriction on the highway.

The bridge at Coed Y Rae is subject to a 10T weight limit and the last inspection revealed it to be in good condition and only low priority works were recommended. The last reported accident on the bridge was in July 2015 and the last inspection was in March 2018.

NOTED.

462/19 Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public expressed concern that the notice board at Nantmawr had been removed due to its poor condition. Local residents depended on this notice board which was considered to be the only thing they had left to pull them together as a community for events. The Parish Council was asked to consider the village for a new notice board.

David Rogers introduced himself and informed the meeting that he had asked the Parish Council to add the name of William Carpenter to the War Memorial at Maesbury cemetery. Whilst this was to be considered later in the meeting, he wanted to add a little more information. He said that last year he was contacted by the son of William Carpenter who was from Kinnerley. He had asked for help in getting his father's name added to the War Memorial. William Carpenter had 2 sons, aged one and two, when he died.

The Chairman explained that the church would need to be consulted for permission to add William Carpenter's name to the Memorial, even though it was on the Parish Council's asset register.

463/19 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 27 August 2019 were considered for approval. Following an amendment at minute number 451/19 to amend the words "Shropshire Council" to read "Highways England" with reference to ragwort along the A5;

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

464/19 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.

None.

465/19 Dispensations

None.

466/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None.

467/19 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED.**

18/01449/FUL Bryn-Y-Pentre, Trefonen	Erection of new two-storey extension to side and rear following demolition of existing extension and erection of new garden room following demolition of existing conservatory to front elevation
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	Permission GRANTED 2 September 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
18/01450/LBC Bryn-Y-Pentre, Trefonen	Erection of new two-storey extension to side and rear following demolition of existing extension and erection of new garden room following demolition of existing conservatory to front elevation Permission GRANTED 2 September 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/02873/FUL Unit MO13A, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry	Change of Use to D2 from B1 use Permission GRANTED 28 August 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/03279/FUL Fernhill, Hollies Lane, Trefonen	Erection of extensions and alterations to existing dwelling Permission GRANTED 13 September 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/03414/VAR Morda C of E Primary School, Morda	Variation of Condition no. 4 attached to planning permission 09/01655/FUL dated 25.8.2009 to allow for the retention of an 8-bay demountable building for a further temporary period of 10 years Permission GRANTED 11 September 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>

b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/03815/FUL 2 Brookside, Ball Lane, Maesbury	Erection of extensions and alteration. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to SUPPORT.
19/03831/FUL Trefarclawdd Farm, Tref-Ar- Clawdd	Construction of a new access and all associated works It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to SUPPORT subject to visibility splays being sufficiently large enough.
19/03908/FUL Globestock Engineering Ltd., Unit Mo39, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the installation of a biomass boiler. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to SUPPORT.
19/03919/FUL 18 Sweeney Drive, Morda	Erection of single storey front extension. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to SUPPORT.

468/19 Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at the last Parish Council meeting.

NOTED.

The Clerk also gave the following verbal update:

- Highways England had been advised about the ragwort along the A5 but at the time of writing there had been no acknowledgement.
- The Clerk reminded Members that training would take place at Morda Village Hall on Thursday 26 September 2019 commencing at 7 pm.
- The Clerk was undergoing training in planning by way of a series of 4 webinars facilitated by SLCC.

NOTED.

469/19 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 August 2019

Members received income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 August 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 August 2019 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for September 2019

Members considered for approval payments for September 2019 which would be made by BACS on 25 September 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the following payments for the month of September 2019 be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Sharon Clayton	Salary, expenses and reimbursements	1127.34
SALC	AGM	28.50
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
Trefonen Village Hall	Room hire	66.00
Viking	Stationery/stamps	143.01
Highline Electrical Ltd.	Street-light repair	69.00
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	657.00
	TOTAL	2144.85

c) Bank Reconciliation Verification

Members considered for approval the appointment of a Member, other than the Chairman, to verify bank reconciliations produced by the RFO in accordance with Standing Order no. 2.2

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. John Davies be appointed.

470/19 War Memorial in Maesbury

Members considered for approval adding the name of William Roland Carpenter to the War Memorial at Maesbury. He died of wounds sustained whilst serving as a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer in Tunisia in the Second World War and, although he was a resident of Maesbury when he died, his name did not appear on the Memorial.

The Clerk informed Members that she was awaiting a quote to carry out the work from Jones & Hughes.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that "CFMN. W.R. Carpenter R.E.M.E." be added to the War Memorial, to be arranged and financed by the Parish Council.

471/19 SALC AGM

Members considered for approval the delegation of voting rights to the Clerk when she represented the Parish Council at the forthcoming SALC AGM on 15 November 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Clerk have discretionary voting rights.

