

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY**

**3172. WELCOME**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

**3173 PRESENT**

Councillors Dr C Stevenson - Chairman, M Lowndes, R Madeley, A Richards and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

Clerk C Maclean

Members of Public: 1

**3174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies noted from Councillors A Dixon and E Riley. No apologies received but absence of Councillors P Bodimeade and Ms A Henderson noted.

**3175. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3176. PUBLIC SESSION**

No issues or questions raised.

Mr N Green introduced himself and commented on his interest in the role of Clerk to the Council. Mr Green advised of his local connection and background.

Following a discussion on the requirements of the role, Mr Green confirmed his interest and would seek to follow up on his interest prior to the application deadline.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Mr Green who left the meeting.

**3177. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 15 JANUARY 2024**

Councillor M Lowndes objected to some of the wording in item 3165. Following discussion it was agreed to remove the wording "response raising" and issue amended Minutes.

**Subject to the amendment Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor R Madeley seconded that the amended Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 January 2024 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

**3178. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of the following:

**3178a. South Shropshire Area Committee:** Councillors noted the upcoming meeting on 22 February where there would be a presentation on Planning Enforcement by Shropshire Council.

Councillors were encouraged to attend.

Councillors also noted there was discussion planned on the potential closure of Craven Arms Fire Station.

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised his interest in attending and Councillor A Richards noted his interest.

- 3178b. **Annual Assembly:** Councillors considered possible Friday evening dates in April for the Parish Assembly. 12 April was considered to be a preferred date although it was noted that Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley had a potential conflict with that date. It was agreed that enquiries be made on the potential for the date and whether Rushbury School pupils would be available to attend and present.
- 3178c. **Joint Meeting With Eaton Under Heywood/Hope Bowdler Parish Council:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that he waited to hear back from Councillor G Watts following his absence on holiday.
- 3178d. **SALC Executive Meeting:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of recent meeting when a presentation was received from Beverley Baxter. CEO Oil Buyer Scheme. Councillors noted that Shropshire Councillor G Butler was now the SALC liaison.
- 3178e. **Shropshire Archives:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted that contact had not yet been made with the Archives team in Shrewsbury in relation to them receiving historic documents from the Parish Council. Councillors noted there were currently two bundles; one held by Rushbury Records Trust and the other with the Clerk. Councillors agreed that Councillor Dr C Stevenson proceed to review what records may be of interest to the Archives and that the Clerk support where required.  
**Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor R Madeley seconded that Councillor Dr C Stevenson contact the Archives team and agree what documents may be handed over.** Councillors noted that key Council documentation would remain in the possession of the Clerk.
- 3178f. **Land surrounding Village Hall:** Councillors noted the desire to combine the ownership of the land. Councillors noted that legal advice would be required to identify the process to achieve this. Councillors noted that by transfer of ownership, responsibility for maintenance may no longer lie with the Parish Council but that grant support may be possible to help fund this. It was agreed that a tripartite meeting between the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and the Millennium Green Trust be held.
3179. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**  
Councillors noted the resignation of Councillor T Flashman on 1 February 2024. It was noted that the public notice period would expire on 4 March 2024. Councillors noted the continued absence of Councillor Ms A Henderson and that she would shortly reach the six month absence limit.
3180. **CLERK RECRUITMENT**  
Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised that there had been initial interest in the position but this had not been followed through. Councillors noted the interest from Mr Green. The closing date for applications of 11 March 2024 was noted. Councillors Dr C Stevenson and A Richards agreed to form the recruitment panel with support from either Councillor R Madeley or M Lowndes. Councillor M Lowndes raised the possibility of advertising the role on the Indeed site but cost was unknown. Councillor A Richards noted that local interest in the role was to be encouraged.

**3181. PLANNING**

**3181a. Planning Applications Received:**

Councillors noted receipt on 17 February 2024 of the proposed agricultural building for storage of machinery at Egremont Farm, Longville In The Dale (24/00410/AGR). Councillors noted that the advice from Shropshire Council was for information only and that no decision was required from the Parish Council.

**3181b. Planning Decisions Advised**

Councillors noted no advice on decisions by Shropshire Council had been received since the previous meeting.

**3182. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**3182a. Current Finances:** Councillors noted the funds currently being held in the bank accounts.

**3182b. Invoices for Payment:** Councillors noted the following invoices that would require payment:

- a Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd for £7.20
- b Tivoli Services Group Ltd for £168.19
- c Rushbury Village Hall for £16.50

**Councillor R Madeley proposed, Councillor A Richards seconded and it was resolved the payments be made.**

**3183. PARISH SURVEY PRIORITIES**

Councillors noted the contribution from Councillor A Dixon for inclusion in the Honeypot magazine. Councillors agreed that this be used for the next edition.

**3184. ROAD SAFETY WITHIN PARISH**

Councillors noted the advice from Shropshire Council that the parish and road safety was on the map for review. Advice had been received that projects to improve safety should be included in the Place Plan.

**3185. PLACE PLAN**

Councillors noted that production of the Place Plan for Church Stretton and surrounding parishes was still awaited. It was also noted that advice on the replacement for Ms V Turner was awaited. Councillors agreed the desire to meet the new Place Plan Officer.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:19pm.

Councillors noted key items to be added in the Place Plan should include (i) 20mph limit on Rushbury; (ii) pedestrian safety improvement in the narrow lane between Wall Under Heywood and Rushbury; and (iii) pavement opposite the Village Hall.

**3186. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of the following:

**3186a. Shropshire Council Financial Status:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised that Shropshire Council had achieved considerable savings despite the pressures of adult and

child social care costs. Concern was shared in the view that numbers requiring support was increasing resulting in further increases in costs.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors that the Government appeared to be aware of the situation but no evidence seen of a solution.

Councillors noted that Shropshire Council required to find savings of £62m in the coming year. Areas being considered for cuts include (i) libraries; (ii) leisure; (iii) reduction of recycling centres with Councillors noting the risk of increased fly tipping; (iv) green waste collection charge, although it was noted there was the opportunity to opt out; and (v) acceleration of move out of Shirehall to multi-agency hub.

3186b. **Child Education:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors that Shropshire Council were reassessing the process to ensure children went to school.

3186c. **Rural Transport:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised that the Government had expressed interest in Shropshire and the challenges faced with rural transport. A visit from representatives of the Government was expected in coming days.

3186d. **Joint Parish Projects:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley agreed with Councillors the merits of working with adjoining Parish Councils to investigate joint projects that would address gaps within the parishes.

3186e. **Rushbury Parish Assembly:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted the proposal to hold the Assembly on 12 April subject to the main hall being available. An invitation would be extended to the pupils of Rushbury School.

Councillors expressed appreciation to Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley who gave her apologies and left the meeting at 8:47pm.

#### 3187. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None, other than the communications received from SALC, NALC and Rural Services Network.

#### 3188. **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

3188a. **Village Hall:** Councillors noted that as a result of the resignation from Council of T Flashman, an alternative member of the Parish Council would be required for the Village Hall Committee. It was noted that this would be addressed at the AGM in May.

Councillors noted that Councillor A Dixon was a reserve member and enquiries would be made to see if he could cover the next two months.

3188b. **Millennium Green and Playground:** Councillors noted that a tidy up was scheduled for the following weekend.

3188c. **The Plough Inn:** Councillors noted there was no update on the current situation.

#### 3189. **PARISH MATTERS**

3189a. **Potholes Reporting on FixMyStreet:** Councillor A Richards shared with Councillors concerns over Shropshire Council's reporting package and whilst automated messages of acknowledgement were received there appeared to be no reports on progress.

It was agreed that the matter be referred to Mr A Keyland at Shropshire Council.

3189b. **Longville Hedging:** Councillor noted that an update was awaited.

**3190. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

- a Parish Council Risk Assessment
- b Clerk Recruitment
- c To advise Clerk of items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda.

**3191. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday 18 March 2024

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

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Chairman

Date: 18 March 2024

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