

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 24 November 2020 by Zoom online video conference

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. Pam Broomby, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Claire Mahoney, Cllr. Phil May, Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr. Tony Milner, Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones, Cllr. Tracy Rowe.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Approximately 14 members of the public.

858/20 Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

859/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Robert Milton who had a work commitment
This apology was accepted and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

Apologies were also received from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

860/20 Police Report

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

26/10/20 – Highway incident (sheep) – Trefonen.
29/10/20 – Possible Covid breach – Maesbury. Advice given.
29/10/20 – Telephone fraud – Morda.
29/10/20 – Suspicious incident. Morda. (Ended up being a removal van.)
31/10/20 – Driving offence – Mile End.
31/10/20 – Neighbour dispute – Morda.
02/11/20 – Theft of man-hole cover – Trefonen Road.
02/11/20 – Highway incident (breakdown) – A5 Aston.
05/11/20 – Possible Covid breach – Advice given, no offences.
06/11/20 – Concern for safety, A5 Mile End.
09/11/20 – Highway incident, HGV breakdown. Mile End.
09/11/20 – Neighbour dispute/civil dispute – Morda.
09/11/20 – Burglary (business premises) – Crickheath.
12/11/20 – Theft. Mile End.
12/11/20 – Theft. Mile End.
12/11/20 – Abandoned vehicle – Morton. (Was recovered.)
14/11/20 – Possible Covid Breach – Morda. No offences.
16/11/20 – Theft. Mile End.
16/11/20 – Sheep Worrying Offence – Morda.
17/11/20 – Theft. Mile End.
18/11/20 – Possible Covid Breach – Morda. No offences.
20/11/20 – RTC (road traffic collision) Damage only. Morda.
20/11/20 – Dangerous driving – A483.
20/11/20 – RTC, Damage only – Morda.
20/11/20 – RTC Damage only. Trefonen.
22/11/20 – Anti-social behaviour – Woolston.

NOTED.

861/20 Shropshire Councillor Report

There was no report as Cllr. Joyce Barrow was not in attendance.

862/20 Public Participation

One member of the public said that Shropshire Council's newsroom carries an article "Have your say on trees". It states that the Council and the government have tree planting ambitions in response to the climate change emergency. The Council has set up a tree planting survey and wants as many people in Shropshire to participate. One of the aims is to determine where more trees can be planted.

One member of the public asked Members to support her planning application for an affordable dwelling. She has MS and the building has been designed to accommodate wheelchair access with wider doors and suitable for her needs. It has been located as close as possible to her parents and her horses. The application was supported by local neighbours and has been approved by local connections to build an affordable dwelling and also approved by housing enabling.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had already supported the local connection for this application and would consider the planning application later in the meeting.

One member of the public thanked the Council for the £750 grant awarded towards the cost of maintaining Morton Playing Field. Amongst others the playing field is used by 125 participants in sports, children from Llanymynech and their supporters. The field is also used for exercise and dog walking as well as those that like to rest on the seats in the peace and quiet of the countryside. The Parish Council had also supported a project by giving £595 towards a defibrillator for which nearly £4,000 had been raised. This project is costly due to the need for a connection to a power source. The member of the public also said that she had been told by cyclists that the traffic lights at Maesbury Road junction made no provision for cyclists to cross safely. She asked the Parish Council to request that a pedestrian light be added to the traffic light sequence at the Maesbury Road junction.

One member of the public asked that the Coed-y-Go traffic safety initiative be included on each agenda as a standing item to enable regular monthly updates. He said that because it was not on the agenda for this meeting it could not be discussed and there is no provision for 'any other business'. He then referred to the earmarked funds for Morda and Sweeney Village Hall and that there was no end date for which earmarked funds should be allocated and this was preventing funds from being used elsewhere. He also asked for a link from the Parish Council website to be added to link to Shropshire Council's tree survey as mentioned earlier.

The Chairman explained that council agendas cannot include 'any other business' because agendas must be received by councillors 3 clear days before a meeting and therefore only items specifically stated can be discussed. The Chairman further explained that once the public session had ended members of the public could no longer speak as the rest of the meeting was for making decisions which could only be made by councillors.

Cllr. Les Maguire explained that he did not ask for Coed-y-Go traffic calming to be included on this meeting's agenda because it had been agreed by the Safer Roads Working Group that, until the traffic counter had been installed, there would be nothing more to discuss, and that installation of the counter would be delayed until after COVID restrictions because otherwise the data may be skewed. He said that he would have asked for it to have been included on the agenda if there had been anything further to discuss.

Having been a parish councillor for many years, Cllr. Bob Kimber concurred with the Chairman that any other business is not allowed on parish council agendas.

Cllr. Phil May explained that he was leading with the Nantmawr speeding campaign and suggested that the Parish Council's website could be used to inform residents about what is actually going on and that if anything critical was raised on the website then the Parish Council could ask for it to be included on an agenda for a forthcoming council meeting.

The member of the public continued to inform that more traffic counts had taken place since the meeting of the working group and that there were other avenues to explore. He reiterated that it should be an ongoing item on the agenda and that it is the Parish Council as their representatives that should request speed limit reductions and not members of the public.

Cllr. Paul Milner, as a member of the Safer Roads Working Group agreed that it should be an ongoing agenda item so that there would always be the option to receive reports and this was supported by Cllr. Les Maguire.

Another member of the public referred to the agenda item concerning the blocked bridleway around Llynclys Quarry which links Llynclys to Treflach. It is a safe path that keeps horses away from cars. However, the entrance to the bridleway had been blocked by someone who says he owns the driveway to the derelict cottage where he keeps his livestock. The alternative route was a narrow winding lane used by vehicles, often driving quite fast, and was not as safe. Before the quarry was extended the previous road was destroyed and the bridleway provided an alternative route which was now blocked. She asked the Parish Council to find out who owns the land that is blocked and does the Parish Council know anything about the agreement that was made to reinstate the bridleway when the quarry was extended and the old road destroyed.

The Chairman explained that this would be discussed further later in the meeting.

Another member of the public also referred to the access route and said it has never been registered as a bridleway. The quarry was extended about 30 years ago and the bridleway was installed as an alternative route which is used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The person who had closed the route said he had done it because he was threatened with prosecution due to COVID restrictions and is claiming that he owns the land that the drive is on. The member of the public had been in touch with Tarmac, the quarry owner, who could not find any record of ownership so it was unclear who actually has the right to close the road.

863/20 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 27 October 2020 were considered for approval.

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

864/20 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.

Cllr. Peter Richardson declared a pecuniary interest concerning Fairhaven Camping.

865/20 Dispensations

None requested.

866/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

867/20 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Proposals
16/04616/FUL Pentre Issa, Trefonen, Oswestry	Internal and external alterations in connection with refurbishment of existing dwelling, including conversion of part of existing barn into office accommodation and erection of a detached 3 bay equipment store. Permission GRANTED 18 November 2020. <i>The Parish Council's response was that the recommendation from Highways regarding insufficient information was noted. The Parish Council requests to be re-consulted once further information is received. The Parish Council would bring to the Case Officer's and Highway's attention the applications at Bryn Y Pentre which is close to this site (17/04509/FUL and 16/04510/LBC).</i>

16/04617/LBC Pentre Issa, Trefonen, Oswestry	Internal and external alterations in connection with refurbishment of existing farmhouse to include conversion of part of existing barn into office accommodation and erection of detached 3 bay equipment store affecting a Grade II Listed Building. Permission GRANTED 18 November 2020. <i>The Parish Council's response was that the recommendation from Highways regarding insufficient information was noted. The Parish Council requests to be re-consulted once further information is received. The Parish Council would bring to the Case Officer's and Highway's attention the applications at Bryn Y Pentre which is close to this site (17/04509/FUL and 16/04510/LBC).</i>
20/03851/FUL Maesbury Hall, Newbridge, Maesbury, Oswestry	Erection of rear entrance porch and boot room following partial dismantling of existing lean-to. Permission GRANTED 19.11.20. <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
20/03852/LBC Maesbury Hall, Newbridge, Maesbury, Oswestry	Erection of rear entrance porch and boot room following partial dismantling of existing 20 th C rear lean-to porch affecting a Grade II Listed Building. Permission GRANTED 19.11.20. <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

Planning Application Details	Proposals
20/04398/FUL Vine Cottage, Middleton Road, Middleton, Oswestry	Erection of an agricultural storage shed. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
20/04516/FUL The Byg Farm, Old Racecourse, Oswestry	Demolition of majority part of existing agricultural building, north side part of existing structure to be retained and converted to one dwelling and erection of detached carport with store. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support and to comment that the location plan was insufficient to locate the property as there were no directions.
20/04547/VAR Ridgewood, Coed Y Go, Oswestry	Variation of Condition number 2 (vary design to include removal of conservatory from approved plans) application reference 14/02077/FUL. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support and to comment that the location plan was insufficient to locate the property as there were no directions.
20/04567/FUL Proposed affordable dwelling west of Vine Cottage, Middleton Road, Middleton, Oswestry	Erection of single plot exception (SPE) affordable dwelling and garage. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support although the site map was poor.
20/04607/FUL Proposed dwelling east of 1 Offa House Estate, Off Oak Lane, Treflach	Erection of one bungalow. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support, subject to clarification that the development does not affect Offa's Dyke.
20/04660/HHE 26 The Terraces, Morda, Oswestry	Erection of a single storey rear extension to semi-detached dwelling, dimensions 4.15 metres beyond the rear wall, 3.30 metres maximum height, 2.30 metres high to eaves. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.

c) Tree Works

Planning Application Details	Proposals
20/04121/TPO 11 St Anne's Drive, Morda	Works to reduce the tree in girth by 6m and height by 12m of one Sycamore tree protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Morda House, Morda, Oswestry) TPO 1977.

Planning Application Details	Proposals
	It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the grounds that the tree is protected and has been there a very long time and should remain.

The Chairman declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting. In his absence the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Phil May chaired the meeting.

d) Fairhaven Camping

Members received a letter from Natural England in response to a complaint made by the Parish Council concerning activities at Fairhaven Camping. It stated that Freedom Camping Club had arranged a site assessment visit and had issued an exemption certificate which allows Club members to camp on land without a site licence and to benefit from the permitted development right under the Part 27, Class A of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 1995). Concerns or issues with planning and consultations are dealt with by the local planning authority which can also apply to withdraw a certificate where they believe it is required.

As a member of the Maesbury Ward where Fairhaven Camping is located, Cllr. Martin Jones expressed concern about the site assessment visit that took place on 22 October 2020 at which a site walkover and inspection of current facilities took place and a questionnaire was completed. The Parish Council had not seen the questionnaire and Cllr. Jones said that proof of this should be provided because there were discrepancies between the dates that Freedom Camping, Natural England and Shropshire Council planning have. Furthermore, the letter regarding the application sent to Ashfield Farm bears no relation to the property the consultation was based on. A letter from Freedom Camping was acknowledged by Shropshire Council stating that if a response had not been received by 8 January 2020, Freedom Camping would assume that the Council had no comment and would continue to process the application for exemption. This letter was dated 6 December 2019. Freedom Camping were recommended to contact the local residents as many issues had been raised.

Cllr. Jones proposed that the Parish Council's complaint to Natural England should be escalated to Stage 2 and move on to Stage 3 if an acceptable response was not received. Proof of the site visit should be provided because it should have been included with the planning application and would have been carried out during COVID regulations.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED:

- a) That Shropshire Council should be asked to remove the exemption certificate.
- b) That the complaint be escalated to Stage 2 and a FOI request should be submitted to Natural England requesting details of the questionnaire and any other relevant information in relation to the site visit.
- c) Owen Patterson MP should be asked to support the complaint.

Cllr. Peter Richardson returned to the meeting.

868/20 Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at the last Parish Council meeting.

NOTED.

869/20 Financial Matters

a) Income and Expenditure and Bank Reconciliations

Members considered for approval income and expenditure and bank reconciliations up to 31 October 2020.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 October 2020 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for November 2020

Members considered for approval payments for November 2020.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following payments for the month of November 2020 be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Hope House Children's Hospice	Grant award	750.00
Trefonen Defibrillator	Grant award	120.00
Morton Playing Field	Grant award	750.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	60.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit	360.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	177.95
Viking	Stationery and postage stamps	203.66
Silver Marbles	WordPress training	36.00
SLCC	Training and book on legislation	213.80
A G Royce	Grounds maintenance	725.00
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	949.06
	TOTAL	4345.47

860/20 Trefonen Bus Shelter

Members considered for approval the regular cleaning of Trefonen Bus Shelter at a cost of £6 per month. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Trefonen Bus Shelter be cleaned on a monthly basis at a cost of £6 per month. It was further PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that quotes should be sought for cleaning all of the Council's bus shelters.**

861/20 Investment Strategy

Members considered for approval an amendment to the Council's Investment Strategy to change £75,000 to read £85,000 with reference to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Investment Strategy be amended to read £85,000 with reference to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.**

862/20 Scheme of Delegation

Members considered for approval an addition to the Council's Scheme of Delegation to include Terms of Reference for the Safer Roads Working Group. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the addition of Terms of Reference for the Safer Roads Working Group be APPROVED.**

863/20 Blocked Bridleway

Members considered what action could be taken to unblock the bridleway near to Llyncllys Quarry. Local residents asked the Parish Council to determine who owns the right of way and request that it be unblocked. In the past there had been meetings with Tarmac, local residents and parish councillors where issues would be discussed and local residents wanted these meetings to be reinstated.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED:

- a) **That the Parish Council should write to Tarmac and ask for details of who owns the bridleway and request that meetings with Tarmac, local residents and parish councillors be reinstated.**
- b) **To write to the Rights of Way officer at Shropshire Council and request that the bridleway be re-opened.**
- c) **To inform Llanyblodwel Parish Council of the Parish Council's decision and actions.**

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.**

864/20 Strategic Plan and Action Plan

a) Members considered for approval revisions to the Parish Council's Strategic Plan.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that there was insufficient information for Members to approve the revisions and that they should submit any comments to the Clerk for inclusion and consideration at the next meeting.

b) Members considered for approval the Parish Council's updated Action Plan Monitoring Report.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that there was insufficient information for Members to approve the revisions and that they should submit any comments to the Clerk for inclusion and consideration at the next meeting.

865/20 Grant Award

Members considered for approval a grant award to Rhydycroesau Village Hall.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that a grant of £500 be awarded to Rhydycroesau Village Hall and that all the supporting information provided with the application should be given to Members.

866/20 Newsletter

Members considered for approval the December issue of the Parish Council's newsletter.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the newsletter be **APPROVED** following the removal of some Councillors' phone numbers, at their request, and the addition of Councillor email addresses. It was further **AGREED** that this should apply to Councillor details on the Parish Council's website.

867/20 Maesbury Road Signage

When travelling from the Knockin direction towards Maesbury Marsh and before the canal bridge there is a 40mph limit. The sign before entering Maesbury Marsh just says "Marsh" and there was no longer a 40mph sign.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that Shropshire Council should be asked to replace the signage.

868/20 The Terraces Brick Works

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that this be discussed at the next meeting.

869/20 Tree Planting Projects

Concern was expressed about ongoing maintenance and finding available space in which to plant trees.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the Parish Council would not pursue any further tree planting opportunities.

870/20 Aston Water Pump

Members considered for approval that works to Aston Water Pump should proceed as agreed on 25 August 2020 (minute no: 806/20) but without grant funding towards the cost. The Clerk had endeavoured to find grant funding but the project was not eligible.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED** that the project should proceed without grant funding.

871/20 Consultation

There was no consultation to consider.

872/20 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.
- b) Letter of thanks for grant aid from Trefonen Defibrillator
- c) Letter of thanks for grant aid from Morton Playing Field Committee.
- d) Email of thanks for grant aid from Hope House.

NOTED.

873/20 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

It was **AGREED** that the following matters should be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting:

- Coed-y-Go speed awareness (Cllr. Les Maguire)
- The Terraces (Cllr. Les Maguire)
- Location plans provided by Shropshire Council planning department (Cllr. Janet Barlow)
- Traffic lights for cyclists (Cllr. Claire Mahoney)
- Road-side verges (Cllr. Paul Milner)
- Movement of trucks and transference of mud (Cllr. Tony Milner)
- Fairhaven Camping (Cllr. Claire Mahoney)

874/20 Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place by Zoom video on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

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.

875/20 Notice Boards

a) Members considered for approval a quote for the refurbishment of the notice board removed from Trefonen.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept a quote of £210 for Colin Turner to sand and coat the notice board with 2 coats of varnish.

b) Members considered for approval the purchase of a new notice board for Sychtyn since the one in situ was dilapidated.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to replace the notice board due to lack of use and that it should be removed.

c) Members considered for approval that the refurbished notice board removed from Trefonen be installed and replace the one at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to replace the notice board at Trefarclawdd cemetery with the one removed from Trefonen once it had been refurbished.

It was further AGREED to ask for knobs to be fitted to all of the new notice boards so that the doors could be opened more easily.

876/20 Staffing Matters

Members considered for approval that the Council pays for the Clerk's continued annual membership of the SLCC.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Council would continue to pay for the clerk's continued annual membership of the SLCC at a cost of £246 for 2021.

877/20 Planning Enforcement

There were no planning enforcement notices received.

The meeting closed at 21:58.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____