

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY

3081. WELCOME

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

3082 PRESENT

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

Clerk C Maclean

Members of Public: 1

3083. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

3084. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor R Madeley declared an interest in Agenda item 9a (Minute 3090a).

3085. PUBLIC SESSION

No issues raised.

3086. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

3086a. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 17 JULY 2023

Councillor A Richards proposed, Councillor P Bodimeade seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 July 2023 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

3086b. MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 AUGUST 2023

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillor M Lowndes seconded that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 21 August 2023 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

3087. COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Councillors welcomed Mr E Riley to the meeting of Council and noted his interest in joining the Council.

It was resolved that Mr E Riley be invited to join the Council.

Mr Riley signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place at Council.

3088. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3088a. South Shropshire Area Committee Solar Farm Applications: Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors of the discussions which took place at the meeting on 5 September 2023 with regard to planning applications for solar farms. Discussions revolved around biodiversity, monitoring conditions that may be set by planning officers and following up.

3088b. South Shropshire Area Committee Oil Fired Boilers: Councillors noted the meeting covered the planned changes with regard to oil fired boilers and potential rethink and timing by the

Government. It was also noted that there are two schemes being provided through Shropshire Council to address low income thresholds or creation of sustainable warmth.

3088c. **Emergency Planning:** Councillors noted the 4 sessions being planned for November to cover various topics relating to emergency planning. Full details will be provided via SALC.

3088d. **SALC AGM:** Councillors noted the AGM scheduled for 3 November 2023 to be held at the Wroxeter Hotel.

3088e. **Training:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted training sessions planned around Chairmanship skills and Neighbourhood Planning.

3088f. **Biodiversity:** Councillors noted the session scheduled for 13 October 2023 on biodiversity at Monkford Village Hall.

Councillor P Bodimeade queried whether local farms were considering biodiversity opportunities and whether this was something that could be shared.

3088g. **SALC Affiliation Fee:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that discussions had taken place at SALC Executive over the affiliation fee for the next year. Councillors noted that an increase would be proposed. Some discussion took place over the value of SALC membership but this would be covered in more depth at a future meeting.

3088h. **Chairs' Meeting:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that the latest meeting of Chairs covered topics including (i) bid from Shropshire Council for levelling up monies to support bus provision; (ii) Place Plans and use of CIL monies. Councillors agreed that an invitation be sent to Vicky Turner to a future meeting of Council to discuss Place Plans with Councillors

3089. **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that relevant topics were to be discussed later in the meeting.

3090. **PLANNING**

Planning Application received for:

3090a. 23/03367/FUL (validated 06/09/2023): Holiday Dwelling at Coates Farm, Rushbury, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DZ.

Proposal: Change of use from a Holiday Dwelling to a Permanent Residential Dwelling.

Decision: Support.

3090b. 23/03857/TPO: Manor Cottage, Stanway, Rushbury, Church Stretton, Shropshire.

Proposal: To reduce the crown spread by 2metres of 1no. Apple (T3) to monolith 1no. Beech (T15) and to fell 1no. Maple (T25) protected by The Council of the South Shropshire District Council, (Stanway Manor & Estate Rushbury) TPO 1978 (Ref: SS/00011/78).

Decision: Support.

3090c. 23/03943/FUL (validated 07/09/2023): Proposed Affordable Dwelling South of Sycamores, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire.

Proposal: Erection of a Local Need Dwelling including Provision of Access, Parking and Garaging.

Decision: Support.

3090d. **Planning Decisions**

Reference: 23/03369/FUL (validated 01/08/2023): Proposed Affordable Dwelling SW of The Oaks, Stone Acton Road, Wall Under Heywood, Shropshire.

Proposal: Erection of one affordable dwelling and garage.

Decision: Withdrawn

3091. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillors noted the previous advice from Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley that members of both Rushbury and Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Councils review their earlier discussions and decision on a proposed merger to reconfirm their intentions.

Councillors agreed that a joint meeting of Councillors be arranged to review the merger proposal and that this be conducted online.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley joined the meeting at 8:21pm.

