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Separate Documents:

- 11 Clerk's Report to March 2023
- 13a, i, ii Income and expenditure March 2023, balances to & Forecasted Outturn Position to 31 March 2023
- 13b Bank Reconciliation Statement to 31 March 2023
- 13d Application for Grounds Maintenance Grant
- 15 Revised Health & Safety Policy
- 17b Risk Assessment – revised (electronic copy version only)
- 22 Communication – Newsletters report
- 23c Letter from Dept of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



"Not for self"

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting of Oswestry Rural Parish Council will be held at Trefonen Village Hall commencing at 7 pm on **Thursday 27 April 2023** and Members are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Join Zoom Meeting

[Zoom link](#)

K L Lloyd

Signed:

Kathryn Lloyd CPFA  
Clerk

Date of issue: 20 April 2023

## A G E N D A

### **FILMING AND RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018**

Any person present at a Council meeting may not orally report or comment about a Council meeting as it takes place but otherwise may; film photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting; use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting, or orally report or comment after the meeting. Anyone making a recording for non-domestic purposes is advised to seek advice on their obligations to ensure any processing of personal information complies with the Data Protection Act.

**Anyone who objects to being filmed or recorded should notify the Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence if requested in writing by a councillor

#### **3. Police Report**

- a) To receive a report from The North Shropshire and Oswestry Safer Neighbourhood Team

#### **4. Shropshire Council Report**

To receive a report from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow

#### **5. Public Participation**

In accordance with Standing Orders 3(e) members of the public may make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of the business on the agenda. This does not include matters relating to the Council's administration. Should anyone wish to discuss business which is not included on the agenda please write to the Clerk who will make arrangements for appropriate action.

#### **6. Minutes**

- a) To CONSIDER and APPROVE the minutes from a Parish Council meeting held on 23 February 2023 (appendix 6a)  
*NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order number 12(a)(b) draft minutes served on councillors shall be taken as read. There shall be no discussion about the draft minutes except in relation to their accuracy.*

## 7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, Bias, and Pre-determination

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members are personally responsible for deciding whether they should disclose an interest at this meeting. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to a Member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion nor vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest,' Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest. (Please refer to Appendix B in the Council's Code of Conduct).

Members are 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.

## 8. Dispensations

To consider and approve any requests for dispensations

## 9. Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

To receive any declarations of acceptance of gifts and hospitality

## 10. Planning Matters

### a) Planning Decisions

To NOTE the following:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/00643/FUL Fronygraig, Nantmawr, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HH	Removal of existing porch and erection of single storey oak framed extension  Decision: Grant Permission
23/00619/FUL Moorhouse Farm, Craig-Ilwyn, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9BH	Change of use of former equestrian centre, to include conversion of existing stable building to workshop, re-surfacing existing manege to outdoor vehicle store and erection of new building, to support the re-location of an existing established tractor repair enterprise, to include all associated works (re-submission)  Decision: Withdraw
23/00503/FUL Bwlchgywynt, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HS	Demolition of a barn / storage shed to be replaced by stables and storage.  Decision: Grant Permission

### b) Planning Applications

To CONSIDER the following planning applications

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/01360/FUL Plot 1, Waen Lane, Maesbury Marsh, Shropshire	Erection of detached dwelling, garage and installation of package treatment plant
23/01462/OUT Buckley Farm, Maesbury Road, Maesbury, Oswestry, Shropshire.	Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling and all associated works

**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.

## 11. Clerk's Report

To receive and NOTE a report from the Clerk (appendix 11)

## **12. Finance Committee**

To RECEIVE an update from The Finance Committee and CONSIDER and APPROVE any recommendations

## **13. Financial Matters / Finance Committee**

To CONSIDER and APPROVE:

- a) Final summary Income and expenditure, balances and Final Outturn Position at 31 March 2022/23 (subject to review 13a & 13i, ii)
- b) Bank reconciliation to 31 March 2023 (appendix 13b)
- c) Payments for April 2023 (Provisional – to follow )
- d) Application for Grounds Maintenance Grant of £1,500 from Shropshire Council (appendix 13d)

## **14. Parish Council Solicitors**

To CONSIDER and APPROVE:

- a) The appointment of new Parish Council Solicitors (details to follow)
- b) Removal of Lanyon Bowdler as the Parish Council's appointed Solicitors

## **15. Review and Approval Policies**

To CONSIDER and APPROVE the revised Health & Safety Policy (appendix 15)

## **16. Meetings**

To CONSIDER and AGREE

- a) Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to take place on the same day as the Annual General Meeting (AGM), May of each year
- b) August recess of the Council (The Clerk)

## **17. Risk Management**

- a) To CONSIDER and APPROVE risk assessment inspections of the council's assets
- b) To CONSIDER and APPROVE the amendments to the annual risk assessment

## **18. Road Safety Working Group**

To receive an update on behalf of the Road Safety Working Group and CONSIDER and APPROVE an actions (Cllr Martin Bennett)

## **19. Environmental Working Group**

To receive an update from the Environmental Working Group and APPROVE any recommended action (Cllr Iain Campbell)

## **20. Cemetery Working Group**

To receive an update from the Cemetery Working group and APPROVE any actions (Cllr Mike Weston)

## **21. Morda and Sweeney Village Hall**

To CONSIDER the cost for a letter from the Solicitor to the Charities Commission (Cllr Martin Bennett)

## **22. Communication**

To receive a report on the Parish newsletter for all wards and AGREE any actions (Cllr Martin Bennett)

### **23. Consultation**

- a) To CONSIDER how to deal with the Shropshire Place Plan (Cllr Martin Bennett)
- b) To NOTE the SALC Draft guidance on Solar Farms and CONSIDER any comments for submission
- c) To NOTE a response from Dept of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities forwarded by Helen Morgan MP
- d) To CONSIDER Thriving Children and Families Grant Opportunity (deadline 2 May 2023)

### **24. Correspondence**

None

### **25. Date for Next Meeting**

To NOTE that the **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Thursday 25 May 2023** at Trefonen Village Hall

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### **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.**  
**Planning Enforcement**

### **26. Grounds Maintenance Contract**

- a) Update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract regarding extension and tendering process (The Clerk)

To NOTE planning enforcement notifications received (Clerk to report)

Minutes

of a Parish Council meeting

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

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**Present:**

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

**Clerk to the Council:**

Kathryn Lloyd

**In attendance:**

Approximately seven members of the public  
Cllr Joyce Barrow

**1643 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1644 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Woods

**1645 Police Report**

a) There was no Police Report from the Oswestry Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team at the time of the meeting. Cllr Martin Jones advised members a Police Officer should be in attendance once every three months with the Council receiving a Police report every month. Members will be aware from recent emails that drugs are being dealt in Trefonen. This would have been an opportunity to discuss the issues with the Police had they been present.

**1646 Shropshire Council Report**

Cllr Joyce Barrow provided the following update:

A task and finish group from the Place Overview Scrutiny Committee was established to look at water quality, but for a number of reasons, was not progressed. However, at the full council meeting it was agreed to re-establish the task and finish group on water quality and on conclusion to write to the Right Honourable Phillip Dunn, Environmental Audit Select Committee Chairman in Parliament. Also, the Board that deals with Severn Trent.

There is a Special Education Reform Programme and Shropshire is starting to look at what this reform will mean for the Council. The Council will start a Public Consultation.

15 mph School Project. Unfortunately, the leading officer on the project left the Council. Shropshire Council is putting together a programme of work across the County at various Schools and design work is ongoing. This should be rolled out at pace.

After Schools - Currently redesigning the course provided to schools. Work has started on the pilot stage and should be rolled out by October half term at the latest. The Council should hear by July whether the powers have been granted. Funding of £103,000 has been confirmed for the next financial year for training.

Recycling – Over 100,000 leaflets have been distributed. Residents can still apply for the purple bin by calling 03456 789007. All new builds will be offered a new recycling bin

Solar Farms - Following training professional issues on Solar Farm, the Council is hoping to work with the Association of Local Councils to draw a helpful guidance for Parish Council to negotiate with Solar Farm developers regarding community levy.

Cllr Martin Bennett assumed the River Severn Partnership will include the Welsh Government and suggested approaching the Welsh Government and Welsh authorities direct to establish what they were doing in respect of pollution. On the issue of Solar Farms, the Government is amending planning regulations to introduce another infrastructure levy as an incentive for communities to accept Solar Farms. Cllr Joyce Barrow advised she will keep the Parish Council updated on this.

Cllr Iain Campbell asked Cllr Joyce Barrow how long Cllr Lezley Picton had been on the Council. She advised that Cllr Picton had been an officer of Shropshire Council and Leader for the past two years. All the information is available on the Council website.

Cllr Martin Jones advised Cllr Joyce Barrow that Severn Trent had been asked on numerous occasions for the number and volume of outpouring at Maesbury Road Water Treatment plant. Shropshire Council has passed a resolution , Campion Conditions ,whereby any developments have to establish that the local water treatment plant can take the increase in . Cllr Joyce Barrow advised Kate Halliday would be chairing the meeting on water quality. She asked Cllr Martin Jones to send an email requesting the information which she will take forward.

Cllr Martin Jones advised that Sewage Creek have a meeting on 11 May with a talk on World Rivers Day. Shropshire Councillors have been invited and wished to know if any would be attending. Cllr Joyce Barrow advised she would speak with Cllr Theresa Coffey.

#### **1647 Public Participation**

A member of the Public advised he was a representative from The Shropshire Union Canal Society (SUCS), a collaboration of charities working towards the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. The tow path is one of the most popular water routes and apart from the last mile into Newtown has been restored. The Society has received favourable comments from local people on the restoration.

He commented the Parish Council is commissioning a coin for local school children and asked what about the adults. King Charles has been heavily involved in the restoration for a considerable number of years and has asked people to do a day of volunteering to celebrate the coronation. He proposed SUCS and ORPC could promote a day of volunteering with a working party over the coronation weekend. A press release has been drafted and he asked for ORPC to put its name and funding towards it. SUCS would be happy to attend the next month's meeting to publicise the weekend and celebrate the completion of the path.

Another member from the Society provided information on the grant application and stated the tow path would not normally be restored at this stage but can bring the improvement works forward with resurfacing and making it more accessible. Previous sections of the canal were funded via lottery money. In essence the SUCS is seeking funds toward the restoration of the towpath and King's Coronation.

Cllr Iain Campbell asked for an end figure for the towpath and Kings Coronation as an ongoing project. The member advised the project was in three phases between Crickheath and School House Bridge and any grant funds would be used towards one of these phases, name phase one, through the housing and wharf by Crickheath.

#### **1648 Minutes**

a) The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 23 February 2023 were considered for approval.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

#### **1649 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

#### **1650 Dispensations**

None requested.

## 1651 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None Declared

## 1652 Planning Matters

### a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/00153/FUL Lower Hendre, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8JG	Change of use of land for the siting of 3 tourist glamping pods plus associated access, parking, landscaping, and services  Decision: Grant Permission
22/03360/FUL Land North Tramway Farm, Crickheath, Shropshire	Erection of a replacement dwelling including provision of amenity space  Decision: Grant Permission
22/05547/FUL Schoolhouse Bridge Cottage, Crickheath, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8BT	Erection of a double garage with office/storage above; timber frame construction with larch cladding/render to exterior Link attached to existing cottage (resubmission)  Decision: Grant Permission
23/00301/FUL 1 Sycamore Fields, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8RE	Erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extensions  Decision: Refuse  Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that the family health issues had not been detailed in the original application. He is working with the applicant to try to make the application more acceptable for resubmission. He confirmed there were no bats in the roof.

### b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/00669/FUL The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4LT	Installation of 4x CHP units (50kw Electric & 100kw Heat) and all associated works  Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that a CHP Unit is a generator which burns either gas, oil or biomass and will likely provide power to the farm. Whilst an environmentally green activity the noise level is unknown. Cllr Roger Jones advised a resident had raised concerns with air / noise pollution and segregation of the road would increase. Although there has been some consideration of this, expansion on vehicular activity and degradation of the road is required. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the grounds that it is further industrialisation of the countryside.</b>
23/01092/FUL Draengwynion, Nantmawr, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HH.	Erection of a domestic storage building (resubmission)  Cllr Roger Jones advised members he had reviewed the resubmission against the previous application, and it did not show the limit of the curtilage.  Cllr Martin Bennett commented it was a domestic building located in open countryside with the building quite a distance away from the house. It was contrary to MD2 and MD7b. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the same grounds as the previous application :</b> <b>" The proposed development would result in a domestic outbuilding being located within the open countryside which is not of appropriate design or scale for its intended use and is therefore contrary to policies MD2 and MD7b of the SAMDev and policies CS5 and CS6 of the Shropshire Core Strategy"</b>



**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.

<p>23/01236/LBC The Firs, Weston, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9ES.</p>	<p>Internal alterations, first floor extension, replacement windows and construction of detached garage.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Watts commented the Council took a neutral stance last time and this application was not significantly different from the previous one. Cllr Martin Bennett commented the application fulfils MD2 on sustainable design. <b>The Parish Council AGREED not to comment.</b></p>
<p>23/00860/FUL Lapworth Heights, Hollies Lane, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire.</p>	<p>Alterations to existing dwelling to include installation of new windows, cladding, render and erection of juliet balconies.</p> <p>Cllr Bob Kimber commented this was a significant change to the look of the property and expected objections from residents.</p> <p>Cllr Roger Jones advised the application was listed on the Planning Portal with Cllr Peter Richardson commenting that a notice should be displayed in a suitable public place.</p> <p>It is important that residents are notified and there was a suggestion of fluorescent paper being used to make the notice more visible. <b>The Parish Council AGREED not to comment.</b></p>
<p>23/01360/FUL Plot 1, Waen Lane, Maesbury Marsh, Shropshire,</p>	<p>Erection of detached dwelling, garage, and installation of package treatment plant</p> <p><b>The Parish Council NOTED this application</b></p>

#### 1653 Clerk's Report

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

#### 1654 Financial Matters

##### a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure to 28 February 2023 and financial outturn position.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income received to date of £49,045.85 and gross expenditure to date of £64,046.04 be APPROVED. Members NOTED the outturn position for 2022/23**

Cllr John Davies commented on the slippage on projects detailed on the outturn statement. The Clerk explained these were not variances as part of the outturn. These were shown under Neighbourhood funding (NF) as projects allocated but not yet undertaken. The Clerk made reference to the earmarked reserves and Strategic Plan.

##### b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 28 February 2023.

Cllr John Davies asked The Clerk for a breakdown of the payments relating to the credit balance on the bank reconciliation. The Clerk attempted to explain the reconciliation was based on the cash book balance including those items not yet paid and listed in the March income and expenditure summary. This statement showed unreconciled items with an N indicator. It also included a partial amount from February 2023 which was processed in March due to the daily financial bank limit of £5,000 preventing an invoice from being paid in full. The Clerk explained that the electronic copy of the bank reconciliation statement included a number of explanations within comment boxes.

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

### c) Payments for March 2023

Members considered for approval provisional payments for March 2023.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
HMRC Contra Entry	Credit balance from 2021/22	-68.81
Weller Law	Payment on account - Legal advice Morda & Sweeney Village Hall	500.00
EE	WiFi Mini mobile broadband 7 February - 6 March 2023	16.39
EE	Monthly Mobile Charge 11 February - 10 March 2023	12.00
HSBC	Bank charges 29 January - 27 February 2023	10.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Clerk's Pay and Expenses - March 2023	1376.99
HMRC	PAYE/NI - March 2023	223.24
Printerland	Xeron printer cartridges (3)	267.60
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - postage March 2023 hard copies agenda & supporting papers	30.30
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Stationery (photocopier paper A4 * 2)	8.98
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Clerk's Overtime - January & February 2023	222.10
HMRC	PAYE/NI - January & February 2023 Overtime	160.79
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,844.58</b>

### d) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2022/23 accounts

The Clerk requested this item be deferred to Part II. Members agreed to this request.

