

## Minutes of the Oswestry Area Committee 7pm 12.6.23

### Morrison's Community Room, Oswestry

#### Present:

Cllr L Beaumont	Whittington PC
Cllr M Bennett (Chair)	Oswestry Rural PC
Cllr C Green (Vice Chair)	Kinnerley PC
Cllr G Hickman	Whittington PC
Cllr D Catmur-Lloyd	Llanymynech & Pant PC
Cllr P Mabe	West Felton PC
Cllr L Penton	Ruyton-XI-Towns PC
Cllr P Richardson	Oswestry Rural PC
Cllr O Rose	Oswestry TC
Cllr G Smith	St Martins PC
D Dorrell	SALC

1 **Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman, Cllr M Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies:** Cllr Glenn Pennington, St Martins PC, Cllr Kerry Ward, West Felton PC, Cllr Ray Wickson, Chair of SALC and Ian Cruise-Taylor, Area Committee Secretary.

3 **Election of Chairman:** Proposed by Cllr Mabe, seconded by Cllr Richardson.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Bennett be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.**

4 **Election of Vice-Chairman:**

Proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Bennett.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Green be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.**

5 **Election of reps to SALC Executive:**

Proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Richardson.

**RESOLVED: That Cllrs Green and Hickman be appointed for the ensuing year, substitute Cllr Bennett.**

6 **Consider and agree minutes of previous meeting (February 2023):**

Proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Richardson with Cllrs Rose and Smith abstaining from voting.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting (February 2023) be agreed as a correct record.**

Cllr Green spoke of the Flood Forum meeting which the Area Committee had held on 20 March, noting that a representative from the Severn Valley Water

Management Scheme had been invited to SALC's Joint Working Group on 22 June.

- 7 **Place Plan, issues and proposals:** The Chair circulated a copy of the Oswestry Area Place Plan Projects document which he had downloaded and formatted for ease of reading from Shropshire Council's website. He urged Members to look over the plan as it had been reported some projects were missing. Projects that Members wished to put forward should also be added. Members reported that the deadline of 12 August did not give sufficient time for project detail to be added, particularly around costs. Advice from Place Plan Officers was to add proposed projects at this stage without detailed costs.

A discussion arose about CIL and S106 monies and where it was thought this money was being held back. The County Secretary suggested enquiries should be made to Place Plan Officers and to raise as a concern with SALC Executive at its next meeting on 3 July.

**RESOLVED: To circulate the downloaded Place Plan Project document with the draft minutes and to raise issues discussed around legacy money with the SALC Executive on 3 July 23.**

- 8 **Boundary review – local considerations:** The Chairman reported on the proposed boundaries for electoral divisions in Shropshire for which there was a 10 week consultation ending 10 July 23. It is proposed there should be 72 divisions and 70 single member and two two-member divisions. He urged Members to consider the proposals and what the knock on effects might be.  
See <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2023/05/have-your-say-on-a-new-political-map-for-shropshire-council-2/> also, an interactive map is available at [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire).

- 9 **Road safety – damage to verges by agricultural vehicles, proposals for action, as proposed at the February meeting:** The Chairman reported on a meeting with SALC and Highways on 14 March, following concerns raised by ORPC on road safety. SC's Road Safety policy of 2013 had been raised wherein it stated that community concerns can be a trigger for action. However, the policy appeared to be no longer valid as the removal of £5million from the Highways budget since 2017 made it impossible to follow. The Chairman proposed that a new policy be drafted which could be raised via the Joint Working Group (JWG).

Damage to verges by agricultural vehicles had been discussed at the Joint Working Group last year when the former Assistant Director of Highways had reported on the difficulties for other agencies with enforcement. The County Secretary suggested both issues be taken forward via the SALC Executive.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) **To report the Area Committee's disappointment to the SALC Executive that there appeared to be no further action on verges damaged by agricultural vehicles.**

**b) To request the SALC Executive to seek to reinstate a Road Safety Policy with Shropshire Council that addressed community concerns, via the JWG.**

**10 Reports by members on relevant meetings attended, which may impact on member councils.**

Cllr Hickman reported on the SALC Executive that had taken place on 3 April when there had been a presentation on the review of Place Plans. A similar presentation had been given to the JWG, other topics being Disbursement of UKSPF, Voter ID at Polling Stations, the River Severn Partnership and Boundary Reviews.

**11 Receive an update from SALC**

The County Secretary reported to the meeting:

- SC's Highways were looking to send out a monthly newsletter for which SALC had requested a programme of work be included.
- The next meeting of the Chairs' Working Group would be on 12 July at 6pm.
- Solar Farms Guidance document was nearing completion for circulation, as was the Safeguarding Policy drafted by Cllr David Spicer, Ruyton XI Towns.
- The next meeting of the JWG would be on 22 June, with agenda items to include rural bus plans, Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, and Ash Dieback disease.

**12 Financial Update – bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 – verbal update.**

**Approval of payment to clerk quarter 4 of 2022-23 (£50)**

In the absence of the Area Committee Secretary, the Vice Chairmen gave an update. There was currently £290 in the bank. £210 had been received from SALC for affiliation fees they had collected.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Green.

**RESOLVED: To approve the payment to the Area Committee Secretary quarter 4 of 2022-23 (£50).**

**13 Identify items for future agendas**

The Chairman asked Members to consider topics for the next meeting and send to the Area Committee Secretary.

**14 Date for future meetings: 11<sup>th</sup> September 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The Chairman suggested the next two meetings be on Zoom. This was agreed with at least one face to face meeting next year.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman: Cllr M Bennett  
June 2023