EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

**M I N U T E S**

# OF THE MEETING HELD AT TICKLERTON VILLAGE HALL

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

**084/16 Present & Apologies for absence**

**Present**

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. L Gray

Cllr. C Pugh

## Apologies for absence were received and accepted from

Cllr. B Orme

Cllr. M Young

Cllr. T Madeley

### In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett and Unitary Cllr. C Motley

**085/16: 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.

**086/16 - Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of 20th June 2016**

The Minutes of the meetings of 20th June 2016, 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.

**087/16: Matters arising from the Minutes of the of 20th June 2016 not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the 20th June 2016.

**088/16 - Unitary Councillor's Report**

At the commencement of her report, Cllr. Motley considered with the members the figures which had been received from Church Stretton Council as suggested support from the parish council towards the cost of the Town Council funding the library and leisure centre in Church Stretton, given that support from Shropshire Council is to be withdrawn in September 2017. Due to their taking over and renovating Rectory Fields, the Town Council already has the highest market town precept in the county, so is looking for support from the outlying parishes to fund the library and leisure facilities. For some reason the Town Council is seeing Eaton and Hope Bowdler as two separate parishes, rather than one parish with only one precept, which this year is £3,240. The Town Council suggested the following annual contributions, (which excludes the swimming pool as that needs £300,000 to refurbish it, and currently costs £100,000 per annum to operate ):-

1. For the library and the leisure centre open full-time - £4,350 per annum

2. For the library and the leisure centre open part-time - £2,823 per annum

Item 1 would increase the annual parish council precept from £3,240 to £7,590

Item 2 would increase the annual parish council precept from £3,240 to £6,063

These proposed increases come against a background that the parish council has no reliable information on how many parishioners actually use the library and leisure centre, as opposed to no use, or use of facilities in other market towns such as Much Wenlock, Craven Arms or Ludlow. Cllr. Motley was of the view that the parish councils are under no legal obligation to contribute to these services.

It **was proposed** and agreed by a **unanimous vote** that the Town Council will be advised the parish council is not prepared to support the level of funding suggested.

Cllr. Motley then spoke of the new government arrangements: the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid is the new Secretary of State for local communities. Local governments councils and the RSN are already urging him to deal with the imbalance between urban and rural funding, which has not been reviewed since 2009. There was also discussion about clusters combining forces to provide local services jointly, such a local transport and youth services.

**089/16 - Reports from Councillors**

Cllr. Gray reported on news from Church Stretton. Road closures in the town are badly affecting businesses. The town now has only two banks, and Barclays has reduced its opening times to two days per week, so more people are having to travel to Shrewsbury or other towns to do their banking and are probably doing their shopping there too.

The members considered the decline in business activity in Church Stretton. It was proposed that the parish council should write to the Town Council urging them to (1) lobby Barclays to provide longer opening hours, and (2) to provide free parking in the town as an inducement to people to support businesses in the town.

**090/16 - Review of Cllr. Madeley's proposal for informal pre-planning discussions**

In Cllr. Madeley's absence, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**091/16 - Minor Highways & Environmental matters**

091/16/1 - Bench at Gaerstones layby.

This has not yet been moved back from the rock, or had the plaque attached to it, but Cllr. Pugh will attend to it shortly.

091/16/2 - Fencing adjacent to Lower House Farm, along the stream

This has now been completed and the workmanship is satisfactory. It was agreed the Clerk will endeavour to obtain some reflectors to fix on the ends of the fences. It was agreed the fencing would not be painted white.

091/16/3 - Railings around the War Memorial in Ticklerton

Mr Reynolds (EMO) had asked whether he should treated the wooden railings around the war memorial. As they are oak, it was agreed they should left be untreated: the Clerk to notify Mr Reynolds.

**092/16- Planning matters**

No planning applications had been received.

**093/16 - Correspondence and communications**

The members considered the following items of correspondence:

1. Connecting Shropshire - July update for Broadband

2. email 21.06.16 Clerk to Mr & Mrs Jenkins reducing the number of Hope Bowdler Hall meeting dates.

3. Emails from Clerk to Shropshire Highways re the blocked road drain at Eaton, by Darby Lane, and their responses.

4. Emails and documents concerning Shropshire Council's approach to Town and Parish Councils to raise their Precepts to fund libraries and leisure facilities etc.

* 8.6.16 - Memorandum of Cooperation - Redesign of Shropshire Council Services: issues identified by the Mayors and Town Clerk of 10 councils
* 14.6.16 - Notes of a meeting between Church Stretton Town Council and surrounding parishes making most use of Church Stretton's At-Risk services.
* email 01.07.16 from SALC notifying dates of Local Area Committee Workshops and a Working Group on 21st July 2016 at the Shirehall

**094/16 - Review of the new website and application for additional funding**

The Clerk is still having trouble getting the new website to work. A further Transparency Code grant is available - for the purchase of suitable software. The members proposed and unanimously agreed that an application be submitted for the additional funding.

**095/16 - Finance report for July 2016 and cheques to be authorised for payment**

095/16/1 - Finance Report for 18th July 2016

**Precept balance b/fwd. from 20th June 2016 £4,607.38**

**LESS**: cheques authorised for payment on 18th July 2016

1. Clerk’s net salary for July 2016 £125.96
2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s July 2016 salary £ 31.60

3. SALC membership £184.83

4. Expenses incurred by the Clerk in July

2016 in connection with Parish Council business:

* Contribution to Broadband/telephone and

office overheads - July 2016 £10.00

* 12 x 2nd class stamps £ 6.60
* 1 ream A4 copier paper £ 2.50
* Travelling expenses claimed at 30p per mile:

18.07.16 - To Hope Bowdler Village Hall for

PC meeting - 44 miles £13.20

Total of Clerk's expenses July 2016 £32.30 £ 32.30

£374.69 £ 374.69

**Balance of Precept as at 18.07.16 £4,232.69**

**Ring Fenced Funds**

**1. Highways & Environmental Grant**

Balance of Highways & Environmental Grant b/fwd £3,866.93

**LESS:**

1**.** Oak