

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 26 January 2021 by Zoom online video conference

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. Phil May, Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr. Tony Milner, Cllr. Robert Milton, Cllr. Tracy Rowe.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Approximately 16 members of the public.
Reporter from the Shropshire Star.

897 Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

898 Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

Councillor	Reason
Elliot Roberts Jones	Illness

This apology was accepted and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. Joyce Barrow who had a family commitment.

899 Police Report

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

- 30/12/2020 – Theft of an electric motorbike from rear of garden in Morda.
- 21/01/2021 - Single vehicle road traffic collision. Scooter rider was forced off the road due to a vehicle being driven on the wrong side of the road. Rider of the scooter was taken to the RSH for a precautionary check-up.
- 20/01/2021 – Report of flooding in Coed – y – Go location. A report was sent to Highways for their assessment.

NOTED.

900 Shropshire Councillor Report

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow was unable to attend and provided the following written report:

- Shropshire Council had announced plans for a new civic centre within Shrewsbury's Pride Hill which would provide a boost for the town. Shropshire Council would move by 2023 along with public sector partners. It would cost £24m to refurbish the Shirehall so after looking at all options this move was found to be the best.
- As well as the Orthopaedic and Shrewsbury Hospitals further vaccination centres were planned, with another in north Shropshire planned to open after in February. GPs and pharmacies would be providing vaccinations for those housebound.
- Whilst facilities were closed Shropshire Council's cultural sites could be accessed online e.g. libraries, museums and Shropshire Archives.
- Shropshire Council was warning residents to be aware of numerous NHS COVID-19 scams following multiple reports around the UK that people had received a scam text message offering a dose of one of the new vaccines.

- The Agricultural Vehicle Liaison Group had held two meetings involving the PCC, NFU, police, and Steve Brown (Shropshire Council). The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Joyce Barrow. The group had agreed how to move ahead and would be working together to resolve issues created by agricultural vehicles on our roads. A positive meeting was held with the reference group who would feed into the liaison group. The reference group consisted of individuals who had an interest in the issues and a number of parish councils were involved. SALC was also in attendance and would feedback to parish councils. Anyone with an interest could be involved in the reference group including councillors and members of the public with a genuine interest.
- Comments had been received about the slow pace of COVID-19 vaccinations with the main problem for Shropshire being NHS Midlands sending the Pfizer Vaccine to recipients in Shropshire not having the facilities to deal with the low temperatures the vaccine required. As from 25 January 2021 Shropshire would begin to receive the Oxford Vaccine in much larger quantities which was easier to store and move around.
- There would be an extra 3 weeks of consultation to respond to the Local Plan Review.
- After serious flooding in Coed-Y-Go last week flood officers would visit to look at the issues. A combination of issues had led to the flooding and needs urgent attention.

NOTED.

901 Public Participation

One member of the public referred to Oswestry Town Council minutes of a meeting held in December 2020 in which the Mayor informed Members that all meetings should be conducted as though they were all sat in the council chamber and Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct still applied. The member of the public asked that all councillors present at Oswestry Rural Parish Council meetings should be visible during Zoom meetings and not speak from a blank screen.

One member of the public, speaking as Chair of the TRPG, thanked the Parish Council for its previous responses to consultation concerning the Local Plan Review and asked for continued support in the Regulation 19 Pre-submission Draft Local Plan consultation.

The Chairman informed those present that he had received a question to the Council from Wiseman Associates which Mr. Wiseman asked the Chairman to read out during the public session on his behalf. Mr. Wiseman asked why in May 2020 Councillors agreed to set aside £92,000 in earmarked reserves to assist with future development plans for Morda Village Hall and what was the benefit to taxpayers.

902 Minutes

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 deferred to the next meeting for approval as Cllr. Tony Milner said he had been misquoted at the last meeting and asked for an addition to be made at minute number 891/20(b).

903 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. Peter Richardson declared a pecuniary interest, as a close neighbour, concerning agenda item 25, Fairhaven Camping.

904 Dispensations

None requested.

905 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

906 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Proposals
20/04121/TPO 11 St Anne's Drive, Morda, Oswestry	Works to reduce the tree in girth by 6m and height by 12m of one Sycamore tree protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Morda House, Morda, Oswestry) TPO 1977. Permission REFUSED 5 January 2021. <i>The Parish Council objected to this application.</i>
20/04516/FUL The Byg Farm, Old Racecourse, Oswestry	Demolition of majority part of existing agricultural building, north side part of existing structure to be retained and converted to one dwelling and erection of detached carport with store. Permission REFUSED 5 January 2021. <i>The Parish Council supported this application but noted that the plans were insufficient to locate and identify the site.</i>
20/04547/VAR Ridgewood, Coed-Y-Go, Oswestry	Variation of condition number 2 (vary design to include removal of conservatory from approved plans) application reference 14/02077/FUL. Permission GRANTED . <i>The Parish Council supported this application but noted that the plans were insufficient to locate and identify the site as there were no directions to it.</i>
20/04989/FUL 13 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry	Replacement of existing front porch and erection of single storey extension to rear of property. Permission GRANTED 20 January 2021. <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

Planning Application Details	Proposals
20/05422/FUL Land adjacent Penymaes, Croesau Bach, Oswestry	Change of Use from a pony paddock to gypsy/traveller site to include one static caravan, one touring caravan, one amenity block, septic tank and gravel hardstanding (part retrospective). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object and inform Shropshire Council that although Members had received objections from residents their objections did not appear on the planning portal.

907 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 Shropshire Council had advised that the traffic lights at Maesbury junction were the responsibility of Highways England and the Clerk had written to Highways England to request that modification be made to the traffic lights to make crossing the road safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

NOTED.

908 Councillor Reports

- Cllr. Tony Milner asked for the Shropshire Council report to be included with Councillor Reports.

It was AGREED that the Shropshire Council report would be considered with Councillor Reports on future agendas.

- Cllr. Peter Richardson informed that, on 12 January 2021, he was invited by a local resident to listen to the sound of activities going on all day at The Elms. During his visit he saw 2 articulated lorries within 30 minutes and the constant activity suggested it was a full-blown industrial site and not an agricultural site. The planning application for the site had still not been resolved and Shropshire Council had asked for further information and had been in contact with the local resident who was keeping a log of activities. Concern was expressed about neighbouring properties being covered in ash and how this impacted on the air quality within the vicinity.

It was AGREED that the situation should be monitored for the protection of peoples health.

a) Income and Expenditure and Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval income and expenditure and bank reconciliations up to 31 December 2020. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 December 2020 be APPROVED.**

b) Payments for January 2021

Members considered for approval payments for January 2021.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Silver Marbles	Website maintenance	36.00
Scottish Power	Street lighting electricity	250.49
Viking	Stationery and postage stamps	93.38
SLCC	Clerk training	130.80
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	178.15
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	928.85
	TOTAL	1677.67

c) Monthly cleaning/sweeping of bus shelters

Members considered for approval the cost of £25 per month for the cleaning/sweeping of the bus shelters at Maesbury and Oswestry/Trefonen Road.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the two bus shelters be cleaned each month at a cost of £25 per month.

910 Budget/Precept 2021/2022 and Reserves Allocation.

Members considered for approval the budget and precept for 2021/2022 and the allocation of reserves.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **The budget for 2021/2022 should be set at £36,244.**
- b) **The precept for 2021/2022 should be set at £35,114.**
- c) **Reserves be allocated as follows:**

Budget Heading	Amount £
Professional/legal fees	1000
Quality Award Scheme	150
Newsletter and Annual Report	2000
Councillor training	275
New streetlights	2000
Grants for leisure and community development	1000
VAS	6812
Morda Village Hall (subject to clarification of ownership)	92000
AED	400
Neighbourhood Funds	6643
Elections	3430
TOTAL	115710

911 Road Safety

- a) Members considered a suggestion from a member of the public that a low-profile chicane be installed on the straight section of Kingfisher Way, Morda, to help reduce speeding.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **This suggestion should be supported, pending more specific details and costs.**
- ii. **Any future development should include traffic calming measures along Kingfisher Way.**
- iii. **Shropshire Council should be asked what could be done as speeding along this road is anti-social behaviour.**

b) Members received an update on road safety issues as follows:

Cllr. Phil May reported that local residents in Nantmawr had requested the introduction of a 30mph speed limit in Nantmawr which was supported by Llanyblodwel Parish Council and Oswestry Rural Parish Council.
NOTED.

Cllr. John Davies reported that the VAS signs for Trefonen had been received and Kier needed to be chased for an installation date. The delay had been caused due to a pole being installed in the wrong place.
It was AGREED to ask Shropshire Council to arrange for the pole to be moved to the correct location so that the signs could be installed.

Cllr. Les Maguire reported that the traffic counter for Coed-Y-Go would not be installed until after the COVID-19 lockdown and until things were in place the Parish Council could not apply for a grant.
NOTED.

In accordance with Standing Order number 1(a) the Chairman changed the order of business so that Fairhaven Campsite could be considered at this point in the meeting.

912 Fairhaven Campsite

Having declared an interest Cllr. Peter Richardson left the meeting and the Vice Chairman Cllr. Phil May updated Members on behalf of the Chairman and said that information was still awaited from Natural England concerning the Stage 2 complaint.
NOTED.

The Clerk reported that the Councils FOI to Natural England was taking longer than usual due to COVID-19.
It was AGREED that the Clerk should ask Natural England when a response could be expected.

The Chairman returned to the meeting.

913 Road Safety

c) Members received road traffic data from a traffic survey held along Woolston Bank, Maesbury.
It was AGREED that this should be considered further at the next meeting.

914 Village Halls

Information was still awaited before deciding whether to instruct Lanyon Bowdler to proceed with the first registration of Morda Village Hall to Oswestry Rural Parish Council as Custodian Trustee and registration of the leasehold interest in Trefonen Village Hall.

Cllr. Bob Kimber informed Members that he had sent information to Lanyon Bowdler and had not yet received a response. The Clerk reported that Cllr. Robert Milton had also been in touch with Lanyon Bowdler.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that due to insufficient information this matter should be considered further at the next meeting.

915 Police Attendance at Council Meetings

Cllr. Claire Mahoney expressed concern that there had been no police presence at Council meetings for some time and it would be of benefit to members of the public for the police to attend meetings to hear concerns first-hand, especially issues about road safety.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to the police inspector and ask for police attendance at Council meetings so that they could engage with the Parish Council and discuss matters of concern with members of the public.

916 Innovation Park and Boundary Review

A recent press release had indicated that Oswestry Town Council wanted a boundary review so that the land on which the Innovation Park was to be developed could be taken from Oswestry Rural and included in the parish of Oswestry.

Cllr. Pam Broomby reported that, as part of a previous boundary review carried out in 2011, the Parish Council had agreed to a boundary change to allow Oswestry Town Council to have a piece of land near the leisure centre at Mile End and, in exchange, the Parish Council gained some land along Racecourse Road and another small piece of land at Broomhall Lane.

As the development land for the Innovation Park is in the parish of Oswestry Rural Cllr. Broomby asked that, if the Parish Council should be asked to relinquish this land as part of a future boundary change, the Parish Council should consider any financial implications such as CIL monies and Neighbourhood Funds.

Maesbury in particular would benefit from some spending e.g. a new footpath. Because the Parish Council did a land swap in 2011 the Parish Council might want to consider whether the parish would benefit from having land from within the parish of Oswestry. It was disappointing to learn of an intended boundary review via the press and the Parish Council should work closer with Oswestry Town Council to consider this further.

Concern was expressed about the interests of Cllr. Les Maguire and Cllr. Paul Milner who were both Oswestry Town Councillors.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to write to Oswestry Town Council and express disappointment that the Parish Council was not consulted and learned in the press about its desire for a boundary review in which parts of Oswestry Rural might be transferred into the parish of Oswestry.

917 CIL/Neighbourhood Funds

Cllr. Martin Jones wanted to find out what funds could be allocated to Morda C of E Primary School and what remedial works or development the school would like to facilitate a better and safer learning environment for the children.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council should engage with Morda C of E Primary School to determine what infrastructure was necessary to improve the school facilities.

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.**

918 Place Plan

Members considered updates to the Place Plan and several suggestions were put forward. However, due to the time and the number of amendments; **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Members should email their comments to the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting.**

919 Defibrillators

Cllr. Martin Jones proposed that an annual grant should be awarded to maintain all the defibrillators in the parish.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that grants should be awarded towards the maintenance of all defibrillators within the parish.

920 Roadside Verges

Cllr. Paul Milner said that, as the state of roadside verges was being addressed by Shropshire Council's Agricultural Vehicle Liaison Group as advised earlier, he had nothing further to add.

NOTED.

921 Mud on the Road

Cllr. Tony Milner expressed concern about mud on the road and that it was good that Shropshire Council's Agricultural Vehicle Liaison Group meetings were looking into the situation. Cllr. Phil May also mentioned that it was not just large vehicles that were causing problems and that the same problem was occurring in Nantmawr by a quad bike.

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

922 Morda Village Hall

Members received a report from Wiseman Investigations concerning re-development proposals of Morda Village Hall. Members expressed concern about management responsibilities and the upkeep of Morda Village Hall, how the funds had been managed by the Trustees, and how the money would be raised to redevelop the hall which suggested it could include 5 affordable homes. Members were also concerned about the £92,000 that the Parish Council had earmarked towards the redevelopment of the hall although the Chairman did stress that this was dependent on ownership of the hall being clarified.

The Wiseman Report referred to Clause 18 of the 1966 Trust Deed that states:

“The Committee [management] shall provide and keep a minute book and books of account. All proper accounts in relation to the Foundation [charity] shall in each year be prepared and made out, and copies sent to the Parish Council of any parish within the area of benefit or to the Chairman of the Parish Meeting of any such parish where there is no Parish Council and (on demand) to the Secretary of State”.

It was PROPOSED that the report should be sent to an impartial authority, i.e. the police or fraud squad, to advise on whether any improper activities had occurred. It was further PROPOSED that the report should be sent to the Charity Commission.

Some Members were concerned that there was some information they had not seen.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **The report should be sent to the police.**
- b) **The Clerk should write to all 3 village halls for which the Parish Council is Custodian Trustee and ask that all minutes and financial information for the last 5 years be provided to the Parish Council.**

923 Consultation

Members considered for approval a response to the Local Plan Review.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would take note of all comments received and agree a response at the next meeting.

924 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.
- b) Information about training events for councillors.

NOTED.

925 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

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

- Boundary fence/trees at Trefarclawdd cemetery.
- Notice boards maintenance.
- Flood plain at Morda Village Hall.
- Morda Village Hall and outcome from the police
- Ford at Coed-Y-Rae Lane, Maesbury

926 Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place by Zoom video on Tuesday 23 February 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.

927 Notice Board

Members considered for approval a quote for the installation of a notice board at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the notice board be installed by Malcolm Lainsbury at a cost of £160.

928 Planning Enforcement

No planning enforcement notices had been received.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 22:24.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____