### e) Approval of Clerk's overtime - January & February 2023

Members considered for approval the Clerk's overtime claim for January and February 2023.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the overtime claim to be paid.**

## 1655 Grants

### a) Revised Grant Policy

Members agreed for this item to be deferred until April 2023. This will allow members to consider the "think tank" document produced by Cllr Martin Bennett. It was suggested this Policy be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

### b) Grant requests

Cllr Martin Jones advised members two grant applications had been received. Members considered a request for £800 from The International Eisteddfod. Members commented that this is a commercial operation and out of the area. Whilst residents from the Parish may attend the impact on the Parish and support is zero. As an international group with substantial reserves and sponsor. It does not benefit the local community.

### Members AGREED not to approve the application.

Cllr Martin Jones advised members a grant application for £3,276 had been received from The Shropshire Union Canal Society. Cllr Peter Richardson commented the grant should be used within the Parish and benefit the community. The request is beyond the entire grant budget. Cllr Martin Bennett stated this request could be considered as a special case due to the perceived value of restoring a historic artifact of the canal and potential benefit of tourism with every grant decision being based on the evidence presented. Cllr Jones stated the Council had fought hard for listed status for the bridge and to safeguard the Bone Mill with the canal being an important part of Maesbury. A member asked whether this grant would be paid in the current financial year. The Clerk advised that if the Council awarded the grant, payment would be processed the next day and be included in the 2022/23 accounts.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to award £1,500 to The Shropshire Union Canal Society. Cllr Peter Richardson abstained.**

A member from SUCS thanked the Council for its grant. This will support improvements to the tow path north of the bridge although not to the same specification. SUCS asked whether the Council would like joint publicity. Cllr Bennett requested a copy of the press release which he would update and make arrangements for posting on the Parish noticeboards.

#### **1656 Review and Approval Policies**

a) Cllr Roger Jones advised members he had supported the last Clerk to update the Health & Safety Policy. He advised that a few minor changes were required and requested this be deferred to allow the policy to be revised. **Members AGREED to this request.**

B) Members considered the Remote Meetings Policy. It is believed sub committees can still meet virtually.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the Policy in its current format.**

#### **1657 Risks Assessments**

a) Members considered the approval of the risk assessment of the Council's assets

The Clerk confirmed a number of inspections had been undertaken including both cemeteries, Treflach, Morda and Glentworth Green. Several assessments were outstanding. It was recommended to defer this until April 2023 to allow outstanding inspections to be completed.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the policy be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.**

b) Members considered the annual risk assessment. Cllr Roger Jones proposed a number of changes and request this be deferred until April 2023.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the policy be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.**

#### **1658 Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal**

The Clerk advised the Grounds Maintenance Contract was due for renewal and requested an extension with the current provider until 30 June 2023 to enable a competitive contract / tendering exercise to be undertaken.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to extend the Grounds Maintenance Contract until 30 June 2023.**

#### **1659 Tony Cheetham Community Service Award 2023**

Members considered for approval the launch of the Tony Cheetham Community Service Award. Cllr Martin Jones advised that there would be no sponsorship this year as Stonehouse Brewery had not responded to requests for support.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to launch the Tony Cheetham Community Service award for 2023/24.**

#### **1660 Annual Parish Meeting**

a) Members considered the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and confirmed the date of 13 April 2023.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to set the date of the Annual Parish Council meeting as 13 April 2023**

b) Members considered agenda items for the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Martin Bennett reminded members this meeting is for elector of the Parish to bring their concerns to the attention of the Parish Council.

A member suggest the Clerk check with Val Smout regarding the booking of the hall.

#### **1661 Leisure Centre Charges**

Cllr Roger Jones advised members he had been to all the leisure centres owned by SERCO. Market Drayton and Oswestry are more expensive than two Shrewsbury ones and Whitchurch. As Whitchurch had a £13.1m development he had omitted this from the review. The annual membership cost is £345 irrespective of age, compared to £240 at Shrewsbury centres. The cost of a singulars use with a card is £4.95 for a gym session and £3.75 for a swim. A number of discounts are available for a monthly direct debit of £34.00 and £39.50 rolling direct debit. Members agreed to **NOTE** the report.

