

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 31 August 2021 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

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

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow

Clive Leworthy, Community Ambassador, Airband Community Internet Ltd.

Approximately 7 members of the public.

PCSO Stuart Carroll and colleague

1107 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed those present of the recent death of Cllr. Tony Milner for which a minute's silence was held in his honour. Cllr. Peter Richardson gave details of the funeral arrangements and the Chairman said he had sent condolences to the family on behalf of the Council and would attend the funeral on 10 September.

1108 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Peter Davies who was on holiday and Cllr. Martin Jones who was poorly. **These apologies were ACCEPTED.**

1109 Presentation on Broadband Network Roll-out

Clive Leworthy from Airband explained about the new ultrafast Fibre to The Premise (FTTP) broadband network rollout within the parish. Airband is an independent internet service provider founded in 2009 to bring high speed broadband to hard-to-reach areas in partnership with 'Connecting Shropshire'. Where possible existing infrastructure would be used e.g., underground ducts and telegraph poles although some new telegraph poles may be erected in various locations. Fibre unlimited broadband packages would be available, and people were asked to express their interest.

The Chairman thanked Clive for his presentation after which Clive left the meeting.

1110 Public Participation

One member of the public raised concern about the mention of a Neighbourhood Development Plan in the revised Strategic Plan and asked for it to be removed. She was advised that the Strategic Plan was to be considered later in the meeting when the Council would make a decision whether it should remain.

One member of the public also referred to the revised Strategic Plan and its reference to a Neighbourhood Development Plan and said that it had been decided in the past that a Neighbourhood Development Plan was not needed because people wanted the parish to remain as open countryside. She then queried the budgets assigned against various themes and asked that they be reviewed. She also referred to the minutes from the last meeting and asked that they be amended to reflect that she does not want to make a complaint against the Clerk.

One member of the public referred to the planning application for Trefarclawdd Farm and asked the Council not to comment until all public comments had been submitted to Shropshire Council so that the Council could make representations based on community concern. He then referred to the revised Strategic Plan and asked for funds to be allocated to the various themes to make some immediate, visible, and desirable community-based effect using that money. He also asked the Council to consider establishing a communications team

responsible for communication to the Council and that this specialist team should deal with communication rather than the Clerk.

1111 Police Report

Inspector Claire Greenaway was unable to attend and provided a written report. However, PCSO Stuart Carroll and a colleague were in attendance and presented a further report. Stuart explained that some detail had to be withheld due to GDPR and therefore the list of incidents was sanitized. There had been several road traffic incidents, one burglary, highway concerns, neighbour disputes and a loose dog which was safely returned to its owner.

The Chairman thanked them for their attendance after which they left the meeting.

1112 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 27 July 2021 were considered for approval. Following an agreed amendment, it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1113 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.

1114 Dispensations

None requested.

1115 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

1116 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED.**

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
21/01383/FUL Trefonen Hill, Trefonen	Change of Use of land to domestic land and formation of vehicular access with visibility splay and parking area Permission GRANTED 16 August 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
21/02244/FUL Agricultural land to the north of Woodhill, Trefonen	Formation of new agricultural field vehicular access and associated gate Permission GRANTED 10 August 2021 <i>The Parish Council said it would comment when more information was available concerning access.</i>
21/02541/LBC Pentre Farm, Woodhill, Trefonen	Installation of 18 replacement windows affecting a Grade II Listed Building Permission REFUSED 4 August 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
21/02954/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 a single residential dwelling (revised scheme) Permission GRANTED 24 August 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application provided the condition of the greater crested newts is known at the time the decision is made to allow demolition and conversion of the building.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
20/04866/FUL Trefarclawdd Farm, Tref-Ar-Clawdd, Oswestry	Erection of a covered holding yard and all associated works. Concern was expressed about the piecemeal way in which the various applications had been submitted to Shropshire Council and local residents objected to the proposals and the impact on the local environment. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the following grounds: 1) The lack of relevant and detailed information in the available documentation. 2) Concerns about the impact farming activities would have on the highway, the environment and the local community. 3) No further applications should be approved until a full detailed environmental impact assessment and applicable risk assessments had been carried out on the WHOLE of the final intended development. It was further AGREED to ask for a time extension until more information was available after which the Council could make a more informed decision and to ask if Shropshire Council intends to take enforcement action concerning previous applications.
21/03324/FUL The Engine House, Nantmawr	Change of Use of holiday let to residential dwelling and associated works. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/03349/FUL Barn south of Nant Farm, Morda	Erection of triple garage with store over. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ask for a condition be included that use of the garage as a separate dwelling should be precluded.
21/03584/REM Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to application Ref: 17/06025/OUT	Land south of Middleton Road, Oswestry. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED: 1) To support Highways England's request for deferral of the application. 2) Express disappointment at the lack of initiatives to help reduce climate change in respect of solar panels on the roof and a grey water drainage scheme.
21/03757/FUL Underhill House, Oswestry	Erection of free-standing PV array for domestic use. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/03822/FUL Morton House, Gibraltar Lane, Treflach	Renovation and erection of two storey north facing extension and existing extension with flat roof replaced with pitched roof. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/03902/FUL Keepers Cottage, Candy, Oswestry	Erection of first floor rear extension. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.

1117 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 no-one had put themselves forward for the by-election called to fill the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr. Phil May and Shropshire Council would advise of a new date for another by-election. The Clerk also advised that she had advertised the casual vacancy caused by the death of Tony Milner.

NOTED.

1118 Councillor Reports

a) There was no report from Cllr. Joyce Barrow as there had been no meetings during August.

b) Cllr. Peter Ricardson said that the next meeting of the Oswestry Area Committee was on 14 September 202, but he was unable to attend. However, Cllr. Martin Bennett would attend.

Cllr. Bob Kimber said that signs of giant rhubarb (*gunnera manicata*) in the verges had been reported to Shropshire Council.

NOTED.

1119 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure for July 2021.

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

b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for July 2021.

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

c) Payments for August/September 2021

Members considered for approval payments for August and September 2021.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
TEEC	Website hosting and migration costs	1192.80
SALC	Clerk training	30.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	1695.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	190.35
Viking	Stationery	60.26
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	1080.00
	TOTAL	4333.41

d) Virement Between Budget Headings

Members considered for approval the virement of £150 from councillor training to clerk training.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £150 be vired from councillor training to clerk training.

e) Investment Strategy

Members considered for approval a review of the council's Investment Strategy.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the reviewed Investment Strategy be APPROVED.

f) Bank Signatories

Members considered for approval which councillors should be bank signatories for the council's bank accounts.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following councillors be bank signatories:

- **Peter Richardson**
- **Robert Milton**
- **John Davies**
- **Paul Milner**
- **Bob Kimber**

g) New Bank Accounts

Members considered for approval the opening of new bank accounts with higher interest rates and to reduce financial risk in accordance with the council's Investment Policy.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £50,000 should be invested in a 5-year bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank and £50,000 invested in a 3-year bond with United Trust Bank.

1120 Recording of Council Meetings

Members considered for approval the purchase of technical equipment to enable future council meetings to be recorded.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that Cllr. Peter Richardson would carry out further research and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

1121 Strategic Plan

Members considered for approval the revised Strategic Plan.

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

- a) Reference to a Neighbourhood Development Plan should be removed.
- b) Members should forward their own ideas to the Clerk.
- c) Revisions to the Strategic Plan would be considered at the next meeting.

1122 The Allocation of Funds

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to defer the allocation of funds to the next meeting when this would be considered in tandem with the revised Strategic Plan.

1123 Notice Board at Sweeney Mountain

Members considered for approval the making and installation of a new notice board at Sweeney Mountain since a local resident had agreed to offer a piece of land for its location.

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

- a) A double notice board should be commissioned and installed by Malcolm Lainsbury on residential land at Sweeney Mountain at a cost of £1125.
- b) The siting of the notice board should be subject to a binding agreement between the landowner and the Parish Council.

1124 Newsletter

Members considered for approval the September issue of the council's newsletter.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the September newsletter be **APPROVED**.

1125 Litter Bins

Members considered for approval the installation of litter bins alongside the Montgomery Canal and an alternative site for a litter bin in Morda since Shropshire Council was unable to find a suitable location in Nant-Y-Caws.

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

- a) As a suitable location for a litter bin to be installed at Nant-Y-Caws could not be found Shropshire Council should be informed that a bin was no longer needed.
- b) A new litter bin should be installed near to Spiggots Bridge and a new litter bin installed near to the lift bridge by Maesbury Mill Wharf at an installation cost of £300 for each bin and an annual emptying fee of £125 per bin.

1126 Road Safety

- a) Members received an update from Cllr. Les Maguire who informed Members that he had met with Cllr. Steve Charmley at Shropshire Council to discuss traffic issues at Coed-Y-Go. The traffic counter that should have been installed earlier in the year had been delayed due to Shropshire Council's initiative to introduce 20mph zones at schools for which all traffic counters had been deployed at various locations within Shropshire and therefore would not be available for installation at Coed-Y-Go for some time. However, Cllr. Maguire would endeavour to provide monthly updates on progress.

NOTED.

- b) Members considered for approval signing a petition for Shropshire Council to implement a county wide 20mph default speed limit in residential areas.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the Parish Council should not respond as not all local residents were in favour and that individuals could respond themselves if they wished to do so.

- c) Members considered for approval asking Shropshire Council to extend the 30mph speed limit in Maesbury.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that Shropshire Council should be asked to extend the 30mph speed limit to the north of Back Lane in Maesbury beyond the bus stop serving Back Lane.

1127 Drainage and Flooding

Members considered drainage and flooding issues in Coed-Y-Go, some of which were attributable to activities at Trefarclawdd Farm for which further information was awaited.

NOTED.

1128 Fairhaven Campsite

Since no new information had been received, it was **AGREED** to defer further discussion to a future meeting.

1129 Consultation

Members considered for approval a response to the Safer West Mercia Plan.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer any response to this consultation until the Parish Council had met with Inspector Claire Greenaway.

1130 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The following items were requested for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Speed enforcement and the potential of engaging trained personnel to enforce speeding offences (Cllr. Robert Milton)
- The state of hedgerows along Morda Road (Cllr. Robert Milton)
- Grass cutting at St. Anne's Drive (Cllr. Robert Milton)
- Proposed closure of the ambulance station in Oswestry (Cllr. Steve Watts)
- Communication between the Parish Council and the local community (Cllr. Roger Jones)

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.**

1131 Date for Next Meeting

- a) It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at Morda and Sweeney Village Hall.
- b) Future meeting dates and venues were **NOTED**.

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.

1132 Cemetery Gate

No quotes had been received for repairs to the gate.

NOTED.

1133 Planning Enforcement

Members **NOTED** two recent planning enforcement cases.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21:09.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____