472/19 Smartwater

Members considered for approval the purchase of Smartwater kits to be distributed throughout the parish as part of the "We Don't Buy Crime" initiative being promoted by the PCC and for which 25% of the cost would be provided by the PCC.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:

- a) **It would be too costly for the Parish Council to finance, especially as there was no guarantee that all homes provided with Smartwater would use it, therefore rendering the exercise to be a waste of money unless all households participated.**
- b) **The benefits of Smartwater should be promoted on the Parish Council's website and in its next newsletter.**
- c) **The Clerk would liaise with Smartwater to enquire about purchasing the product directly and this would be discussed further at the next meeting.**

473/19 Road Safety

Cllr. John Davies gave an update concerning the Parish Council's recent application for funding from the PCC for the installation of Vehicle Activated Signs in Trefonen village. The application had been acknowledged and more information had been requested to support the application.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to discuss the application further at the next meeting.

474/19 Remembrance Sunday

Members discussed plans for this year's Remembrance Sunday on 10 November 2019.

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

- a) An application for a road closure from Chapel Lane to The Cross should be made.
- b) The bugler who played last year should be asked to play again this year.
- c) One poppy wreath and 30 small crosses should be purchased from the British Legion.
- d) Cllr. Bob Kimber would organise arrangements for the Remembrance service.

Cllr. Phil May left at this point in the meeting.

475/19 Green Spaces

- a) The Clerk informed Members that Cllr. Joyce Barrow had been told that Steve Brown at Shropshire Council would be providing an update shortly concerning the Parish Council's request to transfer land from Shropshire Council.

NOTED.

- b) The Clerk informed Members that she had applied to Land Registry to register the old disused water pump at Crickheath, but the application had been rejected because the piece of land to be registered had not been adequately identified on an OS map. Shropshire Council had confirmed that the land did not belong them and the Historic Environment Team did not hold any records of the pump and did not have any objections to the registration in terms of historic environment. Because identifying such a small piece of land in a rural location was proving to be difficult the Clerk had consulted Lanyon Bowdler solicitors for assistance.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that Lanyon Bowdler be appointed to assist with the registration.

476/19 Maesbury and Coed Y Rae Canal Bridges

Even though Cllr. Joyce Barrow had provided information concerning Maesbury and Coed Y Rae canal bridges there were still concerns.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

477/19 Bone Mill at Maesbury

Cllr. Tony Milner expressed concern about the dilapidated roof of the Bone Mill situated at the canal side wharf to the rear of the Navigation public house and thought it should be listed as an important asset since it is one of the last surviving buildings in the local industrial history. In particular Cllr. Milner was concerned about the integrity of the roof.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to report concerns to Shropshire Council's Conservation Officer.

478/19 Campaign Against Climate Change

Members considered for approval that the Parish Council joins the Campaign Against Climate Change and declares a climate emergency. This could be done in a number of ways including lobbying the local MP to encourage the government to do more and also raising awareness amongst the local community.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that the Parish Council declares a climate emergency.

479/19 Councillor Reports

Cllr. Martin Jones expressed concern about the footpaths/verges and overgrown hedges along the Trefonen to Oswestry road which left insufficient room for pedestrians who had to step out into the road. The Clerk informed Members that she had reported overgrown hedges to Shropshire Council. Cllr. Jones also expressed concern that the road outside the cottages at Coed Y Rae Lane leading to Coed Y Rae bridge (no. 80) had collapsed.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to report these concerns to Shropshire Council.

480/19 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.
NOTED.
- b) Thank you letter from Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club.
NOTED.
- c) Information from the Oswestry Area Committee meeting held on 12 September 2019.
NOTED.

481/19 Consultation

- a) BT Phone Boxes.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that BT phone boxes should be retained where there is no mobile coverage.

- b) Transport Policy for Post-19 Travel Assistance.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** no response.

- c) The Future Delivery of Shropshire's Youth Support Services.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that Members should pass on their comments to the Clerk who would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

482/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- o The Bone Mill – Cllr. Tony Milner
- o Maesbury and Coed Y Rae canal bridges – Cllr. Tony Milner

483/19 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 29 October 2019 at Trefonen 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.

484/19 Affordable Housing

Members **NOTED** information received from Shropshire Council.

485/19 Notice Boards

Members considered for approval quotes for the purchase of new notice boards.

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

- a) To appoint MDL Carpentry to make and install 8 notice boards, as per the approved Repair Schedule, all to have double doors, at a cost of £1,125 each.
- b) The installation of a new notice board at Nantmawr would be considered at the next meeting.

486/19 General Repairs

Members considered for approval the appointment of someone able to carry out miscellaneous repairs to the Council's property.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to appoint Colin Turner at a cost of £18 per hour.

487/19 Planning Enforcement

The Chairman reported that there had been no formal response from Shropshire Council concerning a recent planning enforcement case and that he would continue to pursue the matter.

NOTED.

488/19 Clerk Report

The Clerk informed Members that, as per the Parish Council's instructions, she had written to the family concerning a grave plot at the cemetery, and the family still refused to comply with the Council's policy.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that the family should be invited to a pre-meeting (before the next Council meeting) to allow a face to face discussion concerning this sensitive matter.

The meeting closed at 21:02.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman