

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

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## Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021 by Zoom online video

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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. Phil May, 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 11 members of the public.

### **996 Chairman's Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present that it was the last meeting before the Annual Parish Council meeting in May at which it would be a newly elected Council.

### **997 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies as all were present although Cllr. Martin Jones said he would leave the meeting early due to a family commitment.

### **998 Police Report**

There was no police report.

### **999 Public Participation**

One member of the public referred to her query raised in the public session at the last Parish Council meeting when she sought clarification about the Code of Conduct and the declaration of pecuniary interests. She opined that all communication should be sent to all councillors as a matter of courtesy so that all Members could discuss matters with equal knowledge and it was not democratic for one person to decide who should receive information and who should not.

One member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its endeavours to assist with traffic calming at Coed-Y-Go and asked if it could be included to have the same traffic calming measures as in Trefonen as Coed-Y-Go is in the same ward. He asked for the Parish Council to assist with reducing proposed development at Trefarclawdd Farm so that it would be commensurate with what the area could take and the recommended requirements for the welfare of the cows. There had been constant movement of farm traffic without any restriction from the planners to which he had no knowledge of a planning application for these activities. He expressed concern that there had been no communication from the farm with the local community about the farm's future intentions.

### **1000 Minutes**

a) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 30 March 2021 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, with the addition of agreed amendments, the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

b) The minutes from a Personnel Committee meeting held on 4 June 2020 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

### **1001 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 all matters in relation to Fairhaven Camp Site. |
| Robert Milton        | Chairman of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall Management Committee.                                     |
| Elliot Roberts Jones | Trefarclawdd Farm, as a close neighbour.   |
| Bob Kimber           | Chairman of Trefonen Village Hall.   |

#### 1002 Dispositions

None requested.

#### 1003 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

#### 1004 Planning Matters

##### a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

| Planning Decision Details   | Proposals  |
|---|--|
| 21/00279/FUL<br>Aston Hall, Shrewsbury Road,<br>Aston                             | Erection of one agricultural storage shed for equipment and materials which are currently stored outside in this area.<br>Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 26 April 2021.<br>The Parish Council supported this application.   |
| 21/00765/PMBPA<br>Barn conversion at The Byg<br>Farm, Old Racecourse,<br>Oswestry | Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the Change of Use from agricultural to one residential dwelling; with all associated works<br><b>WITHDRAWN</b> 6 April 2021. |
| 21/01004/OUT<br>Proposed residential<br>development off Chapel Lane,<br>Trefonen  | Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of 23 dwellings and the formation of a vehicular access.<br><b>WITHDRAWN</b> 26 April 2021.  |

##### b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

| Planning Application Details  | Proposals   |
|---|---|
| 21/01334/EIA<br>Proposed development at land<br>off Mile End Roundabout | Hybrid Planning Application for:<br>Full planning permission - formation of a 360m spine road; two 3.5m wide foot and cycleways; one 2m wide footpath; one electricity substation; supporting utilities infrastructure; drainage system; landscaping and ancillary works;<br>Outline planning permission - 10 plots to be delivered in four phases, providing:<br>- a hotel (use class C1) up to 30,000sq. ft;<br>- three units providing up to 6,000sq. ft of hospitality and up to 3000sq. ft of services;<br>- five mixed use units providing general industry with ancillary office (B2 & E) providing up to 180,000sq. ft;<br>- one office unit (use class E) providing up to 15,000sq. ft;<br>- one light industrial unit (use class E) providing up to 63,000sq. ft;<br>- two mixed use units providing storage/distribution with ancillary office (B8 & E) providing up to 200,000sq. ft;<br>- the provision of green infrastructure and all ancillary works.<br><br><b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object for the following reasons:</b> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Any jobs created would be low paid.</b></li> <li>○ <b>A new hotel would take away trade from established hotels in Oswestry.</b></li> <li>○ <b>The proposed development would take away trade from the town.</b></li> <li>○ <b>The site location is in open countryside.</b></li> </ul> |
| 21/01457/FUL<br>Pentre Issa, Trefonen, Oswestry                      | Change of Use for proposed office in granary to B1A and erection of building for B1C use.<br><b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.</b>  |
| 21/01620/FUL<br>Springfield Cottage, 1 Aston Square, Aston, Oswestry | Erection of single storey infill extension to front/side including improvements to the existing porch and principal entrance.<br><b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that to support.</b>   |
| 21/01732/AGR<br>Vron Fach, Chapel Lane, Trefonen                     | 2 bay fodder barn.<br><b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY – no comment required.</b><br><b>NOTED.</b>   |

