
Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 27 August 2019
at Trefonen 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. Paul Milner, Cllr. Tony Milner, Cllr. Robert Milton.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
Timothy Williams, "We Don't Buy Crime" Team, West Mercia Police
PCSO Stuart Carroll, West Mercia Police, SNT Oswestry Rural South
8 members of the public

433/19 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and, before commencing with the meeting, he congratulated the Clerk for recently attaining a Master's degree.

434/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Councillor	Reason
Elliot Roberts Jones	Holiday
Phil May	Poorly

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

The Chairman invited Timothy Williams to explain the "We Don't Buy Crime" initiative.

435/19 "We Don't Buy Crime"

Mr Williams explained that, under the umbrella of "We Don't Buy Crime", the team also deal with crimes including child sexual exploitation, people trafficking, drugs and licensing. He said that the use of Smartwater helps to reduce crime and makes it easier to find stolen goods. Smartwater is a unique forensic property marking solution made up of a florescent green substance with 85% water 10% polymer and 5% other elements. It looks similar to a lip gloss and is used to mark property. The mark cannot be seen by the naked eye but shows up under an ultraviolet light. It can be put on any item including skin. Each solution is unique and can be traced by scientists to its origin. It costs £8.90 plus VAT to parish councils. The council pays 75% of the cost and the PCC pays the remaining 25%, which includes promotional stickers, signage and its installation. The signage includes the Parish Council's name and the stickers deter criminals because they know how Smartwater works. Smartwater has a shelf life of 5 years but has been found to last longer than this. The police work with councils throughout the whole process and produce a 12-monthly report. Each pack will produce up to 50 or 60 marks.

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his presentation after which Mr Williams left the meeting. The Chairman then invited PCSO Stuart Carroll to present a report.

436/19 Local Policing Team Police Report

PCSO Stuart Carroll said there had been no major incidents. In summary there had been:

- 6 road related offences and road traffic accidents
- 8 suspicious circumstances
- 7 anti-social behaviour
- Thefts, mainly at Mile End services

- 1 drug related offence
- 1 criminal damage
- 2 burglaries
- A dog found in a hot car at British Ironworks

Stuart said he would try to find the statistics from recent speed checks carried out in Treflach which could be used to help the Parish Council’s application for funding for VAS from the PCC.

The Chairman thanked Stuart for his report after which Stuart left the meeting.

In accordance with Standing Order number 1(a) the Chairman changed the order of business to bring forward agenda item 19(a), “Councillor Reports” and allowed Cllr. Joyce Barrow to speak as she had another commitment later in the evening.

Cllr. Barrow said she had nothing to report but did wish to speak on a recent report in the Daily Mail. It concerned a lane in Treflach where Shropshire Councillor, Vince Hunt resided. The press had reported that Cllr. Barrow had assisted in getting the lane re-surfaced because, at the request of Cllr. Hunt, she had sent an email to the highways department asking when the work would be carried out. Cllr. Barrow insisted that, as a representative of all residents within the parish, she had done no more in this instance than she would do for any other resident of the parish, and that Shropshire Council had not shown any preferential treatment. Speaking as Scrutiny Chair, she added that the Scrutiny Committee would soon be looking at improving roadside signage by removing that which is no longer relevant and updating signage where necessary.

NOTED.

437/19 Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public spoke about the camp site at Maesbury. She said that it was supposed to be a pop-up site, but the facilities were escalating. She referred to a shop that was now being operated and questioned whether the necessary planning permission was in place.

438/19 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 30 July 2019 were considered for approval.

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

439/19 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. Paul Milner declared he was a member of Shropshire Council’s Northern Area Planning Committee.

440/19 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

441/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None.

