

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY**

**2920. WELCOME**

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

**2921 PRESENT**

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

Clerk C Maclean

Police: 2

We Don't Buy Crime Co-ordinator: 1

Members of Public: 6

**2922. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Ms A Henderson.

**2923. PUBLIC SESSION**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson welcomed to the meeting PCSO David Baron, Constable Stephen Grant and Nick Hall, We Don't Buy Crime Co-ordinator.

PCSO David Baron advised those present that there had not been any recent reported crime or incidents.

Nick Hall advised of his role as Co-ordinator for We Don't Buy Crime promoting SmartWater kits to towns and parishes. Nick Hall distributed note sheets explaining the product and benefits of its use. He explained that securing kits for 70% of the electoral roll would enable the parish to receive free signage advising that the area is covered by SmartWater. Statistics suggested that the signage and use of the kits helped to reduce levels of crime. Nick Hall advised that the price per kit through the SmartWater scheme is £8.90 plus VAT.

Nick Hall advised that there was no cost associated with registering the kit or renewal of details on the database and that the ampules had a lifespan of two years, although it had been noted that the marking, once applied, did last a considerable period of time.

It was noted that the Parish Council had previously considered the scheme but doubts over funding the kits and potential take up on the offer had resulted in the scheme not being progressed. This would be reviewed and presented to a future meeting of Council.

A resident raised the issue of fly tipping within the parish. PCSO David Baron advised that the culprit had been identified and caught.

Councillor Dr C Stevenson thanked all for attending and providing the detail on crime and Smartwater. The three representatives, along with the six members of the public, left the meeting at 7:54pm.

Prior to the formal start of proceedings, Councillor T Flashman was invited to provide background detail on application 22/05720/FUL and the conversion of the farm buildings to residential dwellings. Councillor T Flashman outline the proposals to develop the dwellings at Manor Farm, East Wall which would be in keeping with the local environment.

2924. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillors T Flashman and A Richards declared interest in agenda item 11.a relating to planning application 22/05720/FUL.

2925. **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor T Flashman seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 November 2022 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

2926. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that he had attended the online briefing on the Local Government Boundary Review and the consultation which closes on 30 January. He considered it appropriate that a response be provided by the Parish Council and shared with Councillors a proposed response.

**Councillor A Dixon proposed, Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was resolved that the response as drafted be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.**

2927. **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk noted with Councillors a number of items of information relevant to the parish.

2927a. **South Shropshire Area Committee:** Councillors noted that the meeting was being held at the same time as Parish Council meeting. Attempts are being made to contact the meeting co-ordinators to identify alternative dates for future meetings to enable the Parish Council to attend.

2927b. **Millennium Green Maintenance:** Tivoli Group Ltd, the current service provider, has been approached to provide a quote for next year.

2927c. **Subsidised Tree Scheme:** Councillors noted the latest offering from Shropshire Council but it was agreed that no action be taken.

2927d. **Voter ID in Elections:** it was noted that voter ID will require to be shown at elections going forward prior to being allowed to register a vote.

2927e. **Environmental Maintenance Grant:** Councillors noted that Shropshire Council are offering the opportunity for parish councils to apply for the grant for the next financial year. The Clerk suggested to Councillors there may be an opportunity to apply for a grant and identify a resource that could service both the Rushbury and Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler parishes, should that be considered appropriate.

2927f. **Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy:** Councillors noted the briefing papers that had been provided relating to the proposed reforms.

2927g. **Broadband Rollout in Parish:** Councillors noted resident interest in the rollout of broadband and enthusiasm to see this delivered as early as possible.

2927h. **Rural Services Network – Rural Survey:** Councillors noted the survey launched by the Rural Services Network and the encouragement to respond.

2928. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Councillors noted with regret the resignation of Mel McFarland from the Council. Councillors noted Mel's long service provided to the Council and Community and discussed how best his service may be recognised. The Clerk advised that the relevant notices had been published. The Clerk advised Councillors efforts were ongoing to fill the other vacant position and that the relevant advertisements were being posted.

Councillor P Bodimeade noted a fellow resident in Longville may be interested in joining the Council and he would make enquiries.

2929. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

2930. **PLANNING**

**Planning Application received for:**

2930a. 22/05720/FUL (validated 09/01/2023): Manor Farm, East Wall, Shropshire.

Proposal: Conversion of traditional farm buildings to 5No residential dwellings and all associated works.

**Decision: No objection.** Councillors T Flashman and A Richards excluded themselves from the discussion.

2930b. **The Plough Inn, Wall Under Heywood:** Councillors noted that no developments had been seen in relation to the application of change of use.

2930c. **Planning Decisions**

22/05241/FUL (validated 21/11/2022): Woodside, Longville In The Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6DR.

Proposal: Alterations to the first floor roof, the removal of dormer windows and addition of roof lights .

**Decision: Grant Permission**

2930d. 22/05042/FUL (validated 08/11/2022): Proposed Agricultural Workers Dwelling West of Fegg Farm, Longville in The Dale, Shropshire.

Proposal: Proposal: Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling, together with change of use of traditional brick building and installation of a septic tank (re-submission).

**Decision: Refused.** Councillors noted this decision with disappointment.

2931. **PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY**

Councillors agreed that the best way forward is for a sub-group of Councillors to meet with a similar number of Councillors from Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council. The Clerk will contact the Chairman of Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council in attempt to progress this.

Councillors agreed that the Rushbury representatives be Councillors P Bodimeade, Ms A Henderson and A Dixon.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:35pm.

## 2932. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley provided an update on recent events of interest to the parish.

2932a. **Acton Scott Farm and Museum:** Councillors were advised that Shropshire Council had come to an agreement with the Acton family in terms of the Farm and Museum being managed and funded going forward without further support from Shropshire Council.

2932b. **Boundary Commission Review:** Councillors noted the latest developments in relation to the Boundary Commission's views of the appropriate number of members compared to that of Shropshire Council. Shropshire Council were seeking to increase the number of members to 75 whilst the Commission was stipulating 74. The deadline for the consultation is 30 January 2023 and there was considered to be scope for material change in boundaries.

2932c. **Medical and Care Facilities:** Councillors were advised of the latest guidance from central government to the NHS in attempt to reduce the impact on bed blocking. There was a desire to see patients discharged back to their homes but this presented extra challenges due to lack of care staff to support patients at home.

Councillors also noted continued attempts to establish a larger primary care unit resulting in local facilities being pulled out of their communities.

2932d. **MP's Advice Surgery:** Councillors noted that Mrs C Motley would be joining Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP at an advice surgery scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January at the Swan Inn, Aston Munslow.

2932e. **LA Governor Nomination – Rushbury CE Primary School:** Councillors noted the LA Governor role currently held by Mrs J McFarland is due to expire on 27 March 2022 and enquiries were being made on her future intentions relating to the role. The Clerk advised that he would contact Mrs McFarland via her husband to enable feedback to be given to Mrs C Motley.

In the event that Mrs McFarland did not continue with the role, Councillors were requested to consider nominations for an alternative role holder.

2932f. **Shropshire Council Highways Representatives:** Councillors noted that there was an additional contact at the Highways team in the form of Craig Massey.

Councillors expressed their thanks to Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley for her update and having expressed her apologies left the meeting at 9:06pm.

## 2933. **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III**

Councillors noted the events being planned by the Village Hall Committee to celebrate the coronation. It was planned to have an event on the Millennium Green in the afternoon alongside the pop-up pub.

Councillors considered the contribution from the Parish Council. A celebratory stone plaque was discussed as an alternative to a tree. Councillor A Richards offered to discuss the stone plaque option with the Church Stretton stone mason. With regard to a tree, it was noted that if this option was to be progressed, it would require to be planted by end March. Further discussions to be held at the next meeting.

## 2934. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

2934a. **Current Finances:** Councillors noted the balances on the Council's accounts.

Community Account at 02.01.2023 £162.60

Deposit Account at 01.01.2023 £7512.61

**2934b. Invoices to Pay January**

None presented as these were expected following the meeting and could be authorised at the next meeting.

**2935. BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2023/2024**

Councillors considered the revised expenditure projections and budgetary requirement for the next financial year. Whilst it was appreciated that costs would be contained where possible Councillors noted that an increase in the Precept may be required.

Councillors considered what level of support could be provided from existing cash reserves and agreed that the Parish Council required to cover its costs each year where possible.

The range of options presented by the Clerk were considered. Following discussion, Councillors that an increase of £200.00 to the current Precept level of £7,900.00 be requested. Councillors noted that this should result in a future Band D Council Tax Charge of £29.55 per household.

**Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillor M Pye seconded and it was unanimously resolved that the precept Request for 2023/2024 be set at £8,100.00 and that the Chairman sign the Request on behalf of the Parish Council.**

**2936. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**2936a. Village Hall:** Councillor T Flashman advised Councillors of the planned improvements, including replacement windows and door locks. The question of solar panels was also being explored.

The Clerk advised Councillors that the Village Hall Chair had arranged defibrillator training for those interested in attending and that this was scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 6:00pm at the Village Hall.

Councillors noted the request from a user to effect a yoga related event at an adjoining facility at end of May which would include access to and camping on the Millennium Green. Councillors expressed concerns over safety, given the need to cross and walk alongside the B4371 as well as access to water and toilet facilities. Concerns relating to the impact on insurance cover were also raised and the Clerk would check this out.

**2936b. Millennium Green and Playground:** The Clerk advised that the renewal premium for insurance covering the Millennium Green and Playground had been paid.

**2937. PARISH MATTERS**

None raised.

**2938. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

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

**2939. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday 20 February 2023

Councillors P Bodimeade and A Richards extended their apologies for absence from the next meeting.

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

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Chairman

Date: 20 March 2023