3092. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of the following:

3092a. Community Governance Review: Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley noted that any decision on a merger was down to members of both Parish Councils. Councillors noted the similarities of both communities.

Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley noted that following completion of the Local Government Boundary Review, focus would switch to Community Governance.

3092b. Local Government Boundary Review: Councillors noted that publication of the findings by the Commission was expected early October. Whatever was decided would need to be accommodated as set out by the Commission.

3092c. South Shropshire MP: Councillors noted the selection of Stuart Anderson as the replacement for the Rt Hon Philip Dunne as the Conservative candidate at the next election.

3092d. UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Councillors noted the provision of £12m of funding in Shropshire. Councillors noted that application for some of these may be relevant to the Community Group supporting the bid to acquire The Plough Inn. Details were being forwarded to the Community Group.

3092e. RAAC Concrete Issue in Public Buildings: Councillors noted that there was no evidence of RAAC concrete in schools in Shropshire. Reviews were being undertaken in the hospitals.

3092f. Proposed Marches Forward Partnership: Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley updated Councillors on Shropshire Council's position in relation to the approaches from the West Midlands authorities for a closer tie up. Councillors perceived this as a negative approach with no real benefits for the county.

Councillors noted that following discussions with members of Herefordshire Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Powys County Council there was agreement to a proposal to join forces to apply for funding from the Government on major projects. The Councils would retain their own identity and independence but work together where there is mutual benefit and added value.

3092g. Digital Switchover: Councillors noted the planned switchover but shared concerns over the poor quality of mobile signal across the county. Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of her understanding that there would be increased demand for further masts to achieve the reach to communities.

3092h. **Power and Heating to Households:** Councillors noted the potential for the Government to announce a delay to the phasing out of oil fired boilers. Councillors noted the planned switch to solar power and wind farms; however, it was noted that delivery of the alternative power supplies were restricted by the current grid setup.

3092i. **Planning Matter:** Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley advised that she had received an approach from the applicant in relation to the planning application at Stone Farm. Enquiries were being made on status and timing for a decision.

Councillors expressed appreciation to Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley who gave her apologies and left the meeting at 8:53pm.

3093. **PARISH PLAN AND SURVEY**

Councillors noted that the survey website had been created. An announcement was scheduled to appear in the next edition of the parish magazine.

Councillors discussed the options to deliver a copy of the survey to each household.

3094. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

3094a. **Current Finances and Invoices for Payment:** Councillors noted the funds currently being held on the bank accounts.

3094b. **Costs of Delivering Council Services**

Councillors noted that the data backup costs had increased from £3.60 for the month to £7.20. Enquiries would be made on the reason for this.

Councillors noted the following payments requiring to be made

Tivoli Group Ltd Invoice for July 2023 at £168.19

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Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd for August 2023 at £7.20

Clerk Salary for second quarter at £787.50

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillor A Richards seconded and it was resolved these payments be made.

3094c. **Change of Signatories to Bank Account**

Councillors agreed that this matter could be deferred to a future meeting.

3095. **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Councillors noted the introduction of fees by Hugo Fox to support the website. The basic level of service was costed at £9.99 per month. Councillors noted that an alternative service is being offered by Parish Online with an introductory free period of 6 months on basis Councils signed up thereafter. Councillors noted an assessment of the options would be undertaken and presented at the next meeting.

3096. **ROAD SAFETY WITHIN PARISH**

Councillors noted attempts continue to meet with an official from Shropshire Council Highways.

3097. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Dr C Stevenson noted with Councillors the D-Day events to be considered for 2024. It was agreed that these best lay with the Village Hall Committee to consider what could be held in the parish.

3098. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

3098a. **Village Hall:** No update.

3098b. **Millennium Green and Playground:** Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised of an approach from a resident suggesting that the grass need not be cut right up to the hedges. It had been suggested that a margin could be left. Discussions would be held with the Trust to obtain their views.

3098c. **The Plough Inn:** No Update.

3099. PARISH MATTERS

None

3100. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA

To advise Clerk of items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda.
Councillor P Bodimeade extended his apologies for absence from the next meeting.

3101. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 16 October 2023

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:39pm.

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Chairman

Date: 16 October 2023