

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting held at 7 pm on Tuesday 25 August 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. Tracy Rowe.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
Approximately 12 members of the public

776/20 Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

777/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones who had a family commitment and Cllr. Robert Milton who had a work commitment.

These apologies were accepted and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

778/20 Co-option

Following the resignation of Shirley Jones, a casual vacancy had occurred and, as an election had not been called, the vacancy had to be filled by co-option. The Council had considered one application at the last meeting although the applicant was not co-opted and therefore the casual vacancy was re-advertised. Tracy Rowe had subsequently applied for co-option and the Chairman invited her to give a short presentation.

Tracy explained that she had lived locally all her life and had lived in her present residence for over 20 years. She had previously worked for Royal Mail for over 10 years in which time she had gained knowledge of the local community by chatting to them and hearing their concerns. She currently worked with people with learning difficulties which had highlighted their needs such as a requirement for dropped curbs. She felt her attributes would be beneficial in helping the local community as a councillor.

The Chairman asked for questions from Councillors and Tracy was asked what her connection was to Rhydygroesau as the casual vacancy was for the Rhydygroesau with Llanforda ward. Tracy said that she had delivered post in that area and learned that the community felt isolated with no infrastructure and, if she was co-opted, she would try to find out what their needs were. She was also happy to do the same at Racecourse.

After being put to the vote it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Tracy Rowe be co-opted to the Parish Council.**

779/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The newly co-opted Member signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and held it up to the camera for the Clerk to see her signature. She was then invited to participate in the rest of the meeting.

780/20 Police Report

A written report was received from Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team as follows:

- 25 July 2020 – theft of quadbike in the Croesau Bach area but no witnesses.
- 4 August 2020 – two reports of a male going around Trefonen trying to sell items.
- 20 August 2020 – a group of teenagers were seen in the play park in Morda suspected of trying to damage the equipment.

- 20 August 2020 – 3 males attempted to steal a generator within one of the compounds on Oswestry Industrial Estate. One person had been detained and arrested by the Police.
- 21 August 2020 – side of vehicle scratched in Trefonen but nothing captured on CCTV.

NOTED.

781/20 Shropshire Councillor Report

Cllr. Joyce Barrow had nothing to report.

NOTED.

782/20 Public Participation

One member of the public spoke on behalf of Trefonen Rural Protection Group whose response to Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review had been sent to Ward Councillors. He hoped their response was helpful and asked for the Council to contest Hub designation of the village and the guideline of 50 additional dwellings which they thought would have a severe negative impact for those living in Trefonen now and for future generations. He asked for the Council's support to reject those designations.

One member of the public wanted to follow up from his question asked at the last Council meeting on what the Council's thoughts are on how there could be better interactive discussions on big ticket items. Whilst he was told there would be further discussion later in the last meeting, he did not see that other than Councillors agreeing with the Clerk's answers to his written questions to the Council. He hoped that the Council would continue to have more interactive discussions with the public.

The Chairman suggested that the member of the public should try to nurture a relationship with the Trefonen and Morda Councillors and the Traffic Calming Working Group so that his views could be put forward during informal meetings. The Chairman suggested that trying to influence Councillors outside of Council meetings would be better than during a formal Council meeting which is restricted by legislation.

One member of the public commented on the Local Plan Review which states that cross subsidy housing is 70% affordable with 30% open market housing on sites not normally exceeding 10 dwellings. Residential developments need to provide on-site affordable housing at a rate of 10-20% therefore, cross subsidy will build 7 affordable houses in every 10 built, whilst residential developments will build 1 or 2 for every ten built. She thought that the number of affordable housing on residential developments should be increased.

783/20 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 28 July 2020 were considered for approval.

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

784/20 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.

The following declarations were made:

COUNCILLOR	INTEREST
Peter Richardson	Close resident of Fairhaven Camping and Glamping
Pam Broomby	Golden Grove at Treflach

785/20 Dispensations

None requested.

786/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

787/20 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

19/03607/FUL Trefarclawdd Lodge, Coed Y Go, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of family annexe replacing previous double garage with roof store over (re-submission) Permission REFUSED 17 August 2020 <i>The Parish Council had no comment until further information was available</i>
20/02402/FUL Land adjacent to Vine Cottage, Middleton Road, Middleton, Oswestry	Erection of an agricultural storage shed Permission REFUSED 10 August 2020 <i>The Parish Council supported this application</i>
20/02628/FUL The Homestead, Morda Bank, Morda	Erection of lean-to with a translucent roof and sides to provide a covered area over the patio to front door of property Permission GRANTED 21 August 2020 <i>The Parish Council had no objection to this application</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

20/02989/HHE 26 The Terraces, Morda, Oswestry	Erection of a single storey rear extension to semi-detached dwelling, dimensions 5.10 metres beyond the rear wall, 4 metres maximum height, 2.3 metres high to eaves. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
20/03012/LBC Penylan Hall, Penylan Lane, Oswestry	Installation of entrance gates and modifications to stone wall (amendments to previously approved 18/01428/LBC). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
20/03144/FUL Mill Farm, Croesau Bach, Oswestry	Renovation and partial re-build of attached outbuilding to form an extension to the house together with a rear first floor extension and ground floor front extension. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support the application and, in particular, the details set out on page 19 of the Bat Survey Report. However, the quality of the location plan was not very helpful with only a compass point and very little detail to identify its location.
Fairhaven Camping and Glamping, Maesbury	The Chairman, Cllr. Peter Richardson left the meeting before the following discussion took place and the Deputy Chairman, Cllr. Phil May chaired this part of the meeting. a) Following the last meeting the Chairman had asked the Clerk, on behalf of local residents, to submit a complaint to Natural England to contest a licence being granted to Fairhaven Camping and Glamping by Freedom Camping Club. The Clerk had received notification that the complaint registered on 6 August 2020 would take some time to fully assess as Natural England was awaiting further information from Freedom Camping. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk be granted retrospective approval for submitting a complaint on behalf of the local community. b) Members considered whether any further action was required. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Clerk should write to Philip Mullineux at Shropshire Council and ask for a response from Planning Enforcement following the Council's request for Article 4 to be invoked to rescind the 28-day permitted development and force a planning application on Fairhaven Camping and Glamping. ○ If a satisfactory written response was not received, Mr Mullineux should be invited to a future Council meeting to explain the situation. ○ The Council should write to the local MP, Owen Patterson and express concerns about activities at the camp site especially in terms of compliance with the current COVID-19 regulations.

	The Chairman, Cllr Peter Richardson returned to the meeting.
20/03177/FUL Golden Grove, Treflach, Oswestry	Cllr. Pam Broomby left the meeting during consideration of the following: Removal of existing porch and erection of new extended porch and steps. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support. Cllr. Pam Broomby returned to the meeting

788/20 Clerk's Report

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

The Clerk also gave the following verbal update:

- With reference to minute no: 765/20(a) of last month's meeting where the Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council for their definition of its policy for affordable dwellings in the countryside, Shropshire Council had responded by referring to CS5 in the Local Plan.
- The Council's emails had been transferred to a new server and all Councillors would need to set up a new account with new passwords.
- The Council had received a small business support grant of £10,000 for the cemetery as part of the COVID-19 grant scheme.

NOTED.

The Clerk had written to the occupants of Wern Villa to ask if they had registered Crickeath water pump in their name and had received no response. The Council's solicitor had said that the pump had been registered to the property. However, there was a water pump within the property and the water pump that the Council was interested in was outside of the curtilage of the property and the solicitor might be confused.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- **The Clerk should try to determine which water pump was registered to Wern Villa; the water pump within the property or the water pump outside of the property next to the old disused garage.**
- **The findings should be discussed at the next Council meeting.**

789/20 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations

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

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

b) Payments for August 2020

Members considered for approval payments for August 2020.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
HMRC	PAYE/NI	168.52
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	615.00
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	941.12
	TOTAL	1724.64

790/20 Asset of Community Value

Members received notification from Shropshire Council that, in accordance with Section 91 of the Localism Act 2011, paras. 2 and 9 of Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 2421, Local Government, England, The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012, The Royal Oak at Treflach had been removed as an Asset of Community Value on 29 July 2020 due to the expiry of the 5-year period of listing

NOTED.

It was further AGREED that the Clerk should find out the expiry date of the Barley Mow.

791/20 Damage to Verges and Hedgerows

Members received a letter from a local resident expressing concern that tractors working within the Trefonen area were far too large for the narrow lanes and were damaging the verges which protect the hedgerows. There was also risk to pedestrians and cyclists and damage to Offa's Dyke.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to:

- **Write to Owen Patterson MP to ask for legislation to be introduced to regulate the size of vehicles that can travel along narrow country lanes.**
- **Write to the local farmer expressing concern about the Dyke which needs to be preserved.**
- **Write to Shropshire Council to ask what can legally be done about the issue.**

792/20 CIL Funds

Members considered what CIL funds were available for spending within the parish of Oswestry Rural.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a project plan for the parish needed to be in place before CIL funds could be allocated.

793/20 Notice Board

Members had previously considered installing a new notice board at Sweeney although a suitable site had not been found. The Clerk advised that the notice board at the cemetery needed two people to open it safely because the door opened upwards and outwards. She suggested that it be replaced with the new one if a site could not be found at Sweeney.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, provided it was feasible, the new notice board should be installed at the cemetery and the notice board at the cemetery should be moved to Sychtyn Ward.

794/20 Maesbury Bone Works

Cllr. Tony Milner said the roof on the bone works was still in a bad state and asked to defer this discussion until a response from Shropshire Council had been received as to whether it could be listed.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to defer further discussion until a response had been received from Shropshire Council about listing the building.

795/20 Update on Speeding at Coed Y Go

Members received notes from a meeting held on 3 August 2020 attended by Members of the Parish Council's Speeding Working Group and local residents. A discussion took place about what could be done to have a 30mph speed limit introduced and a number of actions were agreed. Another meeting was to be facilitated to discuss future actions.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that local residents should be asked to think about whether they would like a traffic/speed counter to be installed and their response would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

796/20 Speeding at Nantmawr

Members received a petition from local residents at Nantmawr asking the Parish Council to assist in the introduction of a 30mph speed limit. Cllr. Phil May offered to liaise with Llanyblodwell Parish Council since Nantmawr is a split village.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- **The Speeding Working Group should assist with residents' concerns.**
- **Since this Working Group's remit not only encompassed speeding issues the Group should be re-named as the Safer Roads Working Group.**

797/20 Policy Review

Members considered for approval delegating authority to the Clerk to review the Council's policies as required and that only those that needed changes should be considered by the Parish Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Clerk would review policies as necessary and only policies that required changes should be considered by the Parish Council.

798/20 Pollution in the River Morda

Members considered correspondence from local residents concerned that there was pollution in the River Morda.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** to write to Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency and ask whether pollution in the river had increased, decreased or stabilised since it was polluted in 2018 and how the level of pollution compared to other areas.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order number 3(x) to enable the meeting to exceed more than 2 hours.

799/20 Funding

Cllr. Paul Milner advised Members that various community grants were available for communities, including grants from the Environment Agency which must be people led, and funds from the PCC for traffic calming. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Paul Milner would forward details to the Clerk to determine whether the Parish Council was eligible for any of these grants.**

800/20 Consultation

Members considered for approval a response to the following consultation:

a) Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Councillors representing each Ward should put forward their comments to the Clerk who would collate them for a response to be considered and approved at the next meeting.

b) Shropshire Council's draft Housing Strategy

No response.

c) Planning White Paper: Planning for the future

No response.

801/20 Correspondence

Members received the following:

a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.

b) Information concerning the coronavirus.

c) Information from Shropshire Newsroom.

NOTED.

802/20 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

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

○ Local Plan Review consultation response.

○ Offers Dyke footpath through Nantmawr (Cllr. Phil May)

803/20 Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place by Zoom video on Tuesday 29 September 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.

Cllr. John Davies left at this point in the meeting.

804/20 Notice Board at Trefonen

Members considered a quote to varnish the notice board at Trefonen. However, Members were advised that the notice board needed to be sanded down and some repair work carried out before varnishing. It also needed new glass fitted in the doors. Since the cost of remedial work seemed high in comparison to the cost of a new notice board;

it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED:

- **To rescind the decision made earlier at minute number 793/20 and replace the notice board at Trefonen with the new notice board originally meant for installation at Sweeney.**

- **The notice board removed from Trefonen should be kept until a decision could be made about its future.**

805/20 Planning Enforcement

Members **NOTED** a recent planning enforcement case.

806/20 Hand Pump at Aston Square

Members considered for approval quotes for the refurbishment of the hand pump at Aston Square. The pump had been carved from a tree many years ago, before metal pumps were available, and the wood was rotten and not in good enough condition to be varnished. The pump is of historical value and needs to be conserved.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:

- **The quote for works to prolong the life of the pump be accepted at a cost of £970 + VAT and additional costs considered at a future meeting should further work be required.**
- **The Clerk should apply for a grant for the refurbishment of the hand pump.**

The meeting closed at 21:31.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____