#### **1662 Road Safety Working Group**

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members that despite numerous emails to Shropshire Council asking for stage payments / schedule of works for Coed y Go speed project, there has been no response . He advised Cllr Marshall had responded via an officer of the Council:

1. The HGV signage issue (Aston)

The Council should be able to confirm in the next 3 to 4 weeks as to the priority this will have in the programme of works for 2023/24. In the event it cannot be funded in 2023/24 from the limited traffic engineering budget/ funding, it will be considered as part of the new Place Plans and other funding opportunities such as CIL and more local perspective priorities.

2. Weston

Cllr Dean Carroll had suggested a 20mph speed restriction, However, Shropshire Council have advised this does not fit the criteria and will not be progressed. Cllr Martin Bennett advised as a community concern, he will contact Cllr Dean Carroll to speak with Cllr Richard Marshall. The RSWG will meet after Easter.

It was agreed for the Clerk to forward emails concerning Coed y Go to Cllr Joyce Barrow to take forward with Shropshire Council.

**1663 Environmental Working Group**

Cllr Ian Campbell thanked Cllr Joyce Barrow for her update on water quality. On a more local perspective ,he is looking into recognised water testing, certification, and costs. He wants the results to be recorded in the Parish Council minutes.

Cllr Martin Jones advised he has spoken to a representative of Planning Patrol and is awaiting a response. He has also been dealing with Up Sewage Creek and visited Kinnerly and Maesbrook Parish Council. He hopes to be in touch with other Parish Councils with a view to water testing and have a flow of information.

He is hoping for standardised testing regime throughout Shropshire of water courses so there is better quality of information. Maesbrook has been subject to flooding in the recent weeks. 80 % of the water pollution is caused by nitrates and phosphates from chicken / dairy farms.

Cllr Iain Campbell advised members he has volunteers coming forward to help with water testing and one volunteer advised of a New Equal Plan for Nature. Cllr Bennett advised Cllr Charles Green, from the Area Committee has been helpful with local communities having a say with The River Severn Partnership. There are various flood forums concerned with urban issues and other concerned with the River Severn , all of which report to Shropshire Flood Forum.

However, the Emergency Planning issue is for the Parish Council to deal with. One element not considered is in flood conditions, there is a risk of pollution spreading. Testing of water is required to ensure there are no issues once flood level recede.

**1664 Cemetery Working Group**

Cllr Mike Weston provided an update to members advising the CWG had meet and considered two potential suppliers to develop the newly enclosed land. This will be considered in closed session.

Yareal has responded to the written request and refused to confirm the verbal agreements. Yareal have requested a meeting with the Chairman. Cllr Martin Jones advised Yareal had been invited to the Parish Council meeting and can have a private session prior to the meeting or a discussion in open forum.

**1665 Trefarclawdd Farm**

a) Cllr Roger Jones advised members that the light pollution from Trefarclawdd Farm is causing considerable issues for two neighbours and commented on the lack of impact or risk assessments associated with lighting. He asked for the Council to ask the Local Planning Authority for a technical specification and a risk assessment on the impact the lights will have on the community in the development and operational phases. Cllr Roger Jones advised he is a fellow of the British Astronomical Society and has been speaking with Helen Morgan MP who is part of a parliament group for safeguarding of the night sky through quality lighting. Cllr Roger Jones objective is for legislation to include a guide for planners in what they should accept as lighting in and around properties. He requested the Council write to the Councils Policy team to request a copy of their guidance to applicants in reducing light pollution. Cllr Martin Jones suggested the guidance be forwarded to Irwin Mitchell Solicitors to form a view. Cllr Martin Bennett suggest Cllr Barrow discuss with the Conservative Group a Dark Skies Policy.

b) Council agreed not to take a letter concerning grass verge damage forward with Shropshire Council.

