

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

on MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30pm

012/21 - Present via Zoom:

Cllr. G. Watts - Chairman
Cllr. L Gray
Cllr. S Jones
Cllr. B Orme
Cllr. Madeley
Cllr. C Pugh
Cllr. P Jenkins

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs J de Russett, Unitary Cllr. Cecilia Motley, Mr David Gradwell and Mr Nick Newton, Shropshire Council Traffic Engineers.

013/21 - Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

No declarations of interest were made.

014/21 – Public question time

No members of the public joined the meeting.

015/21 – Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th January 2021 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the Minutes be approved by the members.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jenkins

Vote: The members present voted unanimously to approve Minutes of 18th January 2021 and they were duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

016/21– Matters arising from the Minutes of 18th January 2021

050/20: The Clerk has raised with the Highways Department the fact that the highways verge adjacent to Hill View Barn in Ticklerton had been subsumed into the garden following the erection of a new fence: a response from Highways is awaited.

005/21: It has now been confirmed that elections will take place on 6th May 2021, so all existing councillors will be automatically retired with effect from 5th May and will have to stand for re-election. SALC advise that the Regulations permitting parish councils to hold Zoom meetings expires on 5th May 2021, so face-to-face meetings will have to resume. Cllr. Motley advised that some parish councils are demanding that Zoom meetings be kept as an option, so the position is unclear at present.

017/21 - Reports

Cllr. Motley raised a number of matters.

First, she advised that the Department of Transport are cutting the sums provided to local authorities for highways maintenance by £285m: this will impact hard on SC as it will receive probably £10m less next year for highways works and £5m has already been transferred from its Highways budget to adult and social care, at a time when many Shropshire roads are in a dangerous state of decay. SC and the RSN are taking the issue up with local MP's.

She enquired whether the parish council had been approached by SWS Broadband: they are planning to expand operations in the county in competition with Airband. This may result in masts going up all over the county. She asked to be advised if any approach is made to us.

A letter had been circulated to parishes about the arrangements for Winter Road Maintenance, which included the re-filling of grit bins. However, she has heard from some parishes that their bins were not being filled, and another parish had been forced to resort to purchasing its own bins. She asked us to keep her informed about what happens in this parish.

Finally, Cllr. Motley gave an update on the Covid vaccination progress.

She stayed with the meeting to discuss the speeding issue in Hope Bowdler.

018/21 – Planning Matters

Cllr. Motley confirmed that application 20/03751/FUL had not been listed for hearing at the February South Shropshire Planning Committee. As she understood it various water and drainage surveys are being prepared.

019/21 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications

The councillors considered the following items: no responses were deemed to be necessary.

1. Letter, 19.01.21 Clerk to the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance at Shropshire Council enclosing Precept Requirement form for 2021-2022 for £5,252.
2. Email from Cllr. Cecilia Motley advising anyone who has no transport to get to the Covid 19 vaccination centres in Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Church Stretton and Shrewsbury that they can help by **calling 0345 6789028**.
3. Email 06.02.21 from West Mercia Police (and also Cllr. Motley) advising that the Police have no connection with a company called Connect Security. Connect Security have emailed parish council to discuss the growing rate of anti-social behaviour in rural areas: they wish to offer a cost-effective way to deal with this type of behaviour.
4. Notification from the Planning Department re 20/04379/FUL, application for the erection of a single storey side extension following removal of garage and existing

conservatory, and erection of a two-bay open fronted garage following demolition of existing garage.

Planning permission granted 04.02.21

5. Mail 05.02.21 from Prof. Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place, Shropshire Council outlining SC's arrangements for Highways Winter Maintenance.
6. Email parish council to Highways, Craven Arms reporting on serious potholes between Alcaston and Felbridge Farm. They acknowledge, giving reference #3046EE
7. Email parish council to Highways, Craven Arms reporting on serious potholes in Bull Lane, Chelmick and Soudley, as reported by a parishioner. They acknowledge giving reference #30458A.
8. Emails between parish council and Mr R Ealey, Network Manager – Streetworks at SC, enquiring what works, if any, are planning for the old railway bridge in Eaton. He advises no works are planned, their visit it was a routine examination of a disused structure.
9. Email parish council to Mr David Gradwell, Shropshire Highways reporting on replacement of fence in Ticklerton which has extinguished the verge used as a footpath. They will inspect it on their next visit to Ticklerton.
10. Email to Mr David Hardwick reporting on the need for repairs to the two footbridges on footpath 0527/27/1 at Eaton. He has acknowledged and will add it to his schedule of works.
11. Email 09.02.21 from a Mount View resident reporting that loose gravel in the highway is damaging parked cars; requesting a speed camera be installed in Hope Bowdler to slow traffic down; requesting the provision of three street lights to be installed along the path at Mount View; requesting the installation of hand rails to the stairs that lead up to the path from the road.

020/21 – Highways and Environmental matters, to include measures to enforce the speed limit through Hope Bowdler; the appointment of an EMO and any issues members wish to raise.

020/21/1 – Measures to be considered to enforce the speed limit through Hope Bowdler.

Councillors were joined by Shropshire Council Traffic Engineers Mr David Gradwell and Mr Nick Newton. They had visited Hope Bowdler and had reviewed the last speeding survey carried out by West the West Mercia Police's Road Safety Team. This took place in 2011 and revealed that substantial amounts of traffic going towards Church Stretton was doing 39.6 mph and 38.5mph towards Much Wenlock. They had reviewed all the 30mph speed signs, and warning signs of the school and walkers in the road etc. and had noted all the markings on the surface of the B4371. They felt these were adequate and could not be improved.

In the short term they recommended the council approach Rod Lake at the Traffic Road Safety Team and request enforcement of the speed limit.

In the long term they suggested two options: (1) – gates on the verge at the entrance to Hope Bowdler re-stating the speed limit, or (2) the installation of flashing vehicle speed awareness signs (VAR signs). Of the two options, they recommend the VAR signs as being the most successful. However, Shropshire Council has no funds available in its budget now and won't have for the foreseeable future to provide VAR signs for Hope Bowdler. If the parish council wishes to install VAR signs, which will have to be solar powered as there is no power supply available, they will have to raise the funds themselves. The most SC can do is install the post to which the VARs could be attached. Munslow Parish has recently purchased VAR signs utilizing a grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner. It was agreed that the Clerk will look into the availability of a grant and explore the total cost of solar powered VAR signs.

020/21/2: A resident of Mount View had raised the following issues: (1) – loose chippings on the B4371 being sprayed onto and damaging vehicles parked at the top end of Mount View, (2) a request for three street lights along the path fronting Mount View, (3) the provision of rails for the steps up to Mount View, (4) enforcement of the speed limit through Hope Bowdler.

Mr Gradwell has taken the issue of the chippings up with Andy Keyland and asked him to get the road swept as soon as possible. That the contractor had left loose chippings following resurfacing was a county-wide problem.

Mr Gradwell had checked and ascertained that the steps up to and the footpath fronting Mount View has not been adopted by Shropshire Council and thus is private land and not SC's responsibility. He is therefore unable to help with these two issues. It was felt the housing association residents of Mount View should petition the housing association concerning these two matters. The speeding issue raised has been dealt with above.

020/21/3: The parish council had received a few requests that a pavement be constructed from opposite the top of Mount View, down to join the pavement fronting Lower House Farm. Mr Gradwell and Mr Newton had surveyed the area and whilst the top part of the verge was wide enough to accommodate a pavement, as it got narrower, in engineering terms there was insufficient width to construct a pavement. In any event, SC has absolutely no funds available for such infrastructure now or in the foreseeable future.

The Chairman also advised that there is a serious and on-going flooding problem in the dip at the bottom of the hill. Any hard-surfacing installed from Mount View to The Manor would exacerbate the flooding problem, as rain water and run off would not be absorbed by the grass but would collect in the dip.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gradwell and Mr Newton for their assistance and attendance.

020/21/4: Appointment of an Environmental Maintenance Contractor.

The Clerk had circulated details of an applicant, Mr Bent, who had approached the parish council offering his services. She had obtained a good reference for him from another parish council and an assurance he has his own public liability insurance. To clean all the road signs in the parish, which total 31 excluding those on the B4371, on an annual basis will cost £310, plus £15 per hour for cleaning the bus shelters and doing strimming and other jobs around the parish.

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that the parish council appoint Mr Bent as an independent contractor to carry out the above works.

Cllr. Gray **seconded** the proposal

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

The Clerk will contact Mr Bent and arrange to meet him, show him around the parish and check his insurance

021/21– Financial Matters

1. Precept Fund: balance b/fwd from January 2021	£4,670.33
Cheques to be authorised for payment on 15.02.21	
1. Clerk’s net salary for February 2021	£153.93
2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s February 2021 salary	£ 38.40
3. <u>Administrative expenses paid by Clerk in February 2021 on behalf of parish council and reclaimed</u>	
• Contribution towards telephone/Broadband provision for February 2021 @ £20 p.m.	£20.00
• 1 x pkt A4 copy paper	£ 2.85
• Travelling expenses claimed at 45p per mile 15.02.21 -Travelling to Hope Bowdler and Eaton to get cheques signed, bank reconciliation approved and to leave Minutes, & correspondence with Chairman for Zoom meeting Total mileage: 35 miles	<u>£15.75</u>
Total of Clerk’s February 2021 admin. expenses	£38.60 £ 38.60
	<u>£230.93</u>
Balance of Precept Fund c/fwd to March 2021	<u>£ 230.93</u> <u>£4,439.40</u>

Cllr. Gray **proposed** that the cheques listed above be authorised for payment.
 Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones
Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

2. **Ring-fenced sums held by Parish Council**

<u>Environmental Grant:</u> balance b/fwd from January 2021 No Claims submitted by EMO for February 2021	£293.53
<u>Transparency Code grant:</u> - bal. b/fwd from Jan. 2021	<u>£271.17</u>
<u>Neighbourhood Fund grant/CIL</u> received 26.04.19	<u>£3,145.35</u>

3. **Total funds held by parish council following presentation of the above cheques:**

• Precept Fund	£4,439.40
• Environmental Grant Fund	£ 293.53
• Transparency Code grant	£ 271.17
• Neighbourhood Fund	<u>£3,145.35</u>
	<u>£ 8,149.45</u>

4. **Bank Statement/Cash Book Reconciliation**

HSBC Bank Statement numbered 112 & presented to members to verify the Clerk’s reconciliation between the bank statements and the parish council’s Cash Book and was duly verified by Cllr. Madeley.

022/21 - Questions for the Chairman

Shortly before the meeting commenced Cllr. Jenkins had received a request from a Ticklerton resident for the parish council's help. Cllr. Orme had also been involved in the matter. It was agreed the letter and further information be circulated to members for their information and it be an Agenda item for the March meeting.

It was agreed that the 15th March 2021 meeting of the parish council should be held via Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic restrictions on meetings.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Date of the next Parish Council meeting
Monday 15th March 2021 – 7.30pm via Zoom: joining instructions will be included in the Agenda.

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED: 15th March 2021