

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL

82. WELCOME

Cllr Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council.

83. PRESENT

Cllrs A Richards – Chairman, M Lowndes, Dr C Stevenson, A Dixon, P Bodimeade.

Clerk N Green.

Jenny Hartley – Member of Public.

Nick Pugh – Member of Public.

Fleur Turner – Member of Public.

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Madeley and Cllr E Riley sent apologies.

85. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS

None declared.

86. PUBLIC SESSION

Jenny Hartley, Nick Pugh and Fleur Turner have expressed an interest in becoming Councillors. They were invited to the meeting to observe the procedure and assist in their decision as to whether to join the Council or not.

87. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15TH JULY 2024 AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 19TH AUGUST 2024

Proposed by Cllr Dixon and seconded by Cllr Bodimeade that the minutes of both meetings be adopted, it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

88. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk reviewed the actions from the previous meeting as follows:-

The Clerk had written to the Headteacher at Rushbury school to request assistance in advertising Councillor vacancies. (Action Closed)

The Clerk had pended flyers advertising Councillor vacancies following some interest. (Action Closed)

Cllr Dixon had arranged flyers for the Village Hall advertising Councillor vacancies. (Action Closed)

The Clerk had contacted Shropshire Council via the contact centre to discuss the external condition of the Longville Arms with an enforcement team. Without contact from SC this was recorded as a Planning Enforcement Case (ref 24/10412/ENF). There has been no further response from SC. (Action – await contact from SC)

The Clerk reported he has not reviewed the Risk Assessment. (Action Open)

The Clerk reported he has not spoken with HSBC concerning the signatories. (Action Open)

Cllr Dixon confirmed there was a decision not to reply to the OPCC survey. (Action Closed)
Cllr Lowndes provided an update on the Speed Devices. He stated that they had been moved recently and it was just a case of maintenance now. He clarified that he would try to extract data when he has more time to understand the data retrieved process, etc. (Action Closed)

89. COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Jenny Hartley, Nick Pugh and Fleur Turner had declared an interest in joining the Council. Cllr Richards invited them to contact the PC if they wished to do so with a brief explanation as to why they would like to join and what they think they can contribute.

90. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Richards informed the PC that at a recent Chairmans network meeting they talked about Councils adopting .gov.uk domains for the website and emails. He stated that there was a cost implication in doing so. Cllr Stevenson stated that from previous discussions it had been decided it wasn't cost effective.

Cllr Richards stated that at a Chair and Clerks meeting the previous week a number of topics were discussed including an update on Planning Policy, Response time / contact with SC and Lengthsman. He reported that some PC's still use a Lengthsman to clear drains and ditches, etc, but the grants for these are being cut. He clarified that Rushbury PC doesn't utilise this service but we may look at it in the future.

Cllr Richards stated the speed sign in Longville had now been cleared by the landowner.

91. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk reported the Headteacher at Rushbury School had accepted an invitation to next year's Annual assembly.

The Clerk stated that the Headteacher had circulated the advert for a Councillor vacancy and as a result Jenny Hartley had expressed an interest.

The Clerk asked if anyone or the PC would like to respond to the Local nature recovery survey which had been received. Cllr Lowndes stated that we should decline.

The Clerk stated that he was unavailable for the 21st October meeting and suggested that an alternative date of the 14th could be used. This was agreed.

The Clerk stated he had sent an invitation to the Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust as requested and they can attend the November meeting. The Clerk was asked to invite them to attend at 7.00pm.

The Clerk stated that Atlas Tower had contacted him asking if the Councillors had any questions following their power point presentation concerning a communications tower. The Cllrs stated that they were keen to improve the mobile coverage and were generally supportive but would need to know more about a proposed / identified location so Parishioner feedback could be ascertained. Cllr Stevenson stated that it was positive that the tower would be available to multiple service providers.

The Clerk asked the Chairman if he wished to discuss the matter of the survey concerning financial assistance to SC to maintain services, such as libraries (This had been discussed at the Chair and Clerks Meeting and the PC had already declined to respond to this email). It was considered that the PC had no funds within its precept budget to provide financial assistance.

The Clerk stated that the Headteacher had asked him to invite any Councillor to become a School Governor as a local authority member, SC no longer supplies a representative. Cllr Bodimeade stated that he thinks it would be better if volunteer for this role had a child at the school. There were no volunteers at this time, however, Jenny Hartley stated the Headteacher had mentioned it to her.

Action – Clerk to arrange meeting room for alternative date.

Action – Clerk to invite Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust.

Action – Clerk to respond to Atlas Tower.

92. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION 24/03158/FUL

Cllrs discussed the application to convert a traditional barn to a residential dwelling at the Home Farm, Longville in The Dale.

