

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RUSHBURY PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2023 AT 7:30PM AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. WELCOME

Dr C Stevenson, Chairman of the Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2023.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ms A Henderson.

3. PRESENT

Dr C Stevenson (Chair), Clerk C Maclean, 7 Parishioners and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING 9 MAY 2022

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Meeting held on 17 April 2023 were noted. Proposed by Mr A Richards, seconded by Mr T Flashman and It was agreed that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr C Stevenson, Parish Council Chairman, highlighted some key events from the previous year.

a. Change in Council Membership

It was noted that in the past year Mr M McFarland, the former Chairman of the Council had resigned due to his spending a lot of his time outside the parish. It was also noted that Mr G Gough had resigned from the Council due to his business commitments.

Mr M Lowndes was also welcomed to the Council, having recently been co-opted.

b. The Plough Inn Planning Application

It was noted that an application had been submitted for change of use to residential. Determination on the application was awaited. Whilst it was noted that the application had resulted in considerable local reaction the Parish Council could not get embroiled.

c. Heritage Buildings and Planning Applications

There has been discussion between Councillors on the level of knowledge and understanding on applications relating to heritage or non-listed buildings. There was reliance on the planning officers at Shropshire Council to guide on such topics.

d. Neighbourhood and Place Plans

Dr C Stevenson noted the benefits of having an up-to-date Neighbourhood Plan and Place Plan. However, it was recognised that involved the buy-in and support from local residents as well as specialists.

e. Coronation Celebrations

It was noted that the Parish Council had arranged for the planting of a horse chestnut tree along with a commemoration plaque in the areas adjoining the

ball/tennis court. Expressions of thanks were given to Mr A Dixon who collected the tree and team members from Mr T Flashman's business who arranged for installation. Thanks were also given to the team from Stretton Stonemasons who organised the plaque and commemoration stone delivery and installation.

f. Land Adjoining Village Hall

Dr C Stevenson noted initial discussions were being undertaken on ownership of the land adjoining the Village Hall. This included the ball/tennis court which is under the ownership of the Parish Council.

g. Local Boundary Review

It was noted that the conclusion of the Local Boundary Review was expected within the next week or two.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

a. Place Plan

Mr C Maclean advised that an updated Place Plan was awaited for Church Stretton and surrounding parishes. A review would be undertaken to identify local projects for future inclusion.

b. Financial Report

Mr C Maclean advised the following for the financial year 2022-2023.

Opening Balance at 1 April 2022	£6,667.49
Receipts	£10,625.67
Payments	£10,725.54
Closing Balance at 31 March 2023	£6,567.62
Reserves for 2023-2024 stand at	£10,808.41.

c. Planning Applications

20 applications had been received for consideration in the year.

7. WAINWRIGHT TRUST REPORT

Mr M Pye presented a report on behalf of the six trustees. The report is appended to the Minutes.

8. PARISH MATTERS

a. Smartwater

There had been discussion in the year over the merits of implementing Smartwater throughout the parish. The arrangement was that the Parish Council purchases the packs and distributes them to householders for free. Cost of implementing this was estimated at approximately £2,800.

The matter was still under consideration.

b. Traffic Calming Measures

It was noted that there had been three incidents within the parish in the last twelve months.

Some investigations had been conducted over the merits of installing village gateways but initial cost estimate was put at approximately £2,700. There was a question over the possibility of these being damaged by wide vehicles due to the narrowness of the verges in parts of the parish.

The topic was being considered as part of the wider initiative of traffic calming. Attempts to engage Shropshire Council were also being made.

c. Community Governance Review

Consideration to enhanced community governance had been under consideration and the proposed merger between Rushbury Parish Council and Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council had already been resolved.

The next stage was waiting to hear from Shropshire Council on future steps.

d. Parish Plan Review

Consideration was being given on the best means of updating the Parish Plan.

The topic would be revisited in June.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:09pm.

9. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mrs M Lippitt presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. The report is appended to the Minutes.

10. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs C Motley highlighted some key events impacting the community.

Within a year of uncertainty involving change of government ministers, strife, industrial action efforts continued to ensure services were maintained for the communities within Shropshire.

Whilst some success had been seen with levelling up funds being provided to Shrewsbury, the market towns and rural areas were not seeing any benefits. Challenges remain in managing budgets and attempts to close the deficit for the year continued. Health and social care support consumed the vast majority of available funds.

Some success was being seen in increasing tourism within the county with rural areas also benefitting.

The local boundary review had been undertaken across the county and findings were awaited. There was some concern that proposed changes may not benefit rural communities.

The budget for the next year had been agreed and continued challenges remain in addressing budget shortfalls.

11. PLANS FOR 2023/24

The Parish Council would consider traffic calming measures along within the potential to install step back areas on the lane between Wall Under Heywood and Rushbury. Consideration would also be given to seeking a speed limit of 20mph in Rushbury.

12. PARISHIONERS' BUSINESS / QUESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

No points or questions were raised.

Dr C Stevenson thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8:34pm.

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Chairman

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Date