



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Approved Minutes

of the Ordinary meeting

held at 7 pm on Thursday 30 November 2023 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Martin Bennett (Chairman), Cllr Peter Richardson, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr Martin Jones, Cllr. Steve Watts, Cllr Peter Davies, Cllr Roger Jones, Cllr Jas Singh, Cllr Roger Jones, Cllr Iain Campbell, Cllr Mike Weston

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Approximately seven members of the public

PCSO Charlie Irenmonger

1836 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Martin Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members there had not been any Chairman engagements.

1837 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Paul Milner (Work commitments)

Cllr Joyce Barrow

1838 Police Report

PCSO Charlie Irenmonger from Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team advised members that a brief report had been circulated. This noted three Road Traffic Accidents including one at the traffic lights on the A483. There were a number of incidents of theft. A member asked for an update following an email from a resident raising concerns of an incident on Ball Lane. PCSO Irenmonger advised this was an ongoing investigation and Police were liaising with a number of people in the areas; it is believed to be an isolated incident. The Police are uncertain as to whether an attempt was made to gain access to the Public House. There was a suggestion the people involved were staying at an Air BnB.

Cllr Martin Jones questioned whether the RTAs listed included one at the Queen's Head. When the road is closed here traffic is diverted to Maesbury and he has concerns with articulated lorries and pedestrian footfall. PCSC Irenmonger advised that roads are assessed by Highways for suitable diversions. It was suggested that the way accidents are reported may lead to diversion of traffic at the crossroads.

Cllr Bob Kimber asked for an update on vandalism at Morda school. PSCO Iremonger advised at patrols had been heightened up and the incident is likely to have taken place between 20.30 pm - 12 am. The Police have given advice on CCTV and use of smartwater markers .

1839 Shropshire Council Report

There was no Shropshire Council report.

1840 Public Participation

A resident from Moreton advised members that following her attendance at last month's Parish Council meeting she had undertaken some investigation work on defibrillators and confirmed the one at Morda does not appear to be included on the circuit website. The couple who attempted to use it at the end of October received a PIN number provided by the Ambulance Service, however, they were unable to access it. The defibrillator has since been accessed and cleaned. The pads appear to be in date although the battery may need replacing. It is thought the First Responders in Oswestry are responsible for the maintenance of this defibrillator.

1841 Minutes

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 October 2023 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1842 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether they should disclose an interest at this meeting. Members were also reminded they should not make decisions with a closed mind and must declare a bias and not vote on matters where their decision could be pre-determined.

None declared

1843 Dispensations

None requested.

1844 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None Declared

1845 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/03976/CPE Warehouse Known As Unit 2, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire, SY10 8HY	Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building and yard for B8 storage Decision: Certificate - Not Lawful
23/04197/FUL Pentregaer Ucha, Croesau Bach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9BE	Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act for change of use of Part Redundant Agricultural Building into 1 No. holiday let. Decision: Grant Permission
23/04492/FUL Bridge House, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8JG	Erection of single storey extension Decision: Grant Permission

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/04586/FUL Weston House Mill, Weston, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9ES	Erection of additional commercial building and all associated works Members NOTED this had been commented on at the previous meeting
23/04760/FUL Hopton Villa, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8JA	Erection of a single storey extension and internal alterations, formation of vehicle hardstanding and associated drop kerbing. Cllr Peter Richardson advised members he had reviewed this application and the extension was within the curtilage. There have been significant improvements in the row of cottages, and this will only add to it and improve the quality of life for residents . It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application.
23/04776/REM Development Land Off Mile End Roundabout, Oswestry, Shropshire	Approval of all reserved matters (appearance, access arrangements, layout, scale, and landscaping) pursuant to hybrid planning permission 21/01334/EIA for the development of two secondary roads (Roads 2 and 3) off the main spine road, and associated works and infrastructure. Cllr Martin Jones commented that Oswestry Town Council (OTC) should attend a Parish Council meeting and apologise for the way it has conducted itself in this matter. A member asked whether the Parish Council should have been asked to give permission for the use of the land which is within the Aston Ward noting an industrial estate has been built in a rural environment. A question was raised as to who should benefit from the Business Rates. A proposal was made for the Chairman of OTC to be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to provide an explanation to the residents of Aston. Members expressed a lack of consultation by Shropshire Council. A member commented that this development had been supported by Cllr Joyce Barrow and suggested an update on these issues be included in her next report. Also, it was suggested to invite interested parties to a special meeting of the Council to discuss the issues raised ensuring residents of Aston are invited to attend. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment on this application. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to invite the Chairman of Oswestry Town Council to the meeting of 14 December 2023 and to arrange a special meeting of the Parish Council in the New Year, inviting interested parties to discuss the issues raised in relation to this development.
23/04909/FUL Holiday Let Accommodation At, The Drift House, Croesau Bach, Shropshire, SY10 9BG	Change of Use from Holiday Let to a Dwelling. Members AGREED not to comment on this application.

NOTE: Planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and included on Shropshire Council's website will also be considered to meet response timeframes.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/05080/OUT Proposed Agricultural Workers Dwelling West Of Buckley Farm, Maesbury Road, Maesbury, Shropshire.	Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling and all associated works Members expressed that this application had been submitted repeatedly and the Parish Council had supported it on these occasions. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application.

1846 Clerk's Report

Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings. Members **AGREED** for all completed actions to be removed from the report. Members **AGREED** for Minute reference 1606 and 1626 to be taken forward by the Finance Committee in January 2024.

1847 Financial Matters

a) Members considered for approval income and expenditure to 31 October 2023, I & E Balances to date, and financial outturn position

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31 October 2023 and the balance of income received to date of £52,025.09 and gross expenditure to date of £43,920.13 be APPROVED.

Members NOTED the financial outturn position for 2023/24

b)Bank Reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 31 October 2023

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the end of October 2023 be APPROVED.

c)Payments for November 2023

Members considered for approval the following provisional payments for November 2023:

Supplier	Details	Net Amount £
EE Limited	WiFi Mini mobile broadband 7 November - 6 December 2023	18.74
EE Limited	Monthly Mobile Charge 11 October - 10 November 2023	13.73
HSBC	Bank Charges 30 September - 29 October 2023	8.00
EE Limited	WiFi Mini mobile broadband 7 November - 6 December 2023	-18.74
Mark Evans	Bus Shelter Cleaning 1 November 2023 (Morda, The Terrace, Trefonen, Treflach)	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus Shelter Cleaning November 2023	25.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - Poppy crosses for Remembrance Sunday	59.80
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - Book of Stamps 8 * £1.25 (1st Class)	10.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Clerk's pay and allowances November 2023 including arrears of Pay 1 April - 31 October 2023	1,915.53
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay November 2023	569.23
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - Agenda & associated documents November 2023	26.60
Liam Royce	Grounds maintenance Works - w/e 5 October & 19 October 2023	570.00
Total		3,257.89

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the provisional payments for November 2023 be APPROVED.

1848 Resignation and vacancies

a) Members **NOTED** the resignation of Cllr John Davies on 23 October 2023 and agreed for a letter of thanks to be sent for his contribution towards the work of the Parish Council. Cllr Martin Bennett invited members to provide details of his achievements and a member stated his role as Chair of Finance and his work as a member of the Road Safety Working Group.

b) Members **AGREED** for the Clerk to advertise the vacancy in accordance with current legislation and Best Practice. The Clerk confirmed this would be as a casual vacancy details of which have been sent to all members.

c) Members considered the appointment of a Councillor to fill the vacancies left by Cllr John Davies; one on the Finance Committee and the other The Road Safety Working Group. Members **AGREED** to temporarily not appoint with a view to consider any future applicants who may have requisite experience.

1849 SALC AGM

a) Members **NOTED** the draft minutes of the SALC AGM held on 3 November 2023.

b) Members **NOTED** the SALC Joint Working Group notes and would consider any items for future agendas next year.

1850 AED's

a)Cllr Peter Richardson expressed his thoughts that every defibrillator within the Parish should be maintained and pads and batteries be replaced by the Parish Council given these are community assets. As part of the budget process routine maintenance should be included for defibrillators.

The Clerk confirmed there are seven defibrillators within the Parish with a further three falling within the Business Improvement District. Cllr Peter Richardson proposed a maintenance scheme for all AEDs within the Parish. Replacement costs were estimated at £50 for pads and £200 for Batteries. It was suggested that this would be on a rolling programme although it was acknowledged that pads would need replacing after use.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for a maintenance scheme for all AEDs within the Parish to be included in the budget process. The scheme will be on a rolling programme basis.

b) Cllr Steve Watts advised members that he checked the AED located at the Morda Village Shop. The door was quite difficult to open and required pressure. An audio announcement stated the battery level was low and he thought it may need replacing. A comment was made that First Responders in Oswestry were responsible for the maintenance of this AED. Cllr Martin Bennett volunteered to contact First Responders Oswestry to query whether the charge was included in the maintenance of the AED, if this was still working and whether there were any issues. Members **AGREED** to this proposal. Members were mindful of the work of the Clerk, and the amount of work seemingly being pushed down to Parish Councils by Principled Authorities. Cllr Steve Watts mentioned to members that Morda & Sweeney Village Hall are contemplating investing in an AED.

1851 Environment Working Group

a)Water Testing

Cllr Iain Campbell congratulated the EWG for their efforts with the water testing work. He advised members the first set of tests had been completed and were being used as an experiment. He will ask the Clerk to publish these on the Parish website. There were a couple of issues with it being the first attempt and the pickup and delivery after tests. The figures are useful but not as they should be. Tests were performed at Candy Woods, the dip at the bottom of Main Road Oswestry, The Mill, Weston, and the sewage works. For the next few months, the stream directly from Trefarclawdd Farm will be monitored. These tests are being assessed against swimming water quality which assumes it is not ingested. Two tests, namely Trefarclawdd Farm stream and after the sewage works were saturated and unable to identify any type of bacteria. Future samples will be diluted so the analysis will show what is present and be more definitive. He noted a report issued on 9 November 2023 on how Shropshire Council may look at Grampian theories with regard to the treatment of water. This has been overseen by Councillor Joyce Barrow. New housing properties may start splitting sewage and water as recommended in the report to improve water quality. He reminded members that Councillor Mike Weston had asked previously about new development with solar power and water retention to stop water overflow of sewage.

Cllr Roger Jones advised that as a result of sampling the method statement had been changed whilst the Risk Assessment remained the same.

b) Trefarclawdd Farm – Light and Noise Pollution

Cllr Roger Jones advised members red lights have been installed at Trefarclawdd Farm. He would like the Clerk to send a letter to Mr Corbett to thank him for this and request these are only used between 8pm and 6 am. The Neighbours have mentioned the noise from the farm. No monitoring of noise levels at the farm have been undertaken and he requested monies be set aside for an external assessment. Estimates will be provided to the Clerk ready for discussion at the next meeting.

C) Vyrnwy Frankton Connection

Cllr Martin Jones presented an improved plan to show the route of the proposed overhead power. This went through Llanmych, Maesbury and dissecting Woolston. He pinpointed a number of properties affected which will not receive any compensation. He advised there was no reason it could not be put under ground and whilst more expensive would be less intrusive. The Clerk is liaising with a number of Parish Councils affected. He advised that Helen Morgan MP will be at Oswestry Rugby Club between 11 – 12.30 pm on Saturday 2 December 2023 and encouraged members to attend. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE this.**

1852 Correspondence

a)The Clerk advised members that a resident had reported a second instance of activity on remaining open land between Love Lane and Croeswylan Lane including the matter of drainage into Love Lane. The Clerk advised this had been taken forward with Shropshire Council who confirmed following an investigation there was no breach and therefore no enforcement. Members **NOTED** this.

b)Members were asked to consider in principle a request from Cllr Joyce Barrow for a contribution towards the possible pavement / bridleway project between Trefonen and Treflach. The Clerk advised that whilst the Council had approved earmarked funding of CIL £10k for Cycling and walking facilities and general reserves of £5k for

cycling and walking promotion in November 2021, these were generic with no definitive plans. Cllr Martin Jones expressed concerns about the lack of pavements from Woolston Bank into Maesbury and issues with grass verges. With numerous traffic diversions through Maesbury caused by accidents on the A5, he suggested this was where funds should be used. Cllr Iain Campbell suggested the ward should be considered as a whole. Cllr Peter Richardson proposed this should be considered as part of the budget setting process.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for this to be considered as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25.

c) Members **NOTED** the D-Day 80th Anniversary celebrations scheduled for 6 June 2024. The Clerk advised a number of suggestions had been made by the organisers including Beacon of Lights.

d) Members **NOTED** the invitation to attend Kinnerley Parish Council meeting on the 5 December 2023 which is hosting West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Martin Jones advised that the Deputy Head of The Corbet School is liaising with The Marches. The Headmistress of The Marches gave an informative talk on Children moving on from ketamine and vaping to hard drugs. He feels it will be beneficial for the Parish Council and he will be attending. Members **NOTED** the outcome of the Town & Parish Council Survey results. .

1853 Consultation

To CONSIDER and APPROVE any response to consultations received:

a) Members **NOTED** Shropshire Council's SEND Service review and survey which ends on the 6 December 2023. Cllr Bob Kimber volunteered to respond on behalf of the Parish Council and members **AGREED** to this.

1854 Date for Next Meeting

Members considered the next meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on Thursday 14 December 2023. Members felt this would be too much for the Clerk to undertake in preparing and sending out documentation given the short timeframe.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to cancel the December meeting and delegate responsibility for any urgent work to The Clerk and Chairman.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it will be PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present.

1855 NALC Pay Services Agreement 2023

a) Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the Personnel Committee had met earlier and **NOTED** the NALC Pay Services Agreement 2023. The Committee had received a detailed breakdown from the Clerk and approved the arrears of pay. He recommended Full Council approve the arrears of pay due from 1 April to 31 October 2023.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the Clerk to receive the arrears of pay due as part of the NALC Pay Services Agreement 2023.

1856 Tree Survey Quotes

a) Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the Finance Committee had met earlier to discuss a number of quotes for the tree maintenance work as set out in the Tree Survey Report 2022. Two quotes were interlinked: one from Garden & Property Maintenance and the other Evolution Arbtech. The total cost is £1,705. Cllr Chris Woods questioned how many quotes had been requested and the Clerk confirmed three. Abbey Trees Services confirmed by email they were unable to quote as the business had closed and the owners moved away from the area.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the two interlinked quotes to be accepted. One member abstained.

1857 Planning Enforcement

There were no planning enforcement cases

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____