

Minutes
of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at Morda and Sweeney Village Hall

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Iain Campbell, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Roger Jones, Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Steve Watts, Cllr. Mike Weston, Cllr. Chris Woods.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Approximately 4 members of the public.
A volunteer from Qube.

1193 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1194 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Jas Singh who had a family commitment and Cllr. Robert Milton who was not well.

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

Cllr. Les Maguire and Cllr. Bob Kimber were absent.

Apologies were also received from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

1195 Public Participation

The Chairman invited Paul, a volunteer from Qube, to inform Members about Qube's activities. Qube was set up by volunteers to provide food for the most vulnerable in our communities, including disabled and elderly people. They collect surplus food from local supermarkets, some is turned into hot meals and distributed to those in need. They requested a grant of £500 from the Parish Council to help secure the continuation of the service.

One member of the public asked why The Terraces was included on the agenda in private session. The Clerk explained that the Council would be discussing the legal implications but the Council's decision would be minuted for public information.

1196 Police Report

The police were not present and there was no report.

NOTED.

1197 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 26 October 2021 were considered for approval. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1198 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.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to ask Graham White whether the above paragraph is acceptable, especially with reference to leaving the room during the discussion.

1199 Dispensations

None requested.

1200 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

1201 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
21/03324/FUL The Engine House, Nantmawr	Change of Use of holiday let to residential dwelling and associated works Permission GRANTED 17 November 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
21/03571/FUL 14 Brooklea Close, Trefonen	Erection of a single storey extension to rear elevation to create living space, which will then allow a downstairs bedroom and shower room to be installed at the front of the property for a disabled person Permission GRANTED 8 November 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
21/04277/VAR Proposed development at land off Mile End roundabout, Oswestry	Variation of Condition No. 7 (ecology) attached to planning permission 20/04145/FUL dated 12 October 2020 Permission GRANTED 22 September 2021 <i>The Parish Council had no objection to this application</i>
21/04624/FUL Laburnum Cottage, Gwern-y-Brenin	Erection of a single storey extension Permission GRANTED 17 November 2021 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
21/04915/FUL 5 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh	Erection of two storey side extension. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/04986/FUL Willow Cottage, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen	Erection of two storey extension and new entrance, demolition of existing porches. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/05028/FUL 2 Plas Pentre, Cefn Court, Craig-Llwyn, Trefonen	Conversion of existing garage into a holiday let accommodation. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection subject to the garage not being changed to residential in the future.
21/05077/FUL The Fields Barn, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry	Erection of single storey extension to the rear (west) elevation to accommodate a swim spa, family and utility rooms and a plant room to accommodate a thermal store heating system. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/05184/TPO Cambrian House, Nantmawr	To fell and replace one Horse Chestnut tree protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Cambrian House, Nantmawr) TPO 1969. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object to the application as stated without justification from Shropshire Council's aboricultural officer and, if the officer did support the felling as opposed to trimming, the Parish Council does not consider an Ash tree to be a suitable substitute.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
21/05188/TPO Land to the north of Glentworth Drive, Morda	Cut back branches overhanging neighbouring property by approx. 1m of one Lime tree protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at Glentworth Avenue, Morda) Tree Preservation 2013 (Ref: SC/00163/13). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no observation.
21/05222/EIA Lafarge Aggregates Ltd., Llyncllys Quarry Llyncllys	Periodic Review of Old Mineral Permissions Under Schedule 14 of The Environmental Act 1995 – the winning and working of limestone, processing and restoration to agriculture/amenity. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.
21/05225/FUL Kittitoe, Maesbury Road, Maesbury	Remove existing mono pitched structure, garage and log store and erection of replacement single storey flat roof extension and open sided covered area. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/05274/AGR High Fawr Farm, Llanforda, Oswestry	Steel portal framed agricultural building for the housing of livestock. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
21/05325/CPE Bank House, Craig- Llwyn, Trefonen	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of a 1.3m ² porch and 3.7m ² veranda. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.

1202 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 training on the Code of Conduct was being arranged via Zoom.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that training should be arranged to take place in January 2022.

