

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 28 May 2019
at Rhydycroesau Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. Pam Broomby, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Shirley Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Phil May, Cllr. Tony Milner and Cllr. Elliot Roberts-Jones.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) West Mercia Police, John Campion
PC Mark Moth, Oswestry Rural South Policing Team
11 members of the public

352/19 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed that he sadly had to report the resignation of Cllr. Arthur Brown. In his letter of resignation Arthur cited unforeseen circumstances as the reason for his resignation. He had enjoyed being on the Council and he thanked the Council for the opportunity and wished the Council the very best.

353/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following:

| Councillor | Reason |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Peter Davies | Work commitment |
| Paul Milner | Holiday |
| Robert Milton | Work commitment |

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. Joyce Barrow.

In accordance with Standing Orders (1a) the Chairman **PROPOSED** that the order of business be changed so that agenda item 8(a) to be brought forward to enable the PCC, John Campion to speak first. The Chairman then invited Mr Campion to introduce himself and then answer questions from those in attendance.

354/19 Police Report – PCC, John Campion

Mr Campion thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and proceeded to outline his duties and responsibilities. He is not an operational police officer but is responsible for assets held by the police, holding the Chief Constable to account with the power to appoint or to remove the Chief Constable.

There has been a steady fall in police officer numbers over quite a long period of time, and last year the Force saw a busy year but also saw the lowest levels of police in West Mercia that has not been seen since the late 1990s. However, funding has been secured and this will go towards the recruitment of new police officers. There will be 10 more police officers placed in Oswestry to deal with emergencies and demand and this will allow local police officers to be freed up and enable them to do the problem solving within the community they had previously been unable to do due to lack of resources. Some community crimes have not been solved due to lack of resources especially in rural areas. As well as solving crimes police can also give advice to people on how to reduce crime, for example by using aids such Smart Water.

West Mercia Police supports those affected by crime but not very effectively so, in April this year [2019], a Victim Advice Line was launched to help victims to cope afterwards. This will act as a single central point of information to help victims to understand what they might need, that they get the right updates they might need, and to help them cope and recover their life. Mr Campion said that he is currently focussing on rural

crime and will be hosting a live event that people can participate in so that he can understand their needs. He then invited questions.

The Chairman thanked Mr Campion and informed him that the Parish Council had set up a working group to deal with speeding in the parish and would be bidding for some of the PCC's funding. He said that one of the main issues that regularly features at Parish Council meetings is speeding on rural lanes and one member of the public had attended the meeting this evening to specifically talk to Mr Campion. The Chairman then invited members of the public to ask questions.

The aforementioned member of the public explained to Mr Campion that she lives on a blind corner, just off a busy main road, that has a 60mph speed limit. The road is bendy, and vehicles travel far too fast for the road conditions even though there are warning signs. There are skid marks on the road following near misses and she asked if there was any possibility of the speed limit being reduced. Mr Campion said it is the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that road markings/signage is adequate and, if given the details, he offered to raise the issue with Shropshire Council Highways. He said, unfortunately, certain roads in rural areas are not suitable for speed monitoring and police officers will not be seen as regularly as people would want to see them in the rural countryside. However, there are other options available such as road narrowing, and speed activated signs for which grants are available for the purchase of these. He said that one person per week was being lost on the roads in the West Mercia Police area and it was the biggest killer. He advised that dash cams and helmet cams can prove to be useful in the event of an accident.

The Chairman informed the member of the public that the Parish Council would also raise the issue with Shropshire Council.

Mr Campion was asked what other priorities he was focussing on apart from crime and road safety. Mr Campion said that before he moved away from crime, he wanted to say that, although we [Oswestry Rural] are in a safe area, it does not mean that serious crime cannot come to our area, such as drug dealing. Therefore, he feels it is his job to help keep us [the community] safe from crimes such as these. Burglary, in the grand scheme of crime that is reported, is a very small part, but it can be damaging to peoples' quality of life and Smart Water Communities has proven to dramatically reduce the likelihood of being burgled and also reduces peoples' fear of being burgled. If there are good crime reduction initiatives in the community, such as supporting Neighbourhood Watch, Mr Campion is keen to support common sense and the best course of action is not to become a victim in the first place.

In response to the question about his priorities Mr Campion said that victims and survivors are his first priority, secondly fighting serious organised crime and how quickly the police can respond to these crimes, increasing the number of offenders brought to justice, and then reforming the police force so that money is spent in the right areas. He is trying to make police more visible and make sure that rural communities do not feel left out in comparison to the urban areas and SNTs will have more access to IT equipment. He also said that he wanted to make sure that rural communities do not feel short-changed by the attention paid to urban areas where there might be more crime, and he wanted to keep an equal balance in policing.

Mr Campion was questioned about why reported crime is not seen to be dealt with and those reporting it feel nothing is being done. Mr Campion acknowledged that it takes a long time for crimes to be heard in court. He explained that the police do not have the tools for customer feedback as do other organisations. He said that they are reliant on frontline police officers and staff doing the work and their software does not provide the tools for the police to be a better communicator. Sometimes they cannot share information and intelligence and they need to catch-up in terms of IT and are aware that they have to do more. However, arrests can only be made on sound evidence and the police depend on local intelligence which can help to provide the 'missing link'.

Mr Campion was urged to pressurise Shropshire Council to find activities for young people in rural areas because there is very little for them to do, and it is the less affluent that need help. Mr Campion was also advised to liaise with Birmingham University, which has a physio therapy department, and can assist police officers who are suffering with back pain and get them back to work earlier and at a lower cost than is paid out in sick leave.

Mr Campion said he does try to work with other agencies to deal with local issues and to save money because savings made means money can be spent elsewhere.

Mr Campion was asked for assurance that Oswestry, as a police base, would not be downgraded. Mr Campion responded by saying that the police try to pool resources and, where possible, work from the same premises with other agencies such as the Fire Service and health services. He said that a police base would remain in Oswestry even if it meant moving buildings and more officers are being put into Oswestry.

Mr Campion was asked about police officers using tasers. He replied that It is difficult to keep the right balance and that the number of officers armed with tasers is a matter for the Chief Constable. However, Mr Campion was aware that sometimes there are gaps due to officers being off sick or moving positions within the force and he acknowledged that there are times when the balance is not right.

The Chairman thanked Mr Campion for his time and felt it fitting for a report from the local policing team to follow. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Orders (1a) the Chairman **PROPOSED** that the order of business be changed so that agenda item 8(b) to be brought forward to enable PC Mark Moth to address the meeting.

355/19 Local Policing Team Police Report

PC Mark Moth said that, in the last month, there had been a few domestic incidents and road traffic collisions, a couple of burglaries involving the theft of farm machinery. Other than that, there was very little to report. The Chairman thanked PC Moth and his report was **NOTED**.

356/19 Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public asked whether the planning application for the Elms at Middleton would include a S106 agreement. The Chairman reported that he thought that this application would be subject to a S106 agreement.

One member of the public referred to the Housing Needs Survey carried out by the Parish Council in 2018. She said that the survey concludes that there is a limited need of affordable homes for parishioners with local connections and needs and the best way to achieve this was through Countryside status. If the delivery of small-scale affordable housing could be delivered through a truly community led scheme the Trefonen Rural Protection Group would see this as being in the best interests of local people, and would support community led affordable housing in principle subject to it complying with both the Housing Needs Survey and the Village Design Statement.

One member of the public expressed concern there had been no consultation about plans for the erection of solar panels that would be seen by residents living at Crickheath. An electricity easement crossing the towpath of the Montgomery Canal would be needed to facilitate the solar panels that would spoil the green countryside which is the main feature of the canal. A Notice dated 15 May 2019 concerning this had been displayed and respondents had until 15 June 2019 to respond.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Canal and River Trust and ask for an Impact Assessment to be carried out.

357/19 Minutes

The minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 29 April 2019 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 7 May 2019 were considered for approval. **Following a minor amendment to the last paragraph at minute number 347/19 to replace the word ‘Oswestry’ to “Mile End” it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

358/19 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. Pam Broomby declared an interest in planning application number 19/01806/FUL.

359/19 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

360/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

Councillor Peter Richardson declared he had had tea and biscuits at a General Data Protection Regulations briefing he attended at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

361/19 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

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| 19/01379/ADV Proposed warehouse and factory at Maesbury Road, Oswestry | Internally illuminated individual letters constructed of stainless-steel surround with acrylic faces mounted to external walls of building and site entrance walls. Permission GRANTED 10 May 2019. <i>This was supported by the Parish Council provided that light pollution does not have an adverse effect on the highway and does not interfere with neighbouring properties.</i> |
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b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

