

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17 JULY 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY

3054. WELCOME

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

3055. PRESENT

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

Clerk C Maclean

Members of Public: 1

3056. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and noted from Councillors T Flashman and Ms A Henderson.

3057. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

3058. PUBLIC SESSION

No issues raised.

3059. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

3059a. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 JUNE 2023

Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor P Bodimeade seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 June 2023 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

3059b. MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 JUNE 2023

Councillor M Lowndes proposed, Councillor A Richards seconded that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 28 June 2023 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

3060. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Councillors welcomed Mr R Madeley to the meeting of Council and noted his interest in joining the Council. Councillors noted that there was interest in the second vacancy from a resident but apologies had been sent for not being able to attend the meeting to express their interest.

Councillor A Dixon proposed, Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was resolved unanimously that Mr R Madeley be invited to join the Council.

Mr Madeley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at Council. Councillors noted the expectation of the second resident to attend the subsequent meeting to follow up on their interest in joining the Council.

3061. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 3061a. **South Shropshire Area Committee:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of his appointment as Vice-Chair to this Committee which also included membership of the SALC Executive. Councillors expressed their congratulations on this news.
- 3061b. **Boundary Commission Review:** Councillors noted that the consultation period had ended and the decision of the Commission is awaited.
- 3061c. **SALC/Shropshire Council Joint Working Group on Ash Dieback:** Councillors noted this initiative on assessing the impact across the county and proposals to fund replacements. There was no current awareness of the impact within the parish.
- 3061d. **Solar Farms:** Councillors noted the focus on solar farms and planning applications within the county but noted there was no current impact on the parish.
- 3061e. **Clerk Recognition Week:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted the NALC initiative to recognise Clerks and the work undertaken for Councils.

3062. CLERK'S REPORT

- 3062a. **Councillor Email Addresses:** Councillors considered the merits of separate email addresses. The Clerk would discuss the options with the IT Support provider.
- 3062b. **Councillor Contact Details on Website:** Councillors considered the level of personal details that should be maintained on the Council website. Councillors considered the removal of email addresses, but continued provision of telephone numbers.
- 3062c. **OPCC Town and Parish Council Survey 2023:** Councillors reviewed the questionnaire and response options. The questions were considered and the Clerk would submit the responses as agreed. Councillors agreed that an invitation be submitted to the local Police team to attend a future meeting of Council.

3063. PLANNING

Planning Application received for:

- 3063a. 23/02529/FUL (validated 12/06/2023): The Old Parlour, Lushcott, Easthope, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6EE.

Proposal: Alterations and extension to an existing dwelling.

Decision: No Comment.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:34pm.

- 3063b. 23/02546/FUL (validated 26/06/2023): The Bull Pen, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DS.

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for a detailed scheme of surface and foul water drainage for Plot 1 dwelling (The Bull Pen) in relation to Condition 5 of planning reference 22/03938/FUL.

Decision: No Comment.

3063C. **Planning Decisions**

Reference: 23/01942/FUL (validated 18/05/2023): The Homestead, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DX.

Proposal: Conversion of existing workshop/store to form ancillary annex and associated works.

Decision: Refuse.

3064. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of the following:

3064a. **Local Government Boundary Review:** Councillors noted the closing of the consultation period which included a detailed response and proposals from Shropshire Council. These proposals had been agreed cross party.

3064b. **Community Governance Review:** Councillors noted that this review would be recommenced. Councillors noted the previous discussions and resolution of both Rushbury and Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Councils to merge with each other. It was recommended to Councillors that the proposal be restated.

3064c. **Shropshire Council Finances:** Councillors noted the attempts being made by Shropshire Council to achieve £51m of savings. Attempts were being made to deliver this in a structured and balanced manner. These included reviews of the health services where attempts were made to address the deficit.

3064d. **South Shropshire MP:** Councillors noted the announcement by the Rt Hon Philip Dunne that he would stand down at the next election. Councillors noted that an announcement on his replacement as candidate for the Conservative Party at the next election was awaited.

3065. **PLACE PLAN**

The Clerk noted with Councillors that Shropshire Council had reviewed the Place Plan application process. Details would be forwarded to Councillors.

It was noted that whilst an initial deadline had been proposed for the submission of projects, the process remained open for submissions throughout the year.

3066. **PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY**

Councillors considered the next steps towards preparing a survey that would support an update to the Parish Plan. Councillors considered the priorities that may be focused on. Housing and single plot affordable dwellings were considered to be important to ensure the younger members of the community could afford to remain resident.

It was noted that some guidelines may be available from Shropshire Council and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley agreed to contact Ms V Turner to identify what assistance may be provided.

Councillors agreed that guidelines and advice towards a successful survey would be of benefit.

It was agreed that the draft survey would be completed and shared amongst Councillors to gather feedback and views.

Councillors expressed appreciation to Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley who gave her apologies and left the meeting at 9:38pm.

3067. FINANCIAL REPORT

3067a. Current Finances and Invoices for Payment: The Clerk advised Councillors that he had identified two invoices had not been received from Tivoli Group in relation to the maintenance of the Millennium Green. He advised that he was in contact with the company to secure these and arrange for payment.

3067b. Change of Signatories to Bank Account

The Clerk advised that Mr M McFarland remained a signatory to the bank account. Arrangements would be made to identify an alternative signatory at a future meeting.

3067c. Change of Bankers

The Clerk advised Councillors that the current bankers HSBC were charging the Council for the use of the bank account. Charges only applied to the current account. With the majority of the Council's funds being maintained in the savings account, the current level of credit interest was more than compensated for the monthly charge.

The Clerk noted that HSBC did not offer two tier authentication of payments whereas Lloyds Bank did via their current account which was currently free of charge.

Councillors agreed that a review be undertaken at a future meeting of Council and consideration would be given to future banking arrangements.

3068. ROAD SAFETY WITHIN PARISH

Councillors noted initiatives across other adjoining parishes and discussion was held on the level of authorisation these may have secured from Shropshire Council.

Councillors noted with increasing concern that there were increased cases of speeding vehicles on the B4371 and at Wall Bank.

Councillors agreed that contact continue to be made with the Shropshire Highways officials in attempt to secure solutions for the Parish.

Councillors shared concerns over the speed of traffic passing Rushbury School and considered whether a 20mph limit for the area was appropriate.

3069. CORRESPONDENCE

None outside of the bulletins received from SALC, NALC and the Rural Services Network which were forwarded to Councillors.

3070. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

3070a. Village Hall: No update.

3070b. Millennium Green and Playground: No update.

3070c. The Plough Inn: Councillor A Dixon noted with Councillors the recent public meeting held in the Village Hall attended by 159 people. It was noted that the questionnaire had received 100 responses and names had been proposed for membership of the proposed Steering Group. It was agreed that a member of the Parish Council attend meetings of the Steering Group in an advisory capacity to monitor developments.

3071. PARISH MATTERS

3071a. **Litter:** Councillors noted increased cases of litter within the parish which appeared to be from parties from outside the area.

3072. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA

To advise Clerk of items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda.

3073. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 18 September 2023

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:46pm.

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Chairman

Date: 18 September 2023