

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2022 AT 8:00PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY**

The meeting commenced at 7:30pm for the public session with Police Inspector Nicola Roberts present. Inspector Roberts advised Councillors that she was following up on the attendance at the previous meeting of Council by PCSO Julia St John.

Inspector Roberts advised Councillors that she had reviewed the Police records and observed that in October there had been 11 calls compared to 23 in September. In context, the view was that crime was down in the Parish, compared to other locations but it was acknowledged this only related to incidents reported to the Police.

The message to members of the public continued to be to report incidents, where possible. It was acknowledged that there are local WhatsApp groups and Inspector Roberts advised that these channels were monitored but that the Police would not respond to anything via that medium. They simply track, note and react to the messages when on duty.

Councillors acknowledged the challenges presented to the Police in light of the strain on resources.

Councillors expressed their thanks and appreciation for Inspector Roberts attending the meeting and she expressed her apologies and left the meeting at 7:45pm.

Following the departure of Inspector Roberts, 20 parishioners joined the meeting.

A number of residents expressed their disappointment, concerns and objections to the planning application submitted to Shropshire Council for the change of use from public house to additional residential accommodation at The Plough Inn, Wall Under Heywood. Concerns were shared over the level of effort of the applicants to maintain the business and the quality and accuracy of information that appeared to have been submitted to Shropshire Council. Residents declared their knowledge of offers being made to purchase the business, but these had been rebuffed.

Councillors noted the concerns raised and advised residents that they should register their views with Shropshire Council via the Planning Portal. Councillors emphasised that any objections raised had to be factual and related to the planning application itself, as the Planning Officer cannot consider any unrelated views. It was also emphasised that the greater the number of comments, the more that Shropshire Council officers would take these into account.

Residents expressed their appreciation for Councillors receiving their views and comments and left the meeting at 8:20pm.

**2871. WELCOME**

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

**2872. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors P Bodimeade, T Flashman, M McFarland and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

2873. **PRESENT**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson - Chairman, Councillors A Dixon, Ms A Henderson, M Pye and A Richards.

Clerk C Maclean.

Members of the Public: 20

Police Inspector Nicola Roberts

2874. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

2875. **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor A Dixon seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 September 2022 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

2876. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised that he had been contacted by Councillor M McFarland who himself had been contacted by the previous Clerk, a neighbour to the residents at The Old Parlour, Lushcott. These residents had stated concerns over the status and timing of the progress of the planning application relating to their property and lack of clarity over the position of the Planning Officer in terms of decision making. It was agreed that this item be raised with Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

2877. **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that following the previous meeting the Letter of Potential Local Connection had been provided to the applicant.

The Clerk advised that following the resignation of Councillor G Gough, the relevant notice had been posted allowing residents to register their interest in whether a bye-election should be held. Advices on the outcome of that were awaited from Shropshire Council.

2878. **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Request for Financial Support Towards the Cost of the School Defibrillator:** Councillor M Pye advised that the defibrillator had been sourced and installed at the school. He also advised Councillors that there was now a requirement for schools in England to maintain defibrillators on their premises.

Councillors noted that the defibrillator had been sourced on a lease arrangement with maintenance contract at a cost of approximately £500 per annum.

Councillors noted that whilst the pupil/school council had made the decision to proceed with the installation, they were still seeking funding towards the costs. Councillors agreed to defer the decision of any support to the next meeting.

2879. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Due to the absence of Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley no update on recent events of interest to the parish was available.

**2880. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson reminded Councillors of the previous discussions with the Chairman and a number of Councillors of Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council over the merits of the two Councils merging.

Councillors considered the merits and potential benefits of a combined parish.

Councillors recognised the importance of parishioners being given the opportunity to express their views and this would be available at the next Annual Parish Assembly in April/May 2023.

Councillors reviewed the points for merger set out in the proposal document.

**Councillor M Pye proposed, Councillor A Dixon seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Council resolve to merge with Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council and that subject to similar resolution from Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council, the merger proposition be submitted to Shropshire Council for their consideration.**

**2881. PLACE PLAN**

The Clerk advised Councillors that he had received no further communication from Shropshire Council and he would seek to progress this.

**2882. PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY**

Councillors noted the previous agreement to a joint meeting with Councillors at Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council. This had still to be progressed and checks would be made to identify whether there was general agreement to meet and progress this.

**2883. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

The Clerk advised Councillors that he still awaited a response from Shropshire Council Highways team on the proposal to meet and discuss the planned locations for the speed indicator devices. Attempts would be made to progress this matter.

**2884. LAND AROUND THE VILLAGE HALL**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that feedback was awaited from Councillor T Flashman on the outcome of discussions with the Village Hall Committee.

Councillors noted that there appeared to be interest by the Village Hall Committee in taking over responsibility for the tennis/ballcourt.

Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted that the title deeds contained clauses that needed review such as the maintenance of a stock fence behind the tennis/ballcourt which pre-existed the current setup.

**2885. PLANNING**

**Planning Application received for:**

2885a. 22/04358/COU (validated 03/10/2022): The Plough Inn, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DS.

Proposal: Change of use of public house to additional residential accommodation.

**Decision: Object.**

2885b. 22/04486/FUL (validated: 04/10/2022): Brook House, Wall Bank, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DR

Proposal: Retrospective change of use from farmland to residential land, new detached garage/office and first floor bedroom extension to existing dwelling

This is a replacement submission for a withdrawn application 22/03814/FUL Brook House Wall Bank Wall under Heywood and request that the council's validation team carry the existing fee over from the fee to be paid.

**Decision: No objection to planning application but Councillors shared concerns over the post box that had been installed at the property. It created impression that it was a facility for placing mail in for collection by the Post Office and siting of this was at a dangerous point for drivers. It was agreed that this matter be checked out.**

#### 2885c. Planning Decisions

Ref:22/03535/REM (validated 01/08/2022): Proposed Agricultural Workers Dwelling SW of Upper Stanway, Rushbury, Shropshire

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) in pursuance of outline planning permission 21/02085/OUT for the erection of an agricultural manager/workers dwelling

**Decision: Grant Permission**

#### 2886. FINANCIAL REPORT

2886a. **Current Finances:** Councillors noted the balances on the Council's accounts.

Community Account at 02.10.2022	£1,381.44
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Deposit Account at 01.10.2022	£10,002.07
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#### 2886b. Invoices to Pay October

Rushbury Village Hall (3416)	£15.00
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Clerk Salary	£250.00
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**Councillor A Dixon proposed, Councillor M Pye seconded and it was resolved the payments be made.**

#### 2886c. Letter from HMRC

The Clerk advised Councillors that a letter had been received from HMRC advising of a £100.00 penalty due to non-returns of RTIs which related to salary payments. This was being appealed.

#### 2887. COUNCIL LAPTOP

The Clerk advised Councillors that the performance of the council laptop was really poor and that following discussions with IT support, nothing further could be done to enhance it without it being economically unviable.

Councillors considered the replacement of the laptop.

**Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor Ms A Henderson seconded and it was resolved that the Clerk proceed with the purchase of a replacement laptop and that a sum of £700 be set aside to cover the costs.**

**2888. OLD DATED COUNCIL RECORDS**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that a considerable amount of old dated council records was in the possession of the Parish Council as well as the Rushbury & District Records Trust. These had been reviewed and there may be the opportunity to deposit them with Shropshire Archives.

Councillors agreed that this matter be left with the Chairman and the Clerk to agree which documents be retained by the Council and which could be passed on to Shropshire Archives.

**2889. CLIMATE ACTION/CLIMATE CHANGE**

Councillors agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

**2890. NALC/SLCC CIVILITY AND RESPECT PROJECT**

Councillors agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

**2891. RURAL VILLAGE SERVICES GROUP**

Councillors agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

**2892. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

None raised.

**2893. PARISH MATTERS**

Councillors that the side of the B4371 at the foot of Wall Bank was consistently covered in water which appeared to be coming from land further up. Concern was raised that there was a smell which suggested that there may be a leakage of waste.

The Clerk agreed to raise this with Shropshire Council Highways.

**2894. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

- a) Celebration of Coronation
- b) Budget for 2023/2024
- c) To advise Clerk of items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda

**2895. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday 21 November 2022

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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Chairman

Date: 21 November 2022