
Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

of the parish of Oswestry Rural
held at 7 pm on Thursday 12 May 2022
at Trefonen Village Hall

Present

Chairman, Oswestry Rural Parish Council, Cllr. Paul Milner
8 Parish Councillors
Approximately 7 members of the public

In attendance:

Sharon Clayton, Clerk Oswestry Rural Parish Council

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the annual meeting for electors.

2. Minutes

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 April 2021 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

3. Annual Report

The Chairman, Cllr. Paul Milner gave the following Annual Report of Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

“Following local elections in May 2021, we found ourselves short of six councillors since some decided not to stand for another term. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them for the service they gave to the community during their time as councillors and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Due to the coronavirus still being a problem at that time and having to return to face-to-face meetings after holding virtual meetings for over 12 months, it was June before we co-opted six councillors to make up our team of 15. Unfortunately, soon afterwards we suffered a further loss following the sudden and sad death of Tony Milner who passed away on 21 August 2021. Tony had represented the Maesbury with Aston ward for 8 years having joined the council in July 2013. We have to thank Tony for being instrumental in assisting the parish council to have Spiggots Bridge at Coed-y-Rae Lane in Maesbury awarded Listed Building Grade II status in July 2020. The vacancy caused by his passing has now been filled.

Due to the introduction of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations in 2018 we decided to have a new website which conforms to these regulations. The changeover from our old website to the new one is now complete, and it is constantly being updated and reviewed so that information is current and relevant.

The council has established two working groups, the Road Safety Working Group and the Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group. The Road Safety Working Group is responsible for dealing with road safety issues and over the past year has been working closely with residents at Coed-Y-Go and Shropshire Council in an attempt to introduce a speed limit as the road through this hamlet is very narrow. The Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group is exploring options for improving the cemetery and ensuring there is adequate burial space for future interments.

Whilst the council cannot lawfully hold virtual meetings and is now meeting face-to-face, we are trialling hybrid meetings so that members of the public can watch our deliberations on Zoom. However, those who are not

able to attend our meetings, either in person or on Zoom, can read the minutes from our meetings which are always published on our website.

I will close this year's report by thanking my fellow councillors for their commitment and dedication in making decisions that benefit our local community and I look forward to seeing the council's ambitions come into fruition."

4. Open Forum

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and raise matters of concern.

One member of the public asked why an Environmental Assessment (EIA) had not been received by local residents nor Shropshire Council in connection with planning applications submitted by Trefarclawdd Farm. She asked why Shropshire Council had not placed an enforcement order on Yareal to stop development until a suitable EIA had been presented which addressed the operational aspects of the farm. She was particularly concerned about the use and disposal of slurry and water, how it was held, distributed and transported, and an EIA should state the impact of all of these including smells, flies and water courses.

The Clerk advised the meeting that someone had agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting on 26 May 2022 to talk about activities at the farm. The Clerk suggested that any questions concerning activities at the farm should be sent to her and she would forward them on so that they could be answered at the meeting.

Concern was also expressed about notifications of planning applications for the farm which were not immediately obvious and therefore, nearby residents were not always aware of future planning proposals.

It was suggested that the planners from Shropshire Council should be invited to a council meeting to discuss local concerns, particularly in connection to the access road which did not seem to accord with the access statement in the planning application.

Concern was expressed about water run-off from private land and that a lot of pollution was agricultural. Attempts to contact the Environment Agency and get a satisfactory answer was difficult.

The Clerk explained that the Environment Agency had been invited to this meeting, but appropriate officers were unable to attend although they had agreed to attend a future meeting.

The Clerk recommended that a public meeting be facilitated at which the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council should be invited to answer questions from the public.

It was AGREED:

- 1. That the Environment Agency, planners and a representative from Trefarclawdd farm should be invited to attend a public meeting.**
- 2. To write to the local MP and invite her to attend a public meeting.**
- 3. That the Parish Council should set up an environment working group whose terms of reference would be to deal with local environmental issues referred to them by members of the public.**

One member of the public asked if the Parish Council would ask Sarah Cosgrove at Shropshire Council to provide the traffic data for Coed-y-Go and meet with local residents or the Road Safety Working Group to give her reasons for rejecting a 30mph speed limit through Coed-y-Go. Without a speed limit traffic calming measures could not be implemented. A member of the Road Safety Working Group explained that a Zoom Working Group meeting had been held and they had agreed to ask for the data and, after it had been analysed, the Group would ask for a meeting with Sarah Cosgrove and Mark Barrow at Shropshire Council.

One member of the public asked if there was anything that could be done to find out how long the noise would go on at Trefarclawdd farm, because there was noise in the early hours of the morning from vehicles reversing. She asked whether this would be a temporary or permanent problem.

It was suggested that questions about the farm activities should be forwarded to the Clerk to send in advance to Yareal so that they could be answered at the forthcoming Parish Council meeting. It was further suggested that one or two questions should be held in reserve.

One member of the public spoke on behalf of another member of the public who could not be present and asked whether Standing Orders would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and the Clerk said that they would.

One member of the public urged everyone to respond to the PCC's survey.

The Chairman thanked all those present and closed the meeting at 19:42.

Signed:

Chairman

DRAFT