442/19 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

13/04770/FUL (Miners Cottage) Middle Forest, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach	Repair, refurbishment and small extension to former Miner’s Cottage to be reinstated for residential use Permission GRANTED 24 August 2019 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
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19/00542/FUL Pentre Cefn Farm, Craig- Llwyn, Trefonen	Erection of Oak frame building following demolition of existing dilapidated Dutch Barn Application WITHDRAWN 31 July 2019 <i>The Parish Council had no objection provided there is no provenance attached to this Listed Building and the application meets with the approval of the Conservation Officer, and the new construction should use materials that are in keeping with the old Dutch Barn.</i>
19/02301/FUL 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Racecourse Road, Oswestry	Erection of a part single storey part two storey extensions; alterations to roofline to front and formation of dormer window; elevational alterations Permission GRANTED 21 August 2019 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
19/02343/FUL The Smithy, Craig-Llwyn, Trefonen	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the Change of Use of land to increase garden curtilage to allow for access and erection of a wooden summerhouse to be used as a gym Permission GRANTED 31 July 2019 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>

b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/02730/FUL Martindale, 1 Offa House Estate, Treflach	Replacement conservatory and existing flat garage roof with a pitched roof RE-CONSIDERATION It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the grounds that scales and elevations of the proposals were insufficient.
19/03343/FUL The Original Ball Inn, Maesbury Road, Maesbury	Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the proposed Change of Use of domestic store to annexe accommodation It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to object due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ concerns as to whether the application complies with building regulations, ○ whether proper procedures have been followed, and that ○ the application should be fully retrospective.
19/03372/FUL Bridge 86, School House, Crickheath	Reinstatement of the Long Lane road bridge over the Montgomery Canal (known as School House Bridge or Bridge 86); excavation of existing embankment and re-use of material in the restoration of the Montgomery Canal; creation of pedestrian access and erection of steps from Long Lane to the Montgomery Canal; works to reinstate the Montgomery Canal tow path and channel; works to trees (including the removal of trees); associated construction works (including highways works); and associated temporary construction works (including temporary work sites, temporary buildings/storage and temporary access track). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
19/03414/VAR Morda C of E Primary School, Morda, Oswestry	Variation of Condition no. 4 attached to planning permission 09/01655/FUL dated 25.8.09 to allow for the retention of an 8-bay demountable building for a further temporary period of 10 years. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
19/03607/FUL Trefarclawdd Lodge Coed Y Go Oswestry	Application under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of family annexe replacing previous double garage with roof store over (re-submission). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED insufficient information was available and therefore the Council would not comment until further information was available.

443/19 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:

- a) The Clerk reminded Members that training would take place at Morda Village Hall on Thursday 26 September 2019 commencing at 7 pm.
- b) The external audit had been concluded and the auditor's report confirmed that no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The AGAR sections 1,2 and 3 had been published on the Parish Council's website and notice boards.
- c) The Clerk was now able to make future payments by BACS.

NOTED.

444/19 Financial Matters

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

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

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

a) Payments for August 2019

Members considered for approval payments for August 2019.

The Clerk explained that she had set up beneficiaries for BACS using online banking and that the payments would leave the bank on the day after this meeting, once the payments had been approved. This procedure would be followed for all future BACS payments so that BACS payments would be made the day following the Parish Council meeting at which they were approved.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Sharon Clayton	Salary, expenses and reimbursements for postage	901.95
HMRC	PAYE/NI	213.82
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	522.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
Viking	Stationery	86.74
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	360.00
	TOTAL	2138.51

b) Debit Card

The Clerk informed Members that the Council's Financial Regulations prohibit the use of personal debit cards and, in order to comply, a Council debit card with a limited spend would solve this problem. However, because the Council's current account with HSBC was for clubs and societies, a debit card was unavailable. The Clerk advised that there should be very few occurrences when a personal debit/credit card would be needed and advised that the Council's Financial Regulations should be amended to reflect this.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Financial Regulations should be amended to read at 6.20 – "Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used unless there is no other means of payment".

c) Public Sector Deposit Fund

Members considered for approval investing £25,000 in the Public Sector Deposit Fund. The Clerk had advised at the last meeting that two of the Council's accounts with HSBC were only attracting interest of 0.20% APR. At 30 June 2019 one account held £125,548.33 and one held £26,025.98. It was not prudent for all of the Council's money to be held with one bank because it would not all be eligible for protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. If £25,000 was invested with the Public Sector Deposit Fund it would yield (at present interest rates) 0.7481% net of fees and would also provide better financial risk management.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that £25,000 be invested in the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

445/19 Financial Regulations

Members considered for approval revised Financial Regulations in accordance with NALC guidelines.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the revised Financial Regulations be ADOPTED.

446/19 Investment Strategy

Members considered for approval a draft Investment Strategy in accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations 8.5.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Investment Strategy be ADOPTED.

447/19 Policies

The Clerk informed Members that all of the Council's policies included a review date and that some did not necessarily need reviewing once adopted. The Council's Standing Orders listed the policies that should be reviewed on an annual basis and it would assist if a list of all policies was compiled to include the date for review.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Clerk be granted delegated authority to use discretion when the Council's policies needed review and that a Policy Review Date Schedule should be compiled.

448/19 Road Safety

Members considered for retrospective approval an application prepared by the Road Safety Working Group which sought grant funding from the PCC for two VAS to be installed in Trefonen village. The application had been acknowledged by the PCC and was currently being considered.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that retrospective approval be granted for the application to the PCC for VAS to be installed in Trefonen village and that Cllr. John Davies be appointed as the lead contact.

449/19 Green Spaces

- a) The Clerk informed Members that there had been no further information from Shropshire Council concerning the transfer of green spaces and that she would ask for the assistance of Cllr. Joyce Barrow to pursue the matter.

NOTED.

- b) The Clerk informed Members that she had liaised with Councillor Pam Broomby concerning the registration of the water pump at Crickheath. Cllr. Broomby had found local information that might assist with registration which she would pass on to the Clerk.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Clerk should endeavour to register the water pump to the Parish Council within a budget of £100.

450/19 Green Energy

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Martin Jones would discuss green energy at agenda item 19(b) under councillor reports.

451/19 Councillor Reports

Cllr. Robert Milton expressed concern about the increasing presence of Ragwort, especially along the A5 corridor, and whether Highways England was adequately dealing with it.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should write to Shropshire Council and report signs of Ragwort.

Cllr. Martin Jones was keen to investigate how green energy could be better used, especially solar panels and how they could be integrated. He informed Members of a small development in Nescliffe where solar panels have been built into the roofs resulting in efficiency and cheaper electricity costs for the households. Solar panels reduce the impact on the environment by using less fossil fuels and reducing the need for wind turbines. Electric charging points for electric vehicles could also be installed and there is someone who lives in Treflach who deals with this infrastructure. He suggested that Shropshire Council should be asked to incorporate some form of green energy plans for new developments and improvements to existing properties, to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. He also expressed concern about how a parking violation had been dealt with by Oswestry Town Council, and the amount of effluent being released into the river Morda from the water treatment plant. He wanted to know whether the water treatment plant was sufficient to cope with future planned development in Oswestry and its hinterland. The Clerk advised that he should contact the Environment Agency to express his concerns. Due to fishing along the canal Cllr. Jones had reported the displacement of nesting swans to the Canal and River Trust, but they had failed to respond to his concerns.

NOTED.

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 2 hours.**

452/19 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.

NOTED.

- b) Invitation to attend the SALC 70 years celebration event for serving town and parish council in Shropshire.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should attend and represent the Parish Council.

- c) Invitation to attend an "Exhibition and Heritage Walk" at Trefonen Village Hall on 28 and 29 September 2019 in celebration of the Offa's Dyke Association 50th Anniversary.

NOTED.

453/19 Consultation

There was no consultation.

454/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- o Smartwater
- o Maesbury Canal Bridge and Coed Y Rae Bridge – Cllrs. Tony Milner and Martin Jones.
- o Bone Mill at Maesbury is it a Listed Building – Cllr. Tony Milner.

455/19 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at Rhydycroesau 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.

456/19 Affordable Housing

The Chairman informed Members about the informal meeting held with Shropshire Council concerning working in partnership to deliver affordable housing. This would be done through the establishment of a Project Board comprised of representatives from the developer/housing association, Shropshire Council, Councillors and members of the local community so that affordable housing would be delivered through a community led scheme. Although Members expressed concern about further development in Morda it was; **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council should have representation on the Project Board.**

457/19 Notice Boards

Members considered for approval quotes for the purchase of new notice boards. Since insufficient quotes had been received it was;

PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer consideration to the next meeting.

458/19 Planning Enforcement

Members were informed of a planning enforcement case.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to consider the matter again at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:24.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman