

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual Parish Council meeting
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 28 July 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. Robert Milton, Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones.

Clerk to the Council:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow
Approximately 23 members of the public

742/20 Chairman's Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone and gave a short briefing on how Zoom video works and how those wanting to speak should raise their hands and keep their microphones muted unless speaking.

743/20 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies as all Members were present.

744/20 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. Whilst three people had expressed an interest only one candidate remained interested, Paul Wiseman. The Chairman invited Mr Wiseman to introduce himself and explain why he would like to join the Parish Council. Mr Wiseman gave a brief resume of his work experience, from which he had learned much, and he felt he had a lot of talent which he thought would be beneficial to the Council. He expressed his concern that Parish Councillors did not engage sufficiently with their electorate. He said there were not enough people putting themselves forward for election and this apathy from lack of communication could lead to the end of the Parish Council so that the parish would be governed by Shropshire Council.

In response to questions from Members Mr Wiseman explained his connection with Shropshire Friends, his concerns about activity at Rhydycroesau quarry and his connection with Rhydycroesau which is the ward to be filled by a co-optee. He said he realised the Parish Council has very little influence with planning applications, but the Council could apply more scrutiny.

The Chairman asked Members to vote and with 2 votes in favour of Mr Wiseman being co-opted to the Parish Council, 10 votes against and one abstention **it was RESOLVED that Mr Wiseman should not be co-opted to the Parish Council.**

745/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

This was not necessary.

746/20 Police Report

There was no report from the police.

747/20 Shropshire Councillor Report

Cllr. Joyce Barrow gave the following update:

- There had been a lot of interest in the draft Local Plan from various communities and Shropshire Council had decided to run one more round of consultation during the summer. Formal consultation would take place later in the year before approval by the Council.
- A number of local people had raised issues about farm vehicles in the parish and the damage they were causing to verges and the danger to other road users. Cllr. Barrow had asked her Committee officer to research what other councils were doing in similar circumstances and Shropshire Council would be examining other council's policies to see how they deal with this issue. She hoped to have a report for her Committee by 3 September 2020.
- In response to the government's policy statement on the extension of permitted development rights a wider range of commercial buildings would be able to have a Change of Use without applying for planning permission. Builders would no longer need a normal planning application to re-build vacant and redundant residential and commercial buildings if they re-build as residential homes. Property owners would be able to build additional space above their properties by a fast track approval process subject to neighbour consultation.

NOTED.

748/20 Public Participation

One member of the public referred to items discussed at the last Parish Council meeting in June. She expressed disappointment that the adjoining property to Crickheath water pump had registered the water pump as being within their property. She said the water pump was an historical feature that should not be lost. She also referred to the lease with the Parish Council and Morton Playing Field which ended in 2007. The playing field is not owned by the church, it belongs to the people and its trustees are the churchwardens of the PCC acting ex officio.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should ask the Council's solicitor to investigate fully whether the water pump at Crickheath had indeed been registered with the neighbouring property as its location was clearly outside of the curtilage of the neighbouring property.

One member of the public had previously spoken at the last Parish Council meeting and had submitted a series of questions to the Council which the Clerk had responded to. He asked how best the Council could work with members of the public in an effective and efficient 2-way communication and he hoped that the Council would come up with some ideas so that there was more interaction between the Council and the local community.

The member of the public was informed that this was to be discussed later in the meeting.

One member of the public expressed concern about Fairhaven Camping and the newly acquired exemption certificate which allowed a camp site to be set up without planning permission. He had complained to Freedom Camping who said they had sent a letter to the neighbouring property of the campsite. Freedom Camping had informed that due diligence had been carried out to which he disagreed because none of the neighbours had been advised. The issue had been raised with Shropshire Council but without a positive response. He said there was a lot of noise from the site which was disturbing the neighbourhood. Natural England had granted the licence and local residents were looking for support from the Parish Council to ask Shropshire Council to issue an Article 4 Directive, which would remove the permitted development and force the campsite to submit a planning application. Complaints had also been made to Natural England about Freedom Camping Club who had issued the exemption certificates.

The member of the public was informed that this was to be discussed later in the meeting.

749/20 Minutes

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 30 June 2020 were considered for approval.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, following an amendment at minute no: 736/21 to amend 'Treflach' to read 'Trefonen', the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

750/20 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

- a) 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
Robert Milton	Trustee and Chairman of Morda with Sweeney Village Hall Trust.
Peter Richardson	Neighbour of Fairhaven camp site.

- b) Members considered the case raised by Paul Wiseman at the last meeting against Councillors John Davies, Paul Milner and Robert Milton at which he alleged that they had not registering an interest as legally obliged to do.

Concern was expressed about how this item had appeared on the agenda and how it might have prejudiced the co-option of Paul Wiseman.

NOTED.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Parish Council acknowledges that the investigation had been concluded and that no criminal offence had been committed.

751/20 Dispensations

None requested.

752/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared.

753/20 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

20/01605/FUL Blackthorn fishery, Ty Canol, Trefonen, Oswestry	Change of Use of agricultural land for the creation of commercial fishing pool; erection of log cabin; formation of access track and car park with all associated works. Permission GRANTED 21 July 2020. <i>The Parish Council supported this application.</i>
20/01780/FUL Summerhill, Trefonen, Oswestry	Erection of 3-bay two storey building to be used as open fronted garage, hay/feed store, first floor office/store with external staircase and dormer windows. Permission GRANTED 24 July 2020. The Parish Council supported this application.
20/01748/VAR Black Country Metal Works Ltd., Whitehall Farm, Queens Head, Oswestry	Variation of Condition No. 2 attached to planning permission 18/02657/FUL to allow further time to enable implementation of highway improvements. Permission GRANTED 21 July 2020. <i>The Parish Council objected to any time extension for improvements to the existing vehicular access as 12 months had already passed since permission for the original application was granted on 3 May 2019. The applicant has already had one year to negotiate with Highways England about putting highways improvements in place and the site should remain closed until these works are complete. Furthermore, this site should not be used for COVID-19 testing due to concerns about public safety with vehicles exiting onto the busy A5, especially as there are alternative sites available for COVID-19 testing which are more appropriate and safer.</i>

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

20/02511/VAR Quarry House, Nantmawr, Oswestry	Removal of Condition no: 8 (occupancy) attached to planning permission 15/00592/FUL dated 25/09/2015 to allow the holiday let to be used as a permanent residence. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support.
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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 of property. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.
Fairhaven Camping and Glamping, Maesbury	Exemption certificates for caravans, motorhomes and tents for 365 days per year. The Chairman, having declared a pecuniary interest, left the meeting and the Deputy Chairman, Cllr. Phil May chaired the following discussion. Cllr. Phil May informed the meeting that Cllr. Tony Milner would be speaking on behalf of local residents concerning the camp site because he had more detailed information. Cllr. Tony Milner informed the meeting that the Parish Council should object to this application and ask Shropshire Council to invoke Article 4 to rescind the 28-day permitted development and insist that a planning application be submitted. The camp site submitted planning application 18/03926/FUL in 2018 and this was withdrawn due to complaints from local residents. Freedom Camping Club had granted the licence via Natural England without actually visiting the site and had wrongly identified a nearby property as Ashfield Farmhouse and said they had been contacted. However, this property is some way down the road from the campsite and the property that is near to the camp site had not been contacted. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council should write to planning enforcement at Shropshire Council asking to invoke Article 4 to rescind the 28-day permitted development and force a planning application on Fairhaven Camping and Glamping. The Chairman returned to the meeting.

c) Planning Appeals

The following Planning Appeal was **NOTED**:

20/02834/REF Land west of Morda Mill, Morda Bank, Morda	Outline application (all matters reserved) for residential development (12 apartments) to include removal of trees (19/04328/OUT) <i>The parish council had no objection to this application provided that environmental matters are taken into consideration and that the trees are retained for environmental purposes. Trees provide visual amenity and help counteract global warming. The council is also mindful that there should be sufficient school places for any children moving into any new properties.</i> NOTED.
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d) Stopping Up Order

The following Stopping Up Order was **NOTED**:

End of access track from Middleton Road, Oswestry Rural, Ball	Proposed stopping up of Highway OS Grid Reference: E:331220, N:328428. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that although Members understand the reason for the stopping up the Parish Council would not normally wish to see any footpath or track extinguished and that all rights of way should be kept.
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754/20 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:

- The Oswestry Advertiser had confirmed that it would publish details about grant applications and the Tony Cheetham Community Service Award.
- Works to engrave the name of William Carpenter on the War Memorial at Maesbury had been delayed due to lockdown and the person who does the lettering was caring for his mother. However, the Stone Mason had given assurance that the work would be done as agreed.

NOTED.

755/20 Financial Matters

a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations

Members considered for approval income and expenditure and bank reconciliations up to 30 June 2020.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 30 June 2020 be APPROVED.

b) Payments for July 2020

Members considered for approval payments for July 2020.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Scottish Power	Street lighting electricity	247.84
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
HMRC	PAYE/NI	201.61
Viking	Stamps and stationery	191.27
Silver Marbles	Website security	126.00
Silver Marbles	Annual email hosting	90.00
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	540.00
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	1019.26
	TOTAL	2469.98

756/20 Councillor Emails

Members considered for approval whether the Council should upgrade the storage for Councillor emails.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the service should be upgraded at a cost of £175 per year plus approx. £90 for the transfer (approx. 3 hours at £30 per hour).

757/20 Morda Village Hall

Members received information concerning the ownership of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall although the information was unclear.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the information should be presented to Lanyon Bowdler to help determine the ownership of Morda and Sweeney Village Hall.

758/20 Rescission of Decision

At a Parish Council meeting held on 26 May 2020 (minute no: 690/20[b]) it was resolved to earmark £92,000 towards the cost of re-building a community facility in Morda subject to clarification of ownership of the building.

The Council's Standing Order no: 7 states that *"A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except... by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least three councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9..."*

It was therefore requested by Councillors Pam Broomby, Martin Jones and Tony Milner, that this decision be rescinded due to insufficient information being available at the time.

As the Chairman of the Management Committee Cllr. Robert Milton explained that there were no plans to build 5 affordable homes and any future plans to re-develop the village hall would be subject to public consultation.

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.**

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the decision to earmark £92,000 towards the cost of re-building a community facility in Morda should not be rescinded.

Cllr. Robert Milton abstained from the vote.

759/20 Spiggots Bridge

Members were informed that Spiggots Bridge (no: 80) at Coed-y-Rae Lane, Maesbury Marsh, had been listed as Grade II.

NOTED.

760/20 Questions from a Member of the Public

At the last meeting a member of the public informed Members that he had sent questions to the Parish Council via the Clerk concerning speeding in Coed y Go, development plans at Trefarclwdd Farm, and the Parish Council's processes and procedures. He had asked these questions to be forwarded to Councillors for a response either at that meeting or in writing after the meeting and asked for these questions to be included on the agenda at the meeting in July 2020.

The Clerk had responded to these questions on behalf of the Parish Council and Members agreed they were satisfied with the Clerk's response.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the member of the public could ask further questions of the Council if he felt it necessary.

761/20 Update on Speeding

- a) Members **NOTED** that the 30mph speed limit was now in force at Weston Road from its junction with the B5069 Morda Bank to its junction with the unclassified Maesbury Road. Concern was expressed that the road had recently been resurfaced and covered over the existing 30mph road markings, which had to be repainted.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked to provide costings for painting the speed limit before the road was resurfaced, the cost of resurfacing, and the cost of repainting the speed limit.

- b) Members received an update on speeding at Coed Y Go and Weston Road from the Speeding Working Group.

It was NOTED that a Zoom meeting had been scheduled to take place with the Working Group and local residents on 3 August 2020 at 7pm.

It was AGREED that Cllr. Joyce Barrow should be asked if she had been able to confirm whether Coed Y Go was classed as a village.

- c) Members considered for approval a response to a member of the public concerning speeding at Nantmawr. This had been an ongoing problem for several years. Shropshire Council had said there was no funding available and explained why speeding could not be enforced. However, it was suggested that signage might help to slow traffic and this should be pursued.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the resident should be informed about the Safer Weston initiative which was eventually successful in the introduction of a 30mph speed limit in Weston.

762/20 Update on VAS

Cllr. John Davies informed Members that Shropshire Council was still waiting for Keir to install the VAS bases so that the company supplying the VAS could install them.

NOTED.

763/20 Urban Tree Challenge

Members considered for approval submitting an application for free trees as part of the Urban Tree Challenge. However, suitable sites would need to be decided before any trees could be purchased.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. Pam Broomby and Cllr. John Davies should procure trees for the parish.

764/20 CIL Funds

Members considered for approval what CIL funds were available for spending within the parish.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this should be considered further at a future meeting.

765/20 Affordable Housing

a) Members considered for approval a response to Shropshire Council's definition of affordable dwellings.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked what its current policy was for the countryside.

b) Members considered for approval a response to proposals for a small affordable development at Trefonen.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Star Housing should be asked to facilitate a public meeting with local residents where development plans and housing type and mix could be discussed.

766/20 Notice Board at Sweeney

Members considered for approval a suitable site for the installation of a new notice board at Sweeney.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.

767/20 Notice board at Nantmawr

Following a complaint from a local resident at Nantmawr Members considered re-locating the newly installed notice board at Nantmawr. The original site where the previous notice board had been sited was no longer suitable, so another site had been found. However, a local resident objected to its siting.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the notice board should remain in place.

768/20 Maesbury Bone Works

Cllr. Tony Milner informed the meeting that he had approached the owner of the bone works and asked if he could go inside and take photos but had not had any response.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to consider this further at the next meeting.

769/20 Policy Review

a) Members considered for approval the reviewed Subject access Request Procedure including its appendices.

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

b) Members considered for approval the reviewed Record Management Policy.

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

c) Members considered for approval the reviewed Information Request Policy.

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

770/20 Consultation

Members considered for approval a response to the following consultation:

a) Local Government Association consultation on a new Member Code of Conduct

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED not to respond.

b) Local Plan Review

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** to consider a response at the next meeting.

c) Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** to accept the Plan as drafted.

771/20 Correspondence

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.
- b) Information concerning the coronavirus.
- c) Information from Shropshire Newsroom.
- d) Briefing note on CIL allocations.

NOTED.

772/20 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

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

- o Speeding at Coed Y Go.
- o Fairhaven camp site.
- o Varnishing of Trefonen notice board.

773/20 Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place by Zoom video on Tuesday 25 August 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.

774/20 Hand Pump at Aston Square

Members considered for approval a quote for the refurbishment of the hand pump at Aston Square. The wood was rotten and not in good enough condition to be varnished.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** that other quotes should be sought.

775/20 Planning Enforcement

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

The meeting closed at 22:02.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____