1203 Councillor Reports

a) Cllr. Joyce Barrow was not present but provided the following written report:

- Shropshire Council had committed to achieving carbon net zero by 2030. Some of the measures include switching all corporate power consumption to identifiable renewable sources. There was an ongoing programme of improvements to its buildings to install additional insulation, together with low carbon heating, lighting and solar power generation, currently valued at around £1.1 million and saving around 210 tonnes of carbon per year. The Council was the first UK local authority delivering the first carbon neutral road surfacing programme saving over 280 tonnes of carbon. It was supporting Shropshire residents to make the transition to electric vehicles as one of just four UK areas to trial world leading 'agile streets' on street smart EV charging and installing an initial 50 new charge points in market towns. The council had adopted an objective of becoming energy self-sufficient by 2030 and would develop a new 1MW solar farm on the former Maesbury Road landfill site in Oswestry to supply power to local businesses and there was potential for this project to expand up to 2MW. The Council is working with local electricity companies to screen its own property portfolio to identify other opportunities to generate power, either for its own use or to supply other public sector organisations and local business. The Council was supporting widespread-tree planting by making available 30,000 trees per year, free of charge.
- Waste and recycling - Along with its partner (Veolia) the Council had continued to maintain high levels of recycling. During the period 2020/2021 the total waste processed was 172,186 tonnes.
- A third bin collection for mixed recycling had proved popular with residents and would be proposed at full council in January 2022. The forthcoming by-election had caused a delay for the December full Council meeting. Once the proposal was passed communications would initiate the request procedure and the initial order placed. The roll-out would begin in March/April 2022 and was likely to take up to 3 months to complete.
- Electric vehicle chargers - The installation of 50 x electric vehicle chargers had started. All should be installed by the end of November, and operational by 6 December and would be on Oak Street Car Park.
- Shropshire Council had received £2 million funding from the government to support vulnerable people and families this winter.
- Work on a major scheme to re-develop the Mile End roundabout in Oswestry was progressing well although overnight closures remained in place.

NOTED.

b) There were no reports from councillors.

1204 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure for October 2021 and from 1 April to 31 October 2021.

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

- Income of **£497.73** and expenditure of **£3,433.22** for October 2021 be **APPROVED**.
- Income received to date of **£84,126.09** and gross expenditure of **£27,000.63** be **APPROVED**.

b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for October 2021.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that bank reconciliations totalling **£260,898.66** for October 2021 be **APPROVED**.

c) Payments for November 2021

Members considered for approval payments for November 2021.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Viking	Stationery	103.25
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
SALC	Councillor training	10.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	190.35
Sharon Clayton	Clerk's expenses and reimbursements	1080.38
EE	WiFi mini monthly plan	15.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	725.00
	TOTAL	2208.98

1205 Allocation of Funds

Members considered for approval the allocation of reserves in accordance with the Council's recently approved Strategic Plan.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the allocated reserves be **APPROVED** as follows:

BUDGET HEADING	Neighbourhood Funds £	Allocated Reserves £
Strategic Plan Projects		
Traffic calming	24000	
Litter picking equipment		100
Hanging baskets		1000
Play improvements	10000	
Cycling and walking facilities	10000	
Cycling and walking promotion		5000
Dog waste/litter bins	3000	
VAS - Maesbury	7500	
Promote meeting facilities		2000
Green spaces and infrastructure	5000	
TOTAL	59500	8100

1206 Grant Awards

Members considered for approval a request from Qube for a grant of £500.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that **£500** be awarded and that, should they wish to make a further application, a supplementary grant may be considered at a later date if their target was not achieved.

1207 Road Safety

- a) Members received an update from the Road Safety Working Group. The traffic counter had been installed at Coed-Y-Go the week before the school half-term and the data was awaited.

NOTED.

- b) Cllr. John Davies asked for funding to be allocated for the installation of VAS in Treflach. A petition had been signed by several local residents who were concerned about speeding traffic. Cllr. Davies had liaised with Shropshire Council who had visited Treflach and identified suitable sites where VAS could be installed. Cllr. Davies asked that suitable quotes be sought, and funds set aside for the purchase of 2 VAS.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that funds for the purchase of 2 VAS to be installed at Treflach be APPROVED in principle subject to estimates on cost of provision and most appropriate type.

- c) Cllr. Robert Milton was not present to discuss the purchase of a traffic counter.
- d) Cllr. Robert Milton was not present to discuss the appointment of traffic officers.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Road Safety Working Group should meet to discuss road safety issues and report back to the Parish Council once a meeting had taken place.

1208 Boundary Review

Cllr. Martin Jones informed Members about the disparity of parish councillors in Oswestry Rural in comparison to parish councillors in Oswestry. The average number of electors represented by each councillor in Oswestry Rural was 250 whereas each councillor in Oswestry represented an average of 736. Cllr. Bennett proposed that the Parish Council should make its views known to the Boundary Commission before it came up with its own solution for any boundary changes.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **The Parish Council should work with other parish councils with similarities in character to Oswestry Rural and present their views to the Boundary Commission.**
- b) **The Clerk would contact SALC to ask for its assistance to enable the Parish Council to discuss boundary changes with similar rural parishes.**
- c) **Cllr. Martin Bennett would ask for the boundary review to be included on the agenda for the next Oswestry Area Committee meeting.**

1209 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Roger Jones informed Members that he was co-ordinating the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Coed-Y-Go and offered to help set up schemes in other areas within the parish.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that details about the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme would be put on the Parish Council's website.

1210 Drainage

As Cllr. Roger Jones gave an update on drainage issues in Coed-Y-Go due to flooding and activity at Trefarclawdd farm. The attenuation ponds seemed to be working as intended thanks to WSP, Shropshire Council's engineering consultants, and their recommendations had been implemented by the 'farm'. However, certain activities at the farm still needed planning approval and Shropshire Council was arranging a meeting to discuss this. A resolution for the disposal of foul water waste and water usage and its impact on the local community and environment had yet to be resolved. Cllr. Jones believed that this issue could not be resolved without a full environmental impact assessment and a resolution was being sought by Shropshire Council. Questions regarding slurry/manure holding and disposal had still to be addressed in terms of the impact and risks on the local community, the environment and climate.

NOTED.

1211 Car Park at Trefarclawdd Cemetery

Members considered for approval the provision of parking for visitors and funerals at Trefarclawdd cemetery. Planning permission had been granted in April 2013, but the car park had not been installed and further planning permission would need to be sought. It had also been agreed that stock fencing should be installed around the perimeter and Yareal had offered to assist with this.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **A Working Group should be established to make recommendations for parking provision and perimeter fencing.**
- b) **Working Group members would be Cllrs. Steve Watts, Chris Woods, Mike Weston and Roger Jones.**

1212 The Terraces

Cllr. Martin Bennett informed Members that he was awaiting a response from Shropshire Council concerning land at The Terraces. He said that the Parish Council's solicitor could not act for the Council due to an interest and an alternative solicitor would need to be found.

NOTED.

1213 Consultation

Members considered whether to respond to consultation on Amendments to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 as applied to Groundwater Activities and related Surface Water Discharge Activities.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- **DEFRA be asked to defer the consultation.**
- **The Parish Council's agreed response be forwarded to NALC.**
- **The Parish Council's response to DEFRA should be considered further at the next meeting.**

1214 Date for Next Meeting

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 14 December 2021 at Morda and Sweeney Village Hall** and not on 16 December as previously agreed due to Trefonen Village Hall being needed for a bye-election.

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.

1215 Notice Boards Maintenance

Members considered for approval a quote for the maintenance of all Parish Council notice boards.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Colin Turner should maintain all notice boards at a cost of £400.

1216 The Terraces

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.**

Cllr. Martin Jones left at this point in the meeting.

Cllr. Martin Bennett briefed Members on alternative use of land at The Terraces.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **The District Valuer should be asked to provide costs for valuing the land as a community amenity.**
- b) **The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting.**

1217 Groundwater Survey at Trefarclawdd Cemetery

Members considered for approval whether to undertake a groundwater survey at Trefarclawdd cemetery for which two quotes had been received.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer consideration to a future meeting pending recommendations from the Cemetery Working Group.

1218 Planning Enforcement

There were no planning enforcement cases.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____