

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at Morda and Sweeney Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Roger Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Jas Singh, Cllr. Steve Watts, Cllr. Chris Woods.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
Scott Drummond, Planning and Development Manager, T C Homes
Stephen Swan, Wrekin Housing Trust
Approximately 12 members of the public

1134 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a special welcome to Jas Singh who had recently been elected unopposed to represent the Parish Council on the Morda with Sweeney Ward.

1135 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. John Davies who was on holiday and Cllr. Robert Milton who was poorly. **These apologies were ACCEPTED.**

1136 Affordable Homes at Land North of Weston Road, Morda

Scott Drummond informed the meeting that T C Homes build affordable homes for housing associations and work with them and Shropshire Council to identify demand using Shropshire Council's figures. T C Homes identify suitable land for affordable housing and, using Shropshire Council's data, they identify what type of housing is required. In Morda Shropshire Council's confirmed demand was around 30 people expressing interest in affordable homes and of these the majority had strong local connections. This information was used for this particular development site in Morda which includes accessibility for the disabled. The homes would remain affordable in perpetuity.

Stephen Swan from Wrekin Housing Trust explained the type of properties that were to be built which would include rented and shared ownership. The aim is to generate social value/output and contractors/developers are asked to procure locally and provide a local workforce of at least 30%.

When asked if infrastructure could be included to reduce speeding, they agreed to discuss this with highways. When asked if they could provide solar energy and grey water they said there was presently no provision for grey water recycling nor solar panels although imminent changes in building regulations would apply to this development.

When asked which data was used for this development, as the Parish Council had carried out a housing needs survey in 2017 which identified only 5 affordable homes were needed in Morda, they confirmed that Shropshire Council's data was used. They were also asked whether an impact assessment had been carried out for the sewage system as it would impact on Mile Oak. They said no, but enquiries were being made with Severn Trent to ascertain whether there was sufficient capacity. Concern was expressed about flooding but an environmental impact assessment had not been given to Shropshire Council as there was no planning requirement.

It was not known whether shared ownership would be leasehold or freehold although the tenants would be responsible for their own repairs. Facilities for the installation of electric car charging points can be provided.

The houses would be allocated via a strong local connection and the properties would be maintained by Wrekin Housing Group. Streetlights and the road would be adopted by Shropshire Council.

The Chairman thanked both for attending the meeting after which they left.

1137 Public Participation

One member of the public expressed concern about whether new development in the parish would overload Mile Oak sewage plant leading to poor water quality. She also asked why an agenda item requested at the last meeting had not been included on the agenda for this meeting. Cllr. Roger Jones explained that he had asked the Clerk not to include it.

One member of the public questioned the manner in which the public session was being managed. Cllr. Martin Bennett explained that this is a meeting of the council in public, it is not a public meeting, and the council's Standing Orders regulate the procedure for meetings.

One member of the public expressed concern about speeding in Morton and asked if a more appropriate speed could be introduced.

The applicant's agent for the development of 4 detached dwellings in Treflach (21/04189/FUL) spoke on behalf of the applicant. He said the scheme would include one affordable home and would result in the removal of the scruffy buildings and the mess in the yard if the application was approved. There appears to be a demand for homes in this location and he asked for the Parish Council's support.

1138 Police Report

The police were not present, and no written report had been received.

1139 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 31 August 2021 were considered for approval. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1140 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 an interest in Fairhaven Campsite.

1141 Dispensations

None requested.

1142 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

1143 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
19/03030/FUL The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the use of land and buildings for the production, storage and sale of biomass fuel and animal bedding, construction of access road (amended description) Permission GRANTED 15 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council objected to this application.</i>
20/04866/FUL	Erection of a covered holding yard and all associated works WITHDRAWN 8 September 2021

