

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 25 June 2019
at Rhydycroesau Village Hall

Present:

Chairman Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. Pam Broomby, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Shirley Jones, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Tony Milner, Cllr. Robert Milton.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
Michael Limbrey, Chairman of the "Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust"
8 members of the public

380/19 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and, before continuing with the meeting, he invited Val Smout to receive a trophy in recognition of her being awarded the 2019 Tony Cheetham Community Service Award. Val gave her grateful thanks and then left the meeting.

381/19 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Councillor	Reason
John Davies	Holiday
Bob Kimber	Holiday
Phil May	Illness
Elliot Roberts Jones	Work commitment
Paul Milner	Family commitment

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

382/19 Canal and River Trust

The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust to talk about the work they are doing. The Trust works as a team with the Canal and River Trust to restore parts of the Montgomery canal.

The Montgomery canal is part of a national network and connects to the Llangollen canal. Much of the Montgomery canal is within the parish of Oswestry Rural and includes fantastic wild life and a terrific collection of canal locks and bridges. The canal hosts lots of activities, for example the Welshpool Transport Festival took place on 22 and 23 June 2019 at Welshpool, and the Montgomery Canal Triathlon took place on 18 May 2019 whose participants had travelled many miles. Events like these show off the area. This year the triathlon was being televised by BBC Wales who are preparing four television programmes about the canals of Wales and have brought in Sir Gareth Edwards, a rugby legend who joined in with the activities that were going on around the triathlon.

The Canal and River Trust is currently carrying out restoration work with a project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Contractors have created some large nature reserves by lock 3 at Aston to protect underwater plants and waterside vegetation and volunteers, also supported by the Lottery Fund, are restoring the dry section down to Crickheath basin. The basin itself has been completed by contractors. This has created a further one and a quarter miles of navigable canal, and is significant as far as the restoration is concerned. There are two dry miles through Pant to Llanymynech with one of the obstacles being Schoolhouse Bridge. This bridge was possibly blocked in the 1950s and for the past two years the Trust has been fund raising and designing a project to rebuild the bridge which is entirely volunteer led. The project will take longer but it means that the bridge can be re-built for about a third of the cost than if contractors were appointed.

The project will involve closing Long Lane for a while, although HGV traffic would be provided with a track way so that they can get past the bridge, but domestic traffic would be expected to go around the other way and over Crickheath bridge. The Trust is currently in discussions with Shropshire Council about the details of the bridge's structural design. The volunteers are properly trained and qualified and experienced in working on canal projects nationally. The volunteers would dig out the embankment to form the base for the bridge, the arch of the bridge would be made by contractors, and volunteers would continue once the contractors had completed their work. The appeal for funds is supported by [actors] Prunella Scales and Timothy West.

Mr Limbrey was asked if the Schoolhouse bridge was needed after all these years. Mr Limbrey explained that the canal is dry in that section and the plan is to get boats back to Llanymynech and Welshpool and to provide a road bridge for traffic.

Mr Limbrey was asked how people would cross the A483 to which he said there is a concept that boats would lock down, travel under the road, and lock up on the other side.

Mr Limbrey was informed that fishermen had been disturbing nesting swans at Maesbury and there was now an otter in that vicinity. Mr Limbrey said that if it had been reported to the Canal and River Trust they would deal with any disturbance.

Mr Limbrey was asked about plans for the installation of solar panels alongside the canal at Crickheath. Mr Limbrey said that any extension of solar panels on the towpath side owned by the Canal and River Trust would be concealed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Limbrey for his presentation after which Mr Limbrey left the meeting.

383/19 Local Policing Team Police Report

There was no report from the police.

384/19 Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public said that he lived in Morda and was interested to find information about the differences between the Local Plan and its recent review. He had contacted the local planning department but without success. Cllr. Joyce Barrow offered to contact Shropshire Council on his behalf and ask for the information he required.

385/19 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 28 May 2019 were considered for approval. With the addition of *"...the Trefonen Rural Protection Group would see this as being in the best interests of local people, and would support community led affordable housing in principle subject to it complying with both the Housing Needs Survey and the Village Design Statement"* added to the final sentence in the penultimate paragraph of minute number 356/19, Public Participation;

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

386/19 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.

387/19 Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

388/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None.

389/19 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

19/00243/FUL Pleasant Grove, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach	Proposed single storey link extension, installation of raised deck and external alterations Permission GRANTED 20 June 2019 <i>This was supported by the Parish Council.</i>
19/01328/FUL 1 Belgrave Place, Maesbury Road, Maesbury, Oswestry	Erection of attached garage and single storey extension Permission GRANTED 12 June 2019 <i>No comment from the Parish Council – not notified</i>
19/01619/FUL South View, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry	Extension of two storey extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide ancillary accommodation; creation of new vehicular access; Change of Use of land to domestic curtilage Permission GRANTED 6 June 2019 <i>This was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/01913/REM The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry	Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant of 17/01399/OUT for the erection of one agricultural workers dwelling Permission REFUSED 19 June 2019 <i>The Parish Council would like to see the proposed dwelling located closer to the farm building and assurance that the dwelling will remain as an agricultural works dwelling, and that the development is subject to a S106 agreement.</i>
19/02131/FUL Y Gorian, Trefonen Road, Morda	Erection of a loggia structure to rear and loft conversion to create first floor accommodation Permission GRANTED 7 June 2019 <i>This was supported by the Parish Council</i>

b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/02301/FUL 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Racecourse Road, Oswestry	Erection of part single storey part two storey extensions; alterations to roofline to front and formation of dormer window; elevational alterations. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
19/02329/FUL Moorhouse Farm, Craig- Llwyn, Trefonen, Oswestry	Change of Use of storage (chalet) building to holiday let property; formation of guests car parking/horse box area. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to object until highways issues have been addressed.
19/02343/FUL The Smithy, Craig-Llwyn, Trefonen, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the Change of Use of land to increase garden curtilage to allow for access and erection of a wooden summerhouse to be used as a gym. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
19/02364/FUL 1 Sycamore Fields, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry	Erection of two storey side extension and attached garage. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.
19/02555/VAR Hyde Park Cottage, Little London Lane, Trefonen	Variation of Condition no. 2 (approved plans) pursuant of 17/03324/FUL to allow for the retention of an existing tree. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.

390/19 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 was asked how the land transfer from Shropshire Council was progressing and the Clerk reported that she could find no evidence that the land had been transferred and was still awaiting further details from Shropshire Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk should forward the land transfer email conversation to Cllr. Joyce Barrow who would follow it up with Shropshire Council.

The Clerk informed Members that she was still awaiting confirmation as to their availability for in-house training and the Chairman urged those who had not already done so to respond to the Doodle Poll so that a date could be confirmed.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the training should include “Be a Better Councillor”.

391/19 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 May 2019

Members received income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 May 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 May 2019 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for June 2019

Members considered for approval payments for June 2019.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the following payments for the month of June 2019 be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Sharon Clayton	Salary, expenses and reimbursements for stationery and postage	934.74
HMRC	PAYE/NI	213.82
Came & Company	Insurance	749.72
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
Royce Landscapes	Green space maintenance	918.00
BestHost	Website domain name renewal	75.00
Viking	Stationery	58.25
SALC	Training for councillors	108.00
Kensington House Tax Solutions	Internal audit	90.00
TrophyStore	Trophy for Tony Cheetham Community Service Award	56.99
	TOTAL	3,258.52

c) BACS

Members considered for approval that future payments, where possible, be made by BACS.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that future payments should be made by BACS.

392/19 Personnel Committee

Members considered the appointment of Member to the Personnel Committee following the resignation of Cllr. Arthur Brown.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Janet Barlow be appointed to the Personnel Committee.

393/19 Appointment of Representatives to the following Outside Bodies

a) SALC Oswestry Area.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Peter Richardson be appointed.

b) Emergency Planning Officer

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Tony Milner be appointed.

c) Rhydycroesau Village Hall

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Shirley Jones be appointed.

d) Trefonen and Sychtyn Village Hall

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Pam Broomby be appointed.

e) Trefonen Playing Field Group

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Paul Milner be appointed.

f) Racecourse Management Committee

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Peter Davies be appointed.

g) Morda Village Hall Management Committee

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Robert Milton be appointed.

h) Llynclys Quarry

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Phil May be appointed.

i) Canal and River Trust

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Cllr. Phil May be appointed.

394/19 Annual Report

Members considered for approval a draft Annual Report for the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

a) **Cllr. Paul Milner should be asked to confirm which green spaces he was referring to in his Chairman's Report and, subject to clarification, the Annual Report should be published on the Parish Council's website stating the correct information about the green spaces.**

b) **A newsletter would be published later in the year.**

395/19 Website Accessibility Statement

Members considered for approval a draft Accessibility Statement for the Parish Council's website. However, the Clerk informed Members that the draft was just a starting point and that it was work in progress. The Clerk had enrolled for training to help the Council to prepare to meet the new accessibility guidelines after which the Council would be better placed to approve the final Accessibility Statement.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the draft document was still work in progress and approval should be deferred until the Clerk had received training.

396/19 Notice Boards

a) Members considered for approval a prioritised Notice Board Repair Schedule.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Schedule be approved.

b) Members considered for approval the location of the two new notice boards that were to be provided by "Lights Out Trefonen".

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the notice boards be installed at the locations recommended by "Lights Out Trefonen".

c) Members received information on the types and costs of new metal notice boards.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that quotes be acquired for wooden notice boards.

397/19 Car Boots

Cllr. Les Maguire informed Members that he and Cllr. Paul Milner had discussed the possibility of holding car boot sales at Morda playing fields to help raise funds to support local causes. However, concern had been expressed that if cars parked on the grass it would cause damage. It was proposed to wait until future plans for the redevelopment of Morda Village Hall were better known, and that a women's football team had the potential to bring in new funding.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that other suitable venues should be sought.

398/19 Waen Lane

Cllr. Tony Milner gave Members an update on works being carried out by Amey at Waen Lane. He said that although road closure signs had been installed the road was a no-through road and people were still allowed access. A metal plate was slid across the road for those wishing to leave or return from and to their homes.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that progress of these roadworks should be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

399/19 Maesbury Canal Bridge

Members were informed that, following the Parish Council's request to Shropshire Council asking that traffic passing over the canal bridge at Maesbury be monitored, Shropshire Council had advised that an Automated Traffic Count (ATC) would be required. The Parish Council may request this, and the request would be added to the list. However, there was no available budget at present and, if a budget did become available, requests would be undertaken on a priority basis. However, should the Parish Council wish to fund an ATC the Traffic Team could arrange this at a cost of £600.

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

- a) **Cllr. Joyce Barrow would ask Shropshire Council to monitor the bridge.**
- b) **The matter would be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.**

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

400/19 Councillor Reports

- a) Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow said she had nothing to report.

NOTED.

- b) Cllr. Janet Barlow thanked the Clerk for arranging a bus tour of the parish attended by herself and Councillors Peter Richardson, John Davies, Les Maguire, Bob Kimber and the Clerk. All **AGREED** it had been most beneficial.

NOTED.

401/19 Correspondence

Members received and **NOTED** the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information – emailed to Members.
- b) Invitation to SALC's Annual General Meeting on 15 November 2019.

402/19 Consultation

There was no consultation.

403/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- o The Elms – Cllr. Tony Milner – how will it be monitored?
- o Speeding at Weston Road.
- o Green spaces.
- o Councillor training.

404/19 Date for Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 30 July 2019 at Trefonen Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:24.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman