

Minutes
of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Thursday 26 May 2022 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

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

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

17 members of the public
Richard Corbett, representing Yareal, owner of Trefarclawdd Farm
Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow

1332 Election of Chairman

In pursuance of the LGA 1972 S15(1)(2) nominations were sought for the election of Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED and RESOLVED that Cllr. Martin Jones be elected as Chairman.

1333 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

As the newly elected Chairman was not present it was **RESOLVED that Cllr. Martin Jones should sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting prior to taking up office.**

1334 Election of Deputy Chairman

In pursuance of the LGA 1972 S15(6) nominations were sought for the election of Deputy Chairman for the ensuing Council year.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Martin Bennett be elected as Deputy Chairman.

1335 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Martin Jones
Cllr. Chris Woods
Cllr. Jas Singh

1336 Trefarclawdd Farm

Richard Corbett from Yareal responded to questions from members of the public emailed to him prior to the meeting. He said that Trefarclawdd farm is a dairy farm with approximately 800 acres. The owner of the farm (Yareal) was seeking permission to house 500 cows and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would be submitted with the planning application. The EIA includes a landscaping plan, full drainage and flooding reports, an odour impact assessment report, a noise report, an ecology report, a landscape and visual impact assessment, and a full highways report. The farm employed 35 members of staff and the build contract had been awarded to local contractors and, where possible, materials would all be sourced locally. On a UK scale agriculture underpins the rural economy and feeds the nation and provides food security. Yareal employs over 75 people in the rural industry on a UK level. The new dairy unit would be an industry leading modern dairy farm using the best available techniques. Yareal was looking to safeguard agriculture as a future. The EIA would assess the risks of the farm's future development to minimise any risks to the environment. Manure and slurry would be stored throughout the winter until it could be spread on the land and, as a contingency plan, any manure and slurry that could not be spread on the land would be sent off-site. Regulations would be followed. The dairy farm had to meet high standards and Yareal had been assured by Severn Trent that the wastewater would not be affected by over demand on the site. Yareal was open to direct communication with the Parish Council so that the local community could be kept informed about future plans for the farm. This includes site visits to the farm. Concern was expressed about damage to the roads by heavy farm vehicles and Richard said that he would look into this issue. Concern was expressed about retrospective planning permission and assurance was sought that 500 cows would be the maximum number. Concern was also

expressed about traffic routes and Richard reiterated that Yareal was happy to work with the Parish Council to try to resolve any issues.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council and members of the community, thanked Richard for coming to the meeting and answering questions. Richard then left the meeting.

1337 Police Report

The following written report was received from the Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team:

18/05/2022 – Two vehicle Road Traffic Collisions - no injuries to persons involved.

18/05/2022 – Alarm system activated at business on the Maesbury Industrial Estate. Police attended and all was in order.

18/05/2022 – Vehicle Crime and items taken from the vehicle. CCTV had been viewed.

19//05/2022 – Highway Incident at the Mile End Roundabout.

21/05/2022 – Suspicious Circumstances in the Treflach area. A vehicle had been seen driving around the Treflach area at approximately 12pm. There was no description of the vehicle.

21/05/2022 – Road Traffic Collision. All parties safe and well and telegraph cables had to be fixed.

NOTED.

1338 Shropshire Council Report

Cllr. Joyce Barrow informed that she had met with Sarah Cosgrove at Shropshire Council to discuss the issue of a speed limit review for Coed-Y-Go. She advised that neither the data previously collected, nor West Mercia Police, would support the introduction of a 30mph speed limit at Coed-y-Go. However both the data and the police would support a 40mph speed limit. As the Parish Council had since requested a reduction to a 40mph speed limit through Coed-Y-Go officers would look favourably on such a request, but the sole problem then would be around funding to bring the scheme forward which would determine when it could be programmed. As this had been raised as a site of community concern it would have to wait for funding to become available with no guarantee when this would be but, if the Parish Council was prepared to fund the design work and signage, it would be possible to deliver in the next financial year. Officers had advised that the cost of circa £15,000 should be budgeted for the scheme if the Parish Council wished to take this route.

Cllr. Barrow was asked which financial year Shropshire Council was referring to and Cllr. Barrow agreed to find out and report back to the Parish Council.

1339 Public Participation

One member of the public said that, as he forgot to mention at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2022, on behalf of members of the community he now wanted to thank Parish Councillors for all their hard work over the past year. He also asked whether the Parish Council knew about the Hearing for Shropshire Council's Local Plan and the Clerk informed that Members had received the information but had not requested to comment further.

On behalf of a member of the public who could not be present, one member of the public asked that his request for 3 changes to Standing Orders be considered by the Parish Council. The Chairman informed that the request for changes had been brought to the attention of all Members and would be considered later in the meeting.

1340 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 28 April 2022 were considered for approval. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

1341 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether or not 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 considered to be pre-determined.

1342 Dispensations

None requested.

1343 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

1344 Committees/Working Groups

- a) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following Members be appointed to the Personnel Committee:
Councillors Peter Richardson, Bob Kimber, Martin Bennett, Jas Singh.
- b) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following Members be appointed to the Road Safety Working Group:
Councillors John Davies, Steve Watts, Bob Kimber, Martin Bennett, Roger Jones.
- c) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following Members be appointed to the Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group:
Councillors Steve Watts, Mike Weston, Roger Jones, Chris Woods.
- d) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following Members be appointed to the Environment Working Group:
Councillors Bob Kimber, Paul Milner, Roger Jones, Iain Campbell, Mike Weston.

Cllr. Paul Milner left at this point in the meeting.

1345 Representatives on Outside Bodies

- a) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following Members be appointed to the Shropshire Association of Local Councils Oswestry Area Committee: Councillors Martin Bennett and Peter Richardson.
- b) It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that Cllr. Peter Davies should represent the Parish Council on the Rhydygroesau Village Hall Management Committee.

1346 Review of Policy and Procedure

- a) Financial Regulations.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the reviewed Financial Regulations be ADOPTED.
- b) Standing Orders.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the reviewed Standing Orders be ADOPTED.
- c) Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee be ADOPTED.
- d) Terms of Reference for the Road Safety Working Group.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Terms of Reference for the Road Safety Working Group be ADOPTED.
- e) Terms of Reference for the Cemetery Working Group.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Terms of Reference for the Cemetery Working Group be ADOPTED.
- f) Terms of Reference for the Environment Working Group.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Terms of Reference for the Environment Working Group be ADOPTED.
- g) Review of inventory of land and other assets including buildings and office equipment.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the inventory of land and other assets carried out in April 2022 be APPROVED.
- h) Confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insurable risks.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this would be considered and approved later in the meeting at minute number 1363.
- i) Review of staff subscriptions to the SLCC and SALC.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would continue to pay subscriptions to SLCC and SALC.

1347 Schedule of Future Meetings

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following dates for future meetings be **APPROVED**.

DATE 2022	VENUE
30 June	Rhydygroesau Village Hall
28 July	Trefonen Village Hall
25 August	Trefonen Village Hall
29 September	Rhydygroesau Village Hall
27 October	Trefonen Village Hall

24 November	Trefonen Village Hall
15 December	Trefonen Village Hall
2023	
26 January	Trefonen Village Hall
23 February	Trefonen Village Hall
30 March	Trefonen Village Hall
13 April Annual Parish Meeting	Trefonen Village Hall
27 April	Trefonen Village Hall
25 May Annual Parish Council Meeting	Trefonen Village Hall

1348 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
22/00590/OUT Land adjoining The Laurels, Sweeney	Outline application for the erection of one dwelling to include access. Permission REFUSED 29 April 2022. <i>The parish council had no objection.</i>
22/01014/FUL Trefarclawdd Farm, Tref-Ar-Clawdd, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the retrospective formation of two balancing ponds with all associated works. Application WITHDRAWN 20 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council objected to this application.</i>
22/01371/FUL 31 Sweeney Drive, Morda	Erection of first floor extension over existing garage. Permission GRANTED 11 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council had no objection.</i>
22/01376/FUL Willow Cottage, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen	Erection of two domestic outbuildings. Permission GRANTED 24 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council had no objection.</i>
22/01535/FUL Weston Cotton House, Weston Lane, Oswestry	Change of Use of first floor of double garage from storage to self-contained annex ancillary to the main dwelling (made part in retrospect). Permission GRANTED 23 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council's response was that permission, if granted, should be conditional to ancillary use for residents only.</i>
22/01540/FUL 13 Nant Y Caws, Morda	Erection of two storey rear extension. Permission REFUSED 17 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council had no objection.</i>
22/01864/FUL Sycamore Cottage, Malthouse Lane, Trefonen	Erection of a single storey side extension. Permission GRANTED 24 May 2022. <i>The Parish Council had no objection.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
22/01878/FUL Proposed residential development land at Maesbury Marsh	Erection of one dwelling and garage (plot 2) which forms part of a wider development of four dwellings granted outline planning approval (ref: 14/02643/OUT). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to strongly object to the application on the grounds that, in its current form, it is over development of the site and no longer required in a rural environment. It would dominate the current properties on Waen Lane, it would leave very little amenity area, and the application was not in line with the outline planning application. It was also a completely new application.
22/01971/FUL 4 Brick Kiln Cottages, Racecourse Road, Oswestry	Erection of part two-storey part first-storey extension to west elevation. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.
22/02020/FUL Lloyds Animal Feeds Ltd., Mill and Premises, Llyncllys Farm, Morton	Installation of new feed storage bins. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that traffic movement should be tightly controlled under planning conditions and there should be no increase in ambient noise from the machinery associated with the storage bins.
22/02073/AGR The Elms, Middleton	Agricultural storage building for grain and machinery. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to request that a condition should apply to this application to ensure that the storage building would only be used for grain and machinery and not for the storage of wood chip pellets as part of the biomass expansion.

1349 Clerk's Report

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

1350 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure

Members considered for approval income and expenditure for 1 April 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income received to date of £39,422.20 and gross expenditure of £5,076.03 be APPROVED.

b) Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval bank reconciliations for April 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that bank reconciliations for April 2022 totalling £287,561.05 be APPROVED.

c) Payments for May 2022

Members considered for approval payments for May 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following payments for May 2022 be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Llanyblodwel Parish Council	Grant towards grounds maintenance of Morton closed churchyard	581.00
EE	Wi-Fi mini monthly plan	16.39
HSBC	Bank charges	8.00
Sharon Clayton	Clerk's salary/expenses/reimbursement	1069.34
HMRC	PAYE/NI	394.12
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter cleaning	25.00
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	760.50
Bernard Morris	Internal audit	67.00
Viking	Stationery	72.78
	TOTAL	3054.13

d) Bank Signatories

Members considered for approval which Members should be bank signatories for the Parish Council's bank accounts.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following should be bank signatories: Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Peter Richardson and the Clerk.

e) Opening a New Bank Account with Unity Trust Bank

Members considered for approval opening a new current account with Unity Trust Bank.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED:

- **To open a new bank account with Unity Trust Bank with a deposit of £5,000.**
- **Bank signatories would be Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Martin Bennett, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Peter Richardson and the Clerk.**

f) Public Sector Deposit Fund

Members considered for approval investing £50,000 with the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £50,000 be invested with the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

1351 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/2022

Members considered the following for approval:

- a) The Annual Internal Audit Report for the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Annual Internal Audit Report from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 be APPROVED.

- b) The Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022 be APPROVED.

- c) The Accounting Statement for 2021/2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Accounting Statement for 2021/2022 be APPROVED.

1352 Annual Report

Members considered for approval the Annual Report for 2021/2022 for approval.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Annual Report for 2021/2022 be APPROVED and published.

1353 Tony Cheetham Community Service Award.

Members considered for approval who should be awarded this year's Tony Cheetham Community Service Award sponsored by Stonehouse Brewery. It was **PROPOSED** that William Baker should receive the award in recognition of the voluntary work he carries out in Maesbury Marsh. He regularly cuts the grass verges and keeps the locality tidy and in good condition.

After being **SECONDED** it was **AGREED** that William Baker should receive the Tony Cheetham Community Service Award 2022.

1354 Road Safety

- a) Cllr. John Davies asked the Council to give support to the 20's Plenty campaign. However, concern was expressed that a blanket 20mph speed limit throughout Shropshire would not work.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to make a decision at this time.

- b) Members received a response to the Parish Council's request for double yellow lines to be installed at Trefonen Road in Morda. Due to budget limitations Shropshire Council was having to prioritise areas in which accident levels were at the highest and as there had been no accident issues in that area no yellow lines would be installed.

NOTED.

- c) Members received a written report from the Road Safety Working Group. Whilst the Group was disappointed that Shropshire Council had rejected a 30mph speed limit in Coed-y-Go, should the Parish Council's request that a 40mph speed limit be approved by Shropshire Council it would allow further initiatives, such as community speed watch and appropriate signage to be pursued.

The Group had concerns relating to the traffic data recently carried out in Coed-y-Go for which Shropshire Council had quoted Department of Transport guidance, even though action concerning road safety could be applied at the discretion of the local authority. The figures quoted did not record the many tractors using the road which artificially depressed the overall result, and the Group would seek a further meeting with Shropshire Council to discuss this.

The Group supported the extension of the 30mph speed limit in Maesbury and plans were in hand to meet with Llanyblodwel Parish Council to discuss a speed limit in Morton.

In response to a police enquiry concerning areas associated with speeding the Group recommended that Coed-y-Go and Treflach should be highlighted as areas where VAS should be facilitated by the Parish Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the report be NOTED.

1355 Trefarclawdd Cemetery

Members received a report from the Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group. A meeting had been held with the local undertaker to discuss outline plans for access and workability from a funeral director's point of view and several matters were discussed including access and space to burials and storage of soil following grave digging. A meeting had also been held with Shropshire Council to discuss outline plans for future use of land. A meeting with Yareal to discuss access and boundaries was awaited.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the report be NOTED.

1356 Health and Safety Policy

Members considered for approval a revised Health and Safety Policy.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the policy be APPROVED.

1357 Sewage Disposal Works at Maesbury Road

Members considered the proposals for the upgrade of the sewage disposal works at Maesbury Road the planning application of which the Parish Council supports. However, it was stated in a report in 2020 that it was already at capacity and, on many occasions, in excess of its capacity.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ask:

- **How much of the proposed works would cover the existing requirements that have been surpassed?**
- **How much is there left of the added capacity for the future and how does that equate to new development and future allowance?**

1358 Biodiversity

Members considered the Parish Council's obligations towards biodiversity in pursuance of Section 40 of the Natural, Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006. Shropshire Council had already declared a climate emergency but there were also concerns about biodiversity.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED:

- **To discuss the issue of biodiversity further at the next meeting when more information was available.**
- **This matter would be referred to the Environment Working Group.**
- **Dianne Dorrell at SALC should be informed that the Parish Council had discussed this issue.**

1359 Oswestry Leisure Centre

Members expressed concern about the increased fees imposed at Oswestry Leisure Centre which were higher than those at Shrewsbury. Members had been informed that the disparity between fees was because the facilities were better at Oswestry than at Shrewsbury. The leisure centre was managed by a private company and the increased cost would not help people to get fit and keep healthy and may drive them away.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ask Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow to ask Shropshire Council to try to find out the geographical usage of the leisure centre and the relative costs.

1360 Trefarclawdd Farm

Members considered the implications that would arise if the two balancing ponds at the farm were filled in. This would lead to the water being re-routed into Coed-y-Go and would cause problems elsewhere.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to wait to see whether the farm would comply with the enforcement order.

1361 Consultation

Members considered for approval a response to the following consultation:

a) Shropshire Council's Draft Housing Allocation Policy.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no response.

b) Shropshire Library Strategy
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no response.

1362 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 30 June 2022 at Rhydycroesau Village Hall.

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.

1363 Insurance

Members considered for approval a quote for the renewal of the Parish Council's insurance effective from 1 June 2022.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a quote of £663.99 per annum for a long-term agreement of 3 years with Zurich be APPROVED.

1364 Tree Survey

Members considered for approval a quote for a tree survey to be carried out on the trees for which the parish council is responsible.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept a quote of £680 from Tree 21 Limited.

1365 Grazing on Land at Trefarclawdd Cemetery

Members considered for approval a request for horses to graze on land at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to approve the request as there was no access over Parish Council land and concerns about the security of the horses as the land was not enclosed.

1366 Maesbury War Memorial

The Clerk informed Members that the War Memorials Trust had agreed to award a grant towards works to Maesbury War Memorial, but the grant offer would not allow for the dismantling of the war memorial as this was not considered to be minimal intervention. As the Parish Council had already agreed that Broseley Memorials should undertake the work and this did include dismantling the memorial and taking it back to the workshop, the Parish Council would have to decline the grant as the works agreed meant that the Parish Council was not eligible to receive the grant.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would have to decline the grant offer from the War Memorial Trust.

1367 Planning Enforcement

Planning enforcement cases were **NOTED**.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:57.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____