#### **1666 Morda & Sweeney Village Hall**

a/b) Cllr Martin Jones advised members of the importance of the fight to protect Morda and Sweeney Village Hall and to bring it to the attention of members of the public. Cllr Martin Bennett advised members that the legal advice from Wellers Law Group had been received and circulated and confirmed the Hall had been vested in the Official Custodian and the Parish Council removed without reference. He advised the lease with the football Club will have to be transferred to the Official Custodian.

In the letter from Mr Robert Milton, sent behalf of Committee, he accepts the validity of the 1966 deeds but not 1996. There was a debate concerning various deeds, the lack of accountability of the Committee, the lack of accounts and the requirement of an Annual General Meeting being held each year.

At this point in the meeting, **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to suspend Standing Order number 3x to enable the meeting to exceed more than 2 hours.**

It was acknowledged and accepted the Council would have to release the deeds currently held by Solicitors and to ensure Cllr Martin Bennett is appointed to the Committee. A resident commented that the residents of Morda, the beneficiaries were not aware of the situation and was surprised by the actions of the Charities Commission. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for a letter to be sent by the Solicitor to raise a number of concerns and to complain that the Council has been disinvested without notice.**

#### **1667 Communication**

Cllr Martin Bennett asked members that from the responses he had received there was no real consensus and requested this item be deferred. He appealed to members to send their views to him. Cllr Roger Jones advised that he found the Parish website it difficult to navigate.

#### **1668 Consultation**

a) Shropshire Council Customer Services Opening Times Consultation (13 March – 23 April 2023)

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members there was little information on this particularly on waiting times or peak times. It was agreed for members to send any comments to The Clerk.

b) Examination of the Shropshire Local Plan 2016 – 2038 Minerals and Waste Hearing 3 & 4 May 2023

Cllr Martin Jones advised members to send any comments to The Clerk.

#### **1669 Correspondence**

No correspondence was considered.

#### **1670 JWG and substitute role of SALC Executive Committee**

Cllr Peter Richardson provided members with background information advising he is a representative for ORPC on the Oswestry Area Committee and volunteered to represent the Oswestry Area Committee (OAC) on the Joint Working Group and substitute member of the SALC Executive Committee. He has retired as a member of the JWG and Executive Committee. He will continue as a member of the OAC. However, he has asked Cllr Martin Bennett, as Chairman of the OAC, to ask is there is any volunteers who wish to replace him.

#### **1671 Date for Next Meeting**

Councillors **NOTED** that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 27 April 2023 at Trefonen Village Hall subject to weather conditions.

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#### **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 was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present**

#### **1672 Staffing**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that the Personnel Committee had met on the 28 March 2023 and agreed and voted unanimously that the probationary period has ended. The Clerk's performance has been excellent. He advised the Clerk had been unable to take pro-rated annual leave during this time and had requested a carry forward of this into 2023/24 which the Personnel Committee agreed to.

**1674 Quotes for cemetery gates**

Members requested three quotes and received two to repair the cemetery gates. Members considered these.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the quote from MLD Carpentry .**

**1675 Quotes for cemetery works**

Cllr Martin Jones advised members of the details of the quotes received to undertake the planning design works for the Cemetery. Other costs may arise . Cllr Peter Richardson proposed in making best use of electors money to accept the quote from Henry Thomas.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to the quote from Henry Thomas.**

**1676 Kings Commemorative Gifts**

The Clerk provided members with a summary of quotes for coins as part of the Kings Commemorative gift options for school pupils. A variety of examples were also provided. Members considered the various options and agreed on the quote provided by Challenge Coins UK. It was suggested that Councillors may wish to purchase a coin for themselves. All Councillors present apart from one agreed to this.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the quote from Challenge Coins UK for £1,395 (310 coins) excluding delivery charges.**

**1677 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2022/23 accounts**

The Clerk advised members that the Internal Auditor for 2022/23 accounts should have been appointed at the Annual General Meeting of The Parish Council in May 2022. The Clerk has managed to obtain a number of quotes to undertake this work. Members considered the options presented.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to appoint RLT auditing to undertake the internal audit for 2022/23 accounts at a cost of £162.50.**

**1678 Planning Enforcement**

Members **NOTED** three planning enforcement cases.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a safe journey home. The meeting closed at 21.40 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_