| | |
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| 17/06025/OUT Proposed residential development at land to the south of Middleton Road, Oswestry | Residential development of up to 150 dwellings to include means of access <i>This planning application was supported by the Parish Council when it was reviewed on 30 January 2018. However, the Council had concerns regarding traffic usage of Middleton Road leading onto Aston and Aston Gate. The Parish Council noted a Transport Assessment had been submitted and was awaiting comments from Shropshire Highways. The Parish Council reserved the right to comment further once Highways had responded and this application was therefore re-considered.</i> <i>The Chairman pointed out that the proposed development was not in the parish of Oswestry Rural, but it might impact on Middleton Lane.</i> It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support the application on proviso of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ appropriate infrastructure is put in place before commencement of any development and○ that traffic is monitored at Middleton Lane as the development may have an impact in this area. It was further AGREED that Oswestry Town Council should be informed of the Parish Council's decision. |
| 19/01565/FUL The Cottams, Morda Bank, Morda | Change of Use of a section of the Cottams Field to an outdoor dog play area for use in dog day care; erection of 6ft fencing, wooden cabin and 3 outdoor lights forming the outdoor play area; use of three rooms within the house for dog day care during the day Monday – Friday It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support the application although, due to concerns about noise, a sufficient noise impact survey should be carried out to avoid undue nuisance to neighbours, and the times stipulated for dog day care should be adhered to. |
| 19/01736/FUL Top Forest, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry | Erection of two storey and single storey extensions; refurbishment and upgrade and new garage It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support this application. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>19/01806/FUL The Ley Farm, Morton, Oswestry</p> | <p>Erection of detached carport and garden store.</p> <p>Cllr. Pam Broomby left the room and did not take part in the discussion and decision.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application.</p> <p>Cllr. Pam Broomby returned to the room.</p> |
| <p>19/01913/REM The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry</p> | <p>Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant of 17/01399/OUT for the erection of one agricultural workers dwelling.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The dwelling should be located closer to the farm buildings. ○ The dwelling should remain as an agricultural workers dwelling. ○ The development should be subject to a S106 agreement. |
| <p>19/02131/FUL Y Gorlan, Trefonen Road, Morda</p> | <p>Erection of loggia structure to rear and loft conversion to create first floor accommodation</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support this application.</p> |

362/19 Clerk's Report

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

Cllr. Tony Milner referred to the Clerk's written report concerning an email from Amey which was later said by Amey to be have been sent in error. It referred to a road closure at Waen Lane, which none of the local residents had been alerted to.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should write to Shropshire Council and ask for details about the proposed road closure Notice at Waen Lane and ask why local residents had not been informed.

The Clerk also gave the following verbal update:

- Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow had asked Shropshire Council for an update on when the 30-mph speed limit would be introduced at Weston Road, Morda and, in addition to the Clerk's written report, further information had been received informing that it had been included in Shropshire Council's Capital Programme for delivery this financial year. However, it was not known when the works were likely to take place because it would need to be looked at in conjunction with other schemes that also need to be delivered as part of the Programme.
- Shropshire Council had informed that the bridge over Maesbury Marsh Canal was saddled in 1907 and has an assessed capacity of 40T. There had been no reports of any accident damage but traffic using the bridge was being monitored and regular inspections are carried out. There are no concerns regarding the structural integrity of the bridge.
- The Clerk finally has online access to the Parish Council's bank accounts.

NOTED.

363/19 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure to May 2019

Members received income and expenditure to 28 May 2019. The Clerk explained that, although the income and expenditure was not to the end of the month, there would be no other payments, and the bank balance to the end of May could not be finalised until 31 May 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure to 28 May 2019 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for May 2019

Members considered for approval payments for May 2019.

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

| PAYEE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT £ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Sharon Clayton | Salary and expenses | 1,083.06 |
| HMRC | PAYE/NI | 230.22 |
| Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club | Grant award | 595.00 |
| Morton Playing Field Committee | Grant award | 595.00 |
| Trefonen Heritage Group | Grant award | 595.00 |
| Trefonen Heritage Group | Grant award | 120.00 |
| Shropshire B.O.T.S. | Grant award | 595.00 |
| | TOTAL | 3,813.28 |

364/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/2019

Members considered the following for approval:

- a) The internal audit report for the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the internal audit report for the financial year 1 April 2018 to March 2019 be APPROVED.

- b) The Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council has a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements and that the Annual Governance Statement for the 2018/2019 financial year be APPROVED.

- c) The Accounting Statement for 2018/2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, for the year ended 31 March 2019, the Accounting Statements in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return presents fairly the financial position of the Parish Council and its income and expenditure and that the Accounting Statements for 2018/2019 be APPROVED.

365/19 Delivering Affordable Housing

Members considered for approval working with Shropshire Council to help deliver affordable housing in accordance with the Housing Needs Survey carried out by the Parish Council in 2018.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Shropshire Council should be invited to a pre-meeting that would take place prior to the next Parish Council meeting where officers would be able to speak in confidence about proposals for the delivery of affordable homes within the parish.

366/19 Complaints Procedure

Members considered for approval a revised Complaints Procedure for the Parish Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the revised Complaints Procedure be APPROVED and ADOPTED.