Cllr Bodimeade stated that he did not know why he had been copied into the report from Goldfinch Town Planning. Cllr Lowndes stated the report seemed to have been produced very quickly and it was unclear what it was about. Cllr Stevenson stated he thought the report suggested they were unhappy about the impact on climate change and biodiversity. Cllr Richards stated he thought the Planners would take note of the report. Cllr Stevenson asked if the PC wanted to support this document and Cllr Bodimeade stated he thought it was up to SC to do this.

(Cllr Motley joins the meeting – 20:19)

Cllr Richards stated he thought the application should be supported because it was a use of a building that wasn't being used for the farm. Cllr Bodimeade stated that converting existing barns seems to be a good use of old buildings.

All Cllr's supported the application but Cllr Stevenson stated he supported it 'with conditions'. Cllr Motley pointed out that conditions can only be for certain material reasons.

Action - The Clerk was asked to prepare and circulate a response that could be agreed upon for submission to the planning portal.

APPLICATION 24/03425/TCA

This application was received after the preparation of the agenda.

Cllrs discussed the application to fell an Ash tree within the grounds of Rushbury Court Barn, Rushbury. The tree was suffering from Ash die back.

The Cllrs noted the height of the tree and its proximity to the property, it was supported on the grounds of safety.

(Cllr Dixon leaves the meeting – 20:33)

93. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

A discussion took place regarding the process of recruiting / co-opting new Councillors given we have three potential candidates for two positions. Cllr Stevenson had stated that he would resign his position if it was required. However, there may be time issues with this given the elections are taking place in May 2025. Cllr Motley stated she would discuss the process with Diane Dorrell from SALC.

Cllr Bodimeade stated that if there are no legal issues then we could vote now to accept applications from the interested parties to progress the matter. This was proposed by Cllr Bodimeade and Seconded by Cllr Lowndes.

Cllr Motley raised the issue of the survey concerning the PC contributing to SC services. She pointed out that Parishioners use services in different areas so it's difficult to direct funds to a specific resource. Cllr Richards stated that it had been discussed earlier and the PC had not responded.

Cllr Motley stated the housing development and local plan was still being prepared. She explained the new Govt had doubled the housing requirement (75% to be in rural areas) and were targeting Market Towns. She pointed out that this causes problems with issues such as infrastructure and flooding, she was unclear if they had really thought it through. There were also problems with the definitions of Grey and Greenfield sites.

Cllr Motley wanted to encourage Rushbury and Eaton and Hope Bowdler PC's to discuss issues of a joint nature, such as roads and housing.

Cllr Motley stated that SC is in a very difficult financial position and is having to make significant savings which is resulting in redundancies. They are waiting to hear from the Govt regarding a settlement figure regarding adult and social care so financial planning is difficult.

In response to Cllr Richards she stated that if SC council can't afford to carry on then S.114 will apply, this would result in the closure of many non-statutory services.

(Cllr Motley leaves the meeting – 21:06)

94. FINANCIALS

The following list of accompanying invoices were reviewed, Members also received the latest bank reconciliation (Aug) which brought the accounts to the 31st Aug 2024 to £15,975.88. All documents will be signed off by the Chairman and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise these payments to be made.

REF	DESCRIPTION	STATUTES	Account
1	Groundworks	HA1980 S.96	£367.89
2	IT data backup	LGA 1972 S.111	£7.20

3	IT security Licence	LGA 1972 S.111	£24.60
4	Printer	LGA 1972 S.111	£38.99

Cllr Stevenson discussed the limitations of uses of the Neighbourhood and CIL funds.

95. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that these issues had been discussed earlier.

96. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Cllr Richards stated that a decision on the Plough Inn we be made in around a month and clarified the PC has no information to share. Cllr Stevenson stated that whatever the decision the owners cannot be forced to do anything.

97. PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Stevenson stated that he had applied to have his broadband supplied by Voneus. However, they told him they cannot supply it because they do not have a licence to attach their equipment on dual use (electricity / phone) telegraph poles. He wrote to Ben Walker at SC who told him that another group of contracts were being prepared and services should be available by 2026. Openreach can use dual use poles.

Cllr Bodimeade asked if there had been any contact from SC Highways concerning the road sign outside the barn conversion in Longville. Cllr Richards stated he had emailed Shropshire Highways but there had been no response.

Cllr Bodimeade stated a resident at the Barn Conversions in Longville had spoken with the developer about the gravel access road. Apparently, the gravel was being carried onto the carriageway.

Action – Clerk to re-send email to Shropshire Highways concerning traffic sign.

98. SPEED INDICATION DEVICES

Cllr Lowndes stated that he needed to purchase some smaller clips for the devices because some of the road poles were smaller. Proposed by Cllr Bodimeade to purchase them and seconded by Cllr Richards.

99. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Councillor vacancies to be included.

100. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for 7.30 pm on the 14th October 2024 at the Committee Room, Rushbury Village Hall.

Cllr A Richards thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.32pm.

Please note that the Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust will be invited to attend at 7.00pm.

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Chairman

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Date

These minutes will remain in draft format until signed by the Chairman as a true record.