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
Trefarclawdd Farm, Tref-Ar-Clawdd	<i>The Parish Council objected to this application.</i>
21/03040/FUL Unit Mo12, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry	Erection of commercial building and all associated works Permission REFUSED 13 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
21/03226/FUL Summerhill, Trefonen	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of a triple carport/hay feed store with external staircase to office and craft room above with dormer windows Permission GRANTED 1 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council objected to this application.</i>
21/03349/FUL Barn south of Nant Farm, Morda	Erection of triple garage with store over Permission REFUSED 17 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council asked that a condition be included to preclude use of the garage as a separate dwelling.3</i>
21/03362/FUL Tan-Y-Coed-Y-Gaer, Llansilin	Erection of a fodder and machinery building Permission REFUSED 15 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
21/03454/TPO Cedar House, Morda Bank, Morda	Crown reduce by 20%, reduce over-extended branches by no more than 2m and crown lift to clear around 4m of one Lime (T1) protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Glentworth, Morda) TPO 1990 (Ref: OS/00025/90) Permission GRANTED 13 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council was unsure whether this was the tree that belongs to the Parish Council and Shropshire Council has confirmed that this tree is within the property of Cedar House, Morda and not the Lime tree near to Glentworth Avenue.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
21/03571/FUL 14 Brooklea Close, Trefonen	Erection of a single storey extension to rear elevation to create living space, which will then allow a downstairs bedroom and shower room to be installed at the front of the property for a disabled person. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/04109/FUL St Mary's, Sweeney	Erection of single storey extension following demolition of garage, replace roof with additional room in roof accommodation. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/04121/VAR Land adjacent to White House, Crickheath	Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 15/02392/FUL for the erection of one affordable dwelling and detached garage with plant and wet room. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.
21/04189/FUL Proposed residential development west of Ty Draw, Oak Lane, Treflach	Erection of four detached dwellings (one affordable) and associated access. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/04277/VAR Proposed development at land off Mile End Roundabout, Oswestry	Variation of Condition No. 7 (ecology) attached to planning permission 20/04145/FUL dated 12 October 2020. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.

1144 Clerk's Report

Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous Council meetings.

The Clerk informed Members that Shropshire Council had advised that bins located near to the canal cause a high number of fly tipping incidents due to boaters depositing their household waste next to them and therefore the two bins requested to be installed near to the canal would not be installed.

NOTED.

1145 Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr. Joyce Barrow gave the following report:
- o Shropshire Council had adopted the Local Government Association’s revised Code of Conduct which was accepted unanimously and Cllr. Barrow hoped that the Parish Council would also adopt it.
 - o Deputy Leader, Cllr. Steve Charmley had stepped down from his position and Ed Potter was now filling that post and his portfolio for highways was being shared between 2 portfolio holders.
- b) Cllr. Les Maguire had attended a meeting about the closure of the ambulance station at Oswestry which would save £750,000 a year.
- c) Cllr. Martin Bennett had attended a meeting of the Oswestry Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils held on 15 September 2021 and gave the following brief report. Shropshire Council’s Leader was unable to attend as she was already engaged but would be invited to a future meeting. The draft Constitution was approved for the Area Committee. Concern was expressed about poor broadband throughout Shropshire, ideas for the Queen’s Green Canopy were shared, and the current state of parish plans was considered. Planning issues were also discussed including the lack of weight given to parish and town councils. Cllr. Martin Bennett had been elected as chairman to the committee.
- d) Cllr. Bob Kimber had been contacted by someone from Shropshire Council asking for permission from the Parish Council to use the playing field car park, but the person was informed that Shropshire Council owned the field and therefore he did not need permission.
- e) Cllr. Les Maguire had reported potholes on Maesbury Industrial Estate to Shropshire Council and had been told that they would be filled in October.

NOTED.

1146 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure for August 2021.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income and expenditure for August 2021 be APPROVED.

b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for August 2021.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations for August 2021 be APPROVED.

c) Payments for September 2021

Members considered for approval payments for September 2021.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning (August and September)	50.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Silver Marbles	Website maintenance	36.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	720.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	480.00
SLCC Enterprises	Clerk training, SLCC National Conference	120.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	190.35
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses	973.75
	TOTAL	2630.10

1147 External Audit

Members **NOTED** that:

- The external audit for 2020/2021 had been concluded and that the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to the auditors' attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.
- The period for the exercise of public rights was less than 30 consecutive days and the Council should have regard to reserves when considering future precept requests.