### 1005 Clerk's Report

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

The Clerk also reported that the Council would receive Neighbourhood Funds of £44,330.34 and balances carried forward from last year were £203,834. This amount plus Neighbourhood Funds would increase the Council's balances to £248,164 and the Council should begin to spend these funds to put something back into the community otherwise Neighbourhood Funds could be clawed back by Shropshire Council.

**It was AGREED that:**

- **Members should put forward ideas for how these funds could be spent for consideration at the next meeting.**
- **Members of the public should also be asked to put forward their ideas of how the money should be spent.**

The Clerk informed Members that a volunteer was needed to post notices on the notice boards at Trefonen and Treflach and Cllr. John Davies volunteered to do this.

### 1006 Councillor Reports

Cllr. Phil May reported that access to the Nantmawr notice board was still restricted by the grit bin that had been buried in front of it. The Clerk informed that she had reported this to Shropshire Council. Cllr. May also expressed concern about how he had informed Inspector Greenaway at the last Parish Council meeting about a shooting in Nantmawr which she had no knowledge of. A hole had been left in the glass of the telephone box and Cllr. May had reported this to the CSO and the ball bearing found at the scene had been handed over. He also thought it odd that Inspector Greenaway knew nothing of a knife crime.

**It was AGREED that the Clerk should seek further information about these incidents from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.**

### 1007 Shropshire Council

There was no report from Shropshire Council as Cllr. Joyce Barrow was not present.

### 1008 Financial Matters

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

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations up to 31 March 2021.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations to 31 March 2021 be APPROVED.**

#### b) Year End Accounts to 31 March 2021

Members considered for approval the year-end accounts for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the year-end accounts be APPROVED.**

#### c) Payments for April 2021

Members considered for approval payments for April 2021.

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

| PAYEE                            | DESCRIPTION                                     | AMOUNT<br>£    |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Scottish Power                   | Street lighting electricity                     | 245.70         |
| TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd. | 2 VAS in Trefonen                               | 4537.25        |
| SLCC                             | Clerk training                                  | 72.00          |
| Mark Evans                       | Bus shelter cleaning                            | 60.00          |
| Colin Turner                     | Bus shelter cleaning                            | 25.00          |
| Viking                           | Stationery and stamps                           | 162.27         |
| Silver Marbles                   | Quarterly website maintenance                   | 36.00          |
| Llanyblodwel Parish Council      | 50% maintenance costs towards Morton churchyard | 550.50         |
| HMRC                             | PAYE/NI   | 179.26         |
| Sharon Clayton                   | Salary/expenses/reimbursements                  | 961.26         |
|                                  | <b>TOTAL</b>                                    | <b>6829.24</b> |

#### 1009 Local Connection

Members considered for approval a local connection for Local Needs Planning.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that there was a local connection which qualified for Local Needs Planning and the application should be supported.**

#### 1010 Rose Bed at Glentworth

Members considered for approval a request from a member of the public for permission to tidy the rose bed at Glentworth Green.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that permission should be granted although residents should agree that any work carried out would be at their own risk.**

#### 1011 Annual Parish Council Meeting and Future Parish Council meetings

Members considered for approval arrangements for the Annual Parish Council meeting due to take place on 18 May 2021. As legislation had not been extended to allow virtual meetings after 7 May 2021 the Council had to carry out a risk assessment for face-to-face meetings.

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

- **Those wishing to attend should email the Clerk to reserve a place which would be allocated on a first come basis.**
- **All members of the public should be asked to test for COVID symptoms before attending the meeting to reduce the spread of infection.**

#### 1012 Village Halls

a) Members were informed that the Parish Council has no responsibility for the management of nor the provision of information concerning Trefonen Village Hall, Rhydycroesau Village Hall, nor Morda and Sweeney Village Hall and that all of these village halls are regulated by the Charity Commission.

**NOTED.**

b) Members considered a response to Lanyon Bowdler as to whether the Parish Council wished to proceed with the first registration of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall to the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Deed of Appointment should remain unchanged.**

c) Members considered for approval whether the title register of Trefonen Village Hall should be updated to reflect the Deed of Appointment of 7 March 1997 appointing the Parish Council as the Custodian Trustee.

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

- **The Deed of Appointment of 7 March 1997 should be updated.**
- **Lanyon Bowdler should be made aware that Trefonen Village Hall belongs to the charity, but the land belongs to Shropshire Council.**

#### 1013 Flood Plain at Morda

Members received information from the Environment Agency in response to the Parish Council's concerns about flooding in Morda and at Coed-Y-Rae Lane in Maesbury.

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

- **The Environment Agency should be provided with a grid reference so that the specific area of concern could be identified.**
- **The flood marker at Coed-Y-Rae Lane should be reinstated and the ford needed to be modified in order to manage the watercourse effectively when it is in flood.**

#### **1014 Road Safety**

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April 2021 John Campion (PCC) had referred to the low level of traffic through Maesbury although he said that most vehicles were travelling above the speed limit of 30mph. Members were informed that there were various places in the parish that needed traffic calming, and that VAS, similar to that installed at Trefonen, should be introduced in Morda since it has houses on each side of a busy main road, a school, a shop and a pub. It also has a dangerous staggered road junction on a bus route.

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

- **This issue should be discussed further at the next meeting.**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked when the speed/traffic counter would be installed at Coed-Y-Go.**
- **The police should be asked for the results from a recent speed check carried out at Treflach in April 2021 and other recent speed checks carried out in the parish.**

Cllr. Phil May left the meeting at this point.

#### **1015 Planning Enforcement**

Members received a response from Shropshire Council outlining how it dealt with planning enforcement.  
**NOTED.**

#### **1016 Fairhaven Camp Site**

No further information had been received.

**It was AGREED that this should be discussed further at the June meeting.**

#### **1017 Trefarclawdd Farm**

Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones left the meeting and took no part in the discussion.

Members considered the impact on residents of activities at Trefarclawdd Farm without any obvious approved planning permission. Concern was expressed about the lack of communication between local residents and the farm.

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

- **Shropshire Council should be asked for a full environmental impact assessment of the works taken place to date.**
- **Shropshire Council should be asked for an update on planning applications currently going through the system.**

Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones returned to the meeting.

#### **1018 Mud on the Road**

Concern was expressed about the spraying of fertiliser and whether it was being carried out in accordance with regulations.

**It was AGREED that this should be discussed further at the June meeting.**

#### **1019 Recycling Bins**

It was **AGREED** to defer discussion about recycling bins until the June meeting.

#### **1020 Recording of Council Meetings**

It was **AGREED** that video recording of future Council meetings would be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr. Martin Jones left at this point in the meeting.

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.**

**1021 Consultation**

None.

**1022 Correspondence**

Members received the following:

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

**NOTED.**

**1023 Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

The agenda had been agreed earlier in the meeting.

**1024 Date of Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place at 7 pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at Morda and Sweeney 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.

**1025 Notice Boards**

Members considered for approval the cost of £260 for adjusting the doors and fitting 20 knobs to 10 notice boards within the parish.

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

- **The cost of £260 be approved for 20 knobs to be fitted on all the notice boards made by Malcolm Lainsbury.**
- **A quote should be sought for revarnishing all notice boards.**

**1026 Trefarclawdd Cemetery**

Members considered for approval the cost and installation of a commemorative seat and tree in Trefarclawdd cemetery.

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

- **The Clerk be granted delegated authority to purchase a commemorative bench and tree within a budget not exceeding £1,500 in liaison with the family.**
- **Although the bench would be dedicated to the family it would be for general use and neither the bench nor the tree could be adorned although a commemorative plaque would be allowed.**

**1027 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 salary for 2021/2022 should be increased by one increment from SCP24 to SCP25 as from 1 April 2021.

**1028 Planning Enforcement**

There were no planning enforcement notices.

The Chairman wished all the best to those councillors who would not be returning after the local elections in May and closed the meeting at 21:20.

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

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