EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

**M I N U T E S**

# OF THE MEETING HELD AT TICKLERTON VILLAGE HALL

**MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2016 at 7.30pm**

**001/16 Present & Apologies for absence**

**Present**

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. C Pugh

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. L Gray

Cllr. B Orme

Cllr. T Madeley

## Apologies for absence were received and accepted from

## Unitary Cllr. C Motley

### In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett

**002/16: Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.**

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary 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 were made.

**003/16 - Public Question Time**

No members of the public attended.

**004/16 - Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting of 16th November 2015, having been previously circulated to all members and considered by them, were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

**005/16: Matters arising from the Minutes of the of 16th November 2015 not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda**

133/15. It was agreed that the Parish Council should apply for a Highways & Environmental Grant for the year 2016/2017 of £3,000. When it is known whether the grant is awarded, we will seek quotations for verge cutting, in addition to the JCB works currently undertaken by Kinch Parry Ltd and will consider setting up a Footpaths Sub-Committee with a view to improving footpath maintenance including repairs/replacements for stiles, gates etc

135/15/1. The Clerk had circulated the letter from Kinch Parry Limited in which they stated they were unable to repair the damaged culvert between New Hall Farm and Harton, as it was a Highways matter. The Clerk had also notified Mr Chris Jackson of the problem but had not received a response as yet. Cllr. Pugh will keep on an eye on the culvert to see if it has been repaired and will report back.

135/15/3. The Chairman reported that the proposed rectilinear mirror on the bend at Hope Bowdler, by the turn off to Ticklerton, would not improve the situation and so the matter is being taken no further.

135/15/4. It was agreed that each member would bring a list of works which needed doing around the Parish to the February meeting, so a schedule of works can be drawn up.

**006/16 - Unitary Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Motley was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following report:

**I**’m sorry I won’t be with you at your next meeting, but I have an RSN Executive in London, followed by an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting the following day, together with the Arts Council Rural Stakeholders’ Group, so at least I am killing various birds with one stone.

Life on the Council has been rather topsy-turvy since the sudden departure of Keith Barrow. As you will know, Malcolm Pate was unanimously endorsed by the Administration Group to succeed him; Malcolm was for 6 years Leader of Shropshire County Council before we went unitary and has lots of experience of leadership of a major rural authority. He has reshuffled the Cabinet quite extensively and you may have seen the announcement of the new Cabinet earlier this month. I have come out of it with a new brief, Rural Services, Local Communities and the Voluntary/Community Sector which for me is a very satisfactory outcome as it incorporates a lot of the work I was doing under the previous Leader, when in the rather invidious position of having access to Cabinet whilst not a full portfolio-holding member. I also have a deputy, Gwilym Butler, who I hope will help me manage the workload rather more effectively.

We have had a lively few weeks since Christmas with the publishing of the draft local government financial settlement. Once again counties and rural unitaries are far harder hit than metropolitan authorities; in Shropshire, unless there can be a rebalancing agreed with the Government, we stand to lose all our non-statutory services over the next five years, which would be disastrous. There has been outrage from rural MPs, and a backbench debate a week ago led by Graham Stuart MP (with whom RSN works closely on the Rural Fair Shares Group) will have left the Government in no doubt about the strength of feeling. RSN has been in the thick of all this and last Monday, RSN officers and myself had a session with the new Local Government Finance Minister, Marcus Jones, who looked as though he had his tin hat on! He has obviously been bombarded by enraged county leaders since this announcement, and all were eager to get their word in before the consultation period ended on 15th January. There is real potential that some rural MPs will vote against the settlement unless the government engages with them. So a real row is looming. Amazingly, there has also been a report on this in the London Evening Standard, which normally never reports on rural issues.

On the home front, you will have received the note from Gill George (Save Shropshire NHS) about the potential threat to our Shropdoc service. I have consulted the chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Karen Calder, to find out how real this threat is and she is distinctly uneasy about it, but will discuss it with our director of Public Health, Rod Thomson, and get back to me about it. I will pass on her advice to you.

Re. broadband: The BDUK programme is still struggling with the hard to reach areas, which comprises a large swathe of the Corvedale. Current advice from Connecting Shropshire is not to wait for fibre but to look at alternative interim solutions such as satellite, 4G and wireless internet. The December 2015 Connecting Shropshire update, which all parish councils should have received, gives a list of alternative broadband suppliers. In any event I think it might be helpful to get Ben Walker from Connecting Shropshire along to your next meeting to explain further how this can be achieved, and also give you some idea of a time line for fibre delivery in the Rushbury parish.

Shropshire Councillors and MPs had a presentation on Friday from the mobile phone suppliers (02, Vodaphone, EE and Three) which was not enlightening. We saw them 6 months ago and little progress has been made; although they bandied a lot of statistics around they did not have much answer to accusations that, if anything, mobile coverage is worse than before as they are removing masts rather than installing more. One useful nugget was that they would benefit from having fewer, higher (up to 50m) masts but they complained that planning committees were blocking them. We pointed out that the South Planning Committee has received NO applications for mobile phone masts; we would certainly look at such applications positively, providing they were placed appropriately. They will now have discussions with our planning department, but this is frustrating as they could have done so six months ago. They don’t like Shropshire as we are too rural, so not commercially attractive.

I am still trying to find out the situation with regard to CIL award to the parish, and will get back to you on this.

The Strettondale LJC meeting is being held next Thursday 21st. There is an item on the agenda concerning Place Plans. As you will know, the SAMDev has now been passed by the Inspector with the minimum of amendments required. As the publication date was delayed, it was decided not to ask towns and parishes to review their Place Plan/CIL requirements until later in the year, but Lisa Bedford may have more news on this.

As ever, please let me know if issues arise from your meeting that need my attention.

**007/16- Reports from Councillors**

There were no reports from Councillors.

**008/16- Planning applications and related matters.**

15/05454/FUL: Application by Arqiva Services Ltd for a TV relay station, to include cardioid & dish antennas on tower, with back-up electricity generator and ancillary bracketry and feeder cables on land at Lower House Farm, Hope Bowdler.

The members considered the plans and documents relating to this application, which were not very clear, nor was the documentation available on-line. It was unanimously agreed that the members would support the application, provided it did not seek any new tower or an increase in the height of the existing tower, but rather just related to additional items being attached to the existing structure.

In the absence of Cllr. Motley, the report on the two applications relating to Stone House Farm, Soudley be deferred to next meeting.

**009/16 - Minor Highway & Environmental Matters**

Cllr. Pugh confirmed that the new bench for the Gaerstones lay-by will be installed next week and the work on the new railings by the stream in Ticklerton will also be attended to.

**010/16 - Correspondence and communications considered**

The following items of correspondence were considered by the Council:

1. 17.11.15 - Notification of grant of planning permission re 15/03980/FUL - Bloemfontein, Eaton Under Heywood, dated 19.10.15

2. 18.12.15 - notification that the SAMDev Plan has been adopted by Shropshire Council w.e.f. 17.12.15

3. Notification of road closure: 14th - 18th March 2016 B4371 from Longville to Easthope.

4. Notification that work has commenced on the new Health & Well Being Centre at Mayfair.

5. Report sent by Church Stretton Town Council re discussions about the safety of the main traffic lights on the A49/Sandford Avenue junction.

6. Notification of free residential property flood protection assessment: contact flood@shropshire.gov.uk by email for details.

7. 14.1.16 - notification from Lisa Bedford re LJC business meeting: Sylvester Horne Institute, Committee Room 1 on Thursday 21st January 2016 at 5pm.

8. 15.1.16 - notification from Lisa Bedford of grants being considered re youth fund.

9. 15.1.16 - email from Gill George, Chair of Shropshire Defend our NHS. It appears ShropDoc is under threat, to be replaced by a remote centralised telephone link based in Coventry or Birmingham.

Comments please by **22.01.16 to http://tinyurl.com/111-outofhours-engage-survey.**

10. Bundle of 33 pages from HSBC bank to be completed and returned by 13.01.16, being Inter-Governmental Agreement Declaration to confirm tax status under FATCA, and form Tax Compliance: International Exchange of Information Agreements Self-Certification form - Entities.

Forms completed by Clerk and Chairman, and signed by Chairman and Cllr. C Pugh.

Lodged with HSBC bank by Clerk on 6th January 2016, receipt obtained.

Item 5:

The Chairman had noticed that recently someone has been at the junction photographing vehicles, so clearly evidence is being compiled with a view to effect improvements at this junction.

Item 7:

Cllr. Steve Jones kindly agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

Item 9:

There was a divergence of views on the ShropDoc service, but it was generally agreed by the members that to withdraw this local service to the community is outrageous. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of protest on behalf of the parish council.

**011/16 - Finance reports for December 2015/January 2016 and cheques to be authorised for payment**

11/16/1 Finance Report for 18th January 2016

**Precept balance b/fwd. from 16th November 2015 £3,487.58**

Less: cheques to be authorised for payment on

18th January 2016

1. Clerk’s net salary for December 2015 and

January 2016 £264.72

1. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s December 2015 £ 50.40

and January 2016 salary

3. Mrs D Malley - pay roll administration £ 22.50

4. Clerks & Councils Direct - annual subscription £ 12.00

5. Expenses incurred by the Clerk in December

2015 & January 2016 in connection with

Parish Council business:

* Contribution to Broadband/telephone and

office overheads - December 2015 and

January 2016 £20.00

* 1 x HP364 XP black ink cartridge £14.99
* 6 x 2nd class stamps £ 3.24
* Travelling expenses claimed at 30p per mile:

04.01.16 - To Hope Bowdler Hall to see

Chairman re HSBC forms - 44 miles

06.01.16 - to Saplings Farm, Eaton to see

Cllr. Pugh to get HSBC forms signed - 44 miles

18.1.16 - Leinthall Earls to TVH for PC

meeting - 42 miles

Total: 130 miles @ 30p per mile £39.00

Total of Clerk's expenses Dec/.Jan. £77.23 £ 77.23 £426.85 £ 426.85 **Balance of Precept as at 18.01.16 £3,060.73**

**Highways & Environmental Grant**

Balance b/fwd from October 2015 **£2,213.93**

**Less:**

1. Mr Tony Capleton - re minor Highways Maintenance £ 40.00

2. Kinch Parry Ltd - Inv. No. 151638 £499.20

£539.20 £ 539.20

**Balance of Highways & Environmental Grant c/fwd £1,674.73**

11/16/2 - Cash Book/Bank Statement reconciliation

HSBC Bank Statements numbered 50 and 51 and the Cash Book were

presented to councillors for verification of cash book/bank statement reconciliation

and duly verified by Cllr. Jones

11/16/3 - Setting of 2016/2017 Precept Budget

The Clerk circulated a budget for the 2016/2017 precept. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to apply for a Precept Budget of £3,240 and the Chairman signed the application form.

**012/16 - Appointment of Auditors**

012/16/1 - appointment of Internal Auditor for the financial year 2016/2017

It was unanimously agreed by the members to appoint Mrs Sue Hackett as Internal Auditor.

012/16/2 - 2017/2018 External Audit - decision to be taken on whether to opt in to the new SLB scheme or to opt out and procure our own auditor.

The Clerk had circulated a paper prior to the meeting explaining the changes which are to take place with effect from next year in the External Audit arrangements. Our options are to either opt in to a new scheme being administered by SALC and others, or to appoint our own external auditor. After discussing the options, it was unanimously agreed to opt in to the new scheme.

**013/16 - Questions for the Chairman**

The issue of a Grant for compliance with the new Transparency Code had arisen after the Agenda for this meeting had been published, so is was dealt with now. Notification has been received that the website 2Shrop.Net which hosts the Parish Council's website is closing with effect from the end of March 2016, so a new website with a different service provider will need to be set up urgently. Through SALC the Clerk had obtained an application form for a Grant to set up a dedicated website plus training costs, the provision of a computer and printer and an Internet connection. She had prepared and circulated a draft Grant form in the total sum of £2,004. The members considered the Grant application and after discussion approved it unanimously in the sum of £2,004.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

**Date & Venue of next Meeting:**

Monday 22nd February 2016, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall

**MINUTES SIGNED BY:**

**DATED**