1148 Lime Tree at Glentworth Avenue

Members considered for approval whether to submit a planning application for the Lime Tree at Glentworth Avenue to be pruned following a complaint of overhanging branches from a nearby resident.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a planning application be submitted to Shropshire Council to prune the Lime Tree at Glentworth Avenue.

1149 Recording of Council Meetings

Cllr. Peter Richardson briefed Members about his enquiries about recording future Parish Council meetings. Various types of equipment were available, but he needed to carry out more research. It was hoped that Cloudy IT would be able to give a demonstration at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Richardson for his research and it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to discuss this further at the next meeting.**

1150 Strategic Plan

Members considered for approval revisions to the Strategic Plan and the following was **AGREED**:

- A minor change to the introduction with reference to the Montgomery Canal.
- Theme 2, Community Resources, 5, add "health and well-being".
- Theme 4, Property, 11b, add "cemetery fees to be reviewed annually".
- Theme 5, Community Safety and Policing, 15f, add a budget of £500 to assist with the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.
- Theme 3, Green Spaces and Infrastructure, add report overgrown hedges/vegetation to Shropshire Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Strategic Plan be updated as requested and considered further at the next meeting.

1151 Allocation of Funds

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the allocation of funds be deferred to the next meeting.**

1152 Road Safety

- a) As Cllr. Robert Milton was not present it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer consideration of the purchase of a traffic counter to the next meeting.**
- b) As Cllr. Robert Milton was not present it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer consideration of the appointment of parish traffic officers to the next meeting.**
- c) Members expressed concern about increased traffic using Weston Road as a rat run when travelling to and from Trefonen/Coed-Y-Go/Morda. It was **PROPOSED** that Shropshire Council should be asked to make observations and whether some element of traffic calming could be installed to help reduce speeding, especially as there is no public footway.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ask Shropshire Council to introduce traffic calming on Weston Road.

It was further AGREED that Cllr. Martin Bennett should join the Road Safety Working Group.

1153 Climate Change Action Plan

Members considered for approval the reviewed Climate Action Plan first approved in October 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the reviewed Climate Change Action Plan be APPROVED.

1154 Hedgerows

Members considered the state of the hedgerows along Morda Road

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this be reported to Shropshire Council for action.

1155 Grass Cutting

As Cllr. Robert Milton was not present it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that consideration of grass cutting at St. Anne's Drive be deferred to the next meeting.

1156 Closure of Oswestry Ambulance Station

Members expressed concern about the proposed closure of Oswestry Ambulance Station. Changing shifts and handover of patients was taking too long and response targets were not being met in rural areas. The station needed to be closed due to insufficient funds to see them through the winter. Members were alarmed that there had been no public consultation.

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

- a) Send a strong letter of protest to Owen Patterson MP and West Midlands Ambulance Service and express the Parish Council's objection to the station being closed due to budget cuts and ask how this situation has occurred.
- b) Ask Shropshire Council's Health & Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a public examination as a matter of urgency into how the funds have been used and call it in for scrutiny.
- c) Ask West Midlands Ambulance Service for an update on quarterly call-out/response times for the SY10 and SY11 postcode areas.

1157 Fairhaven Campsite

No further information had been received concerning activities at Fairhaven Campsite.

As Cllr. John Davies was not present it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that this be deferred to next meeting.

1158 Consultation

Members considered Shropshire Council's plans to reduce its planning committees from three to two.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to respond as follows:

- a) The impact of reducing planning committees from three to two would lead to less informed decision making.
- b) It would result in less representative decision making.
- c) It would not result in less emotive decision making. The Parish Council is aware that the views of parish councils are not necessarily given sufficient weight, but it does not reduce the emotions of local people if they feel no-one is listening to them and that democratic decision making has let them down.

1159 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 26 October 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.

1160 Cemetery Gate

Members considered a quote to repair the cemetery gate at Trefonen.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the quote from Colin Turner of £350 to repair the gate be **APPROVED**.

1161 Planning Enforcement

Members **NOTED** a recent planning enforcement case.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:55.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____