367/19 Notice Boards

Members considered for approval granting permission to the local Trefonen P3 Footpaths Group for the siting of interpretation boards and whether they should be designed to incorporate notice boards for use by the Parish Council. Associated maps, information boards and blue plaques were already in place and the Group sought permission as to whether the Parish Council would like to take advantage of combining the information boards as notice boards for use by the Parish Council. The Parish Council was asked to contribute £75 per notice board and the Group would provide future maintenance.

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.**

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would take up the offer from the Trefonen P3 Footpaths Group to share the notice boards and to pay the Group £150 for combined notice boards subject to their siting.

368/19 Canal and River Trust

Cllr. Phil May asked whether the Parish Council would support a presentation from the Canal Trust at the June Parish Council meeting. Cllr. May had contacted the Chairman of the Trust and was awaiting a response.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Canal and River Trust should be invited to attend and give a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

369/19 SEND Bus Routes

Cllr. Martin Jones reported that it had already been agreed to terminate certain bus routes and he objected because those in rural areas would be deprived of the opportunity to earn more money through the advantages of further education.

NOTED.

370/19 Parking Issues

Cllr. Arthur Brown had asked for this to be discussed but, following his resignation, the Chairman ruled that this item would not be discussed.

371/19 Councillor Training

Members considered their training needs.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that training should take place in the evening and Members should suggest which topics and what type of training they require.

372/19 Councillor Reports

- a) There was no report from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow as she was not present at the meeting.
- b) Cllr. Peter Richardson reported that he had attended GDPR training which he found to be quite interesting.

He also raised issues conveyed to him by local residents concerning the application for a HGV operator's licence at the Elms. They asked for the Parish Council to make representations on their behalf to Shropshire Council requesting that these licences should not be endorsed. Cllr. Richardson explained that the Parish Council had no powers to make representations, but the local authority did. He had consequently written to the Planning Officer at Shropshire Council who had informed him that the Council would not make any representations. Cllr. Richardson PROPOSED that, based on feedback from local residents and that access to the premises is a quite lane, the Parish Council should write to Shropshire Council and ask that Shropshire Council should object to the granting of a HGV licence for the Elms.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council should represent the views of local residents concerning this application and write to Shropshire Council and ask that the Council objects to the application for a HGV licence.

Cllr. John Davies reported that he had attended a fundamental briefing on CIL facilitated by Shropshire Council.

NOTED.

Cllr. Bob Kimber reported that he had attended a meeting of the Trefonen WI where they had told of their plans to launch a project to supply and plant trees, and a fund-raising event was planned to inform how people could sponsor the scheme by planting a tree.

NOTED.

Cllr. Shirley Jones said she had attended the annual meeting of the village hall and money had been spent on the car park. Income was down but events to raise income were planned.

NOTED.

Cllr. Pam Broomby informed the meeting that she had liaised with Cllr. Joyce Barrow about the footpath diversion proposed by Trevor Rees as outlined at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2019. Cllr. Barrow was trying to arrange a site meeting with interested parties to discuss proposals. Cllr. Broomby had also attended the village hall meeting and said they are waiting for the lady's toilets to be upgraded.

NOTED.

373/19 Correspondence

Members received and **NOTED** the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information – emailed to Members.
- b) Thank you email for grant award from Mark Leather on behalf of the Trefonen P3 Group.
- c) Thank you email for grant award from Irene Constable on behalf of Shropshire B.O.T.S.
- d) Letter from Owen Paterson MP concerning an update on broadband in North Shropshire.
- e) Letter from HSE.
- f) Letter from local resident concerning Weston Fields Development. **It was AGREED to write to the resident stating that the Parish Council notes his concerns and will monitor the situation.**

374/19 Consultation

Members considered an agreed response to the PCC Town and Parish Council Survey 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to respond in accordance with Members' agreed response.

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

375/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Possible car boots in Morda (Cllr. Les Maguire and Cllr. Paul Milner).
- Update on road safety from the Road Safety Working Group.
- Update on the proposed road closure at Waen Lane (Cllr. Tony Milner).
- Monitoring of Maesbury canal bridge (Cllr. Tony Milner).

376/19 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 25 June 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.

377/19 Insurance Renewal

Members considered for approval 3 quotations for the renewal of the Parish Council's insurance.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the long-term Agreement quote for three years from Inspire of £749.72 be ACCEPTED and APPROVED.

378/19 Complaint

Members considered a 'complaint' received from British Ironworks in connection with planning application number 18/02657/FUL.

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

- **The complaint had been considered by the Parish Council in accordance with its Complaints Policy and the complaint was now closed.**
- **A letter should be sent to the complainant thanking him for his invitation and informing that his comments had been NOTED.**

379/19 Planning Enforcement

Members were informed of recent planning enforcement cases.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 21:54.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman