

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY

3123. WELCOME

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

3124 PRESENT

Councillors Dr C Stevenson - Chairman, P Bodimeade, A Dixon, T Flashman, M Lowndes, R Madeley, A Richards and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

Clerk C Maclean

Members of Public: 0

3125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and noted from Councillors Ms A Henderson and E Riley.

3126. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3127. PUBLIC SESSION

No issues raised.

3128. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 16 OCTOBER 2023

Councillor T Flashman proposed, Councillor M Lowndes seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 October 2023 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

3129. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of the following:

- 3129a. SALC AGM:** Councillors noted the membership had voted for an increase in the affiliation fee and that the increase appeared to be greater for smaller parish councils compared to larger parish and town councils. Councillors shared concerns over the increase without what appeared to be credible reasons to substantiate these and to detail the impact on reserves and what these reserves were being held for. Concerns were also expressed in relation to what appeared to be a lack of transparency over the budgetary requirements of SALC. Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that the topic had been discussed at the SALC Executive Committee and that the consensus at that forum was to support the increase. **Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillor T Flashman seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to SALC expressing the concerns discussed with request that future actions ensure greater transparency for all members.**

- 3129b. Chairs Meeting:** Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of the recent Chairs meeting where discussion took place on (i) road signs report which is awaited; (ii) neighbourhood plans and their effectiveness in terms of recognition by Shropshire Council.

3129c. **Peter Tipton:** Councillors noted with sadness the recent passing of Peter Tipton. It was agreed that condolences be sent to the family with appreciation for the work that Peter undertook on behalf of the parish.

3130. **CLERK'S REPORT**

3130a. **OPCC Town and Parish Council Survey Results:** The Clerk noted the survey results that had been shared prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that he would extend an invite to the local Police representatives to the next meeting of Council.

3130b. **Tree Planting and Woodland Creation:** Councillors noted the latest initiative promoted by Shropshire Council.

3131. **PLANNING**

3131a. **Planning Applications received:**

Councillors noted no applications had been received since the previous meeting.

3131b. **Planning Decisions advised**

Reference: 23/04224/FUL (validated: 05/10/2023): Blockley, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DU.

Proposal: Extension of single storey extension and conversion of garage into self-contained annex accommodation ancillary to dwelling.

Shropshire Council Decision: Grant Permission

3131c. **Planning Decisions advised**

Reference: 23/04362/FUL (validated: 13/10/2023): The Old Parlour, Lushcott, Easthope, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6EE.

Proposal: Alterations and extensions to dwelling (revised scheme).

Shropshire Council Decision: Grant Permission

3132. **ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT**

Councillors noted the initial advice from Shropshire Council that the Environmental Maintenance Grant may be available for the next year. Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of previous experience where the Parish Council had not proceeded with the grant and scheme but questioned whether it would be appropriate to reconsider that approach and now seek funding.

Councillors noted that if the scheme remained as current, the maximum level of funding may be £1,500 but this required to be match funded by the Parish Council.

The scope of work that may be undertaken was considered by Councillors and it was noted that this related to side lanes and not the main highway through the parish.

Councillors considered the potential costs of securing a contractor and the tools required to support the work that may be undertaken.

Following discussion, Councillors considered it appropriate to defer any discussions on committing to the scheme.

3133. **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted with Councillors the recent meeting with Councillors from Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council along with Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley when it was identified that the team at Shropshire Council could not support

any merger of parish councils until 2025. This was due to the effort to review, identify and address the impact of the parliamentary and ward boundary changes.

Councillors noted the encouragement from Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley for the two councils to identify opportunities to work together to address common issues.

Councillors noted the merits of sharing the Rushbury parish survey with Councillors at Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler.

Councillors noted the proposed change by the Local Boundary Commission for the Cardington parish to be moved from the Burnell ward to Corvedale. Councillors considered the merits of reaching out to the Cardington Councillors to have similar discussions on common issues which were merited by the fact that Cardington is one of the four parishes within the scope of the Honey-pot parish magazine.

3134. **PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY**

Councillors noted the conclusion of the parish survey and expressed thanks to Councillor M Lowndes for his effort in compiling the survey and results. Councillors noted the good level of response and the variety of comments. Councillors agreed next steps be to agree the priorities that had been identified within the survey and that these be fed through to a parish plan update.

Councillors noted that speed of traffic through the villages was a key concern and discussion followed on the options that may be available to address this issue. The options of installation of speed indicator devices and lower speed limits were considered and the Clerk reminded Councillors of the report that had been provided to Councillors following the Clerk's meeting with Mr Nick Newton of Shropshire Council Highways and the tour around the parish to review speeding and safety issues.

Councillors agreed that further research be undertaken on the merits of speed indicator devices where these would be effective and funding towards these.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:25pm.

3135. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of the following:

3135a. **Shropshire Council Finances:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised that the team at Shropshire Council continue to work to address the financial deficit. Further work is required to identify savings towards £21m in the current financial year without impacting human resources.

Councillors noted that Shropshire Council had been requested by the Government to take in 200 hundred Afghan refugees. Work was being done to identify how best to meet the requirements of housing, access to medical facilities and schooling and the costs of supporting this.

3135b. **Social Care:** Councillors noted that in view of the changes to the season, medical teams faced the challenges of dealing with managing patients through the healthcare system. Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors that the relationship with the Integrated Care Board had achieved a level of mutual understanding and that progress was expected towards improving this.

- 3135c. **Rural Affairs:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised that there appeared to be a shift in attitude by the Government towards rural communities which showed some support compared to the previous focus on urban areas.
- 3135d. **Highways Funding:** Councillors noted the proposal by the Government to refocus some of the previously proposed spending on HS2 towards funding of local highways initiatives. This included central funding towards the Shrewsbury bypass. The question whether this would be followed through was being considered.

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised of the earlier discussion of reaching out to the Cardington parish to discuss issues of similar concern. Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley agreed that an informal approach and discussion would be merited.

Councillors expressed appreciation to Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley who gave her apologies and left the meeting at 8:50pm.

3136. **PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY (CONTINUED)**

Following the departure of Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley Councillors returned to the topic of the Parish Plan and Survey. Councillors noted that an agreement of the priorities a discussion with Ms Vicky Turner of Shropshire Council would be merited to consider how best these be placed and progressed within the Place Plan.

Councillors agreed that the summary be placed on the Council website and details would be placed in the Honey-pot magazine in its next edition. Prior to its edition details would be placed on the Honey-pot Facebook.

Councillor Dr C Stevenson raised with Councillors the question of progressing with an update to the Parish Plan. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting of Council. Councillor Dr C Stevenson suggested it would be useful to be in a position to present the topic and a plan at the Annual Assembly.

Councillors agreed to progress the discussions on the priorities online prior to the next meeting.

Councillors considered the formation of a sub-group to consider the points raised in relation to the traffic issues.

3137. **KEY COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION: STANDING ORDERS**

The Clerk advised the Chairman that he considered Councillors required further time to consider the contents of the Standing Orders prior to these being adopted.

It was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

3138. **KEY COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION: FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Councillors considered the contents of the updated Financial Regulations.

Councillor A Dixon proposed, Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the updated Financial Regulations be adopted.

3139. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

3139a. **Current Finances:** Councillors noted the funds currently being held in the bank accounts.

3139b. **Invoices for Payment:** Councillors noted the payments requiring payment:

Tivoli Group Ltd for October 2023 at £168.19

Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd for October at £7.20

Rushbury Village Hall for £16.50

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

3139c. **2024/2025 Expenditure and Precept:** Councillors noted details of projected expenditure and Precept would be forwarded for consideration in advance of the next meeting of Council.

3140. **ROAD SAFETY WITHIN PARISH**

Councillors noted the topic had been covered earlier in the meeting.

3141. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

3142. **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

3142a. **Village Hall:** Councillors noted the replacement of the Hall's windows and doors. Councillor T Flashman advised Councillors that the Village Hall Committee were investigating the installation of an air source heat pump.

Councillors noted that the tennis net was still in place on the tennis/ball court. Councillor A Richards offered to arrange its removal and storage.

3142b. **Millennium Green and Playground:** Councillor T Flashman noted the separate cost budgeted for parish maintenance in addition to the maintenance of the Green. He enquired whether tenders cover both. The Clerk advised that this would be merited.

3142c. **The Plough Inn:** Councillor A Dixon advised Councillors that there had been contact with the owners who advised they were open to offers to purchase The Plough Inn. Councillors noted that the period for the appeal against the ACV must shortly expire. Councillors also noted that there had been no appeal to date against the planning refusal decision by Shropshire Council and the period to appeal against this decision must soon expire.

3143. **PARISH MATTERS**

3143a. **Hedgehogs:** Councillors noted a contact in Shropshire Council was being sought in relation to signage within the parish.

3144. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

- a Budget and Precept 2024/2025
- b Parish Council Risk Assessment
- c Parish Plan and Survey
- d To advise Clerk of items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda.

3145. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday 15 January 2024

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:31pm.

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Chairman

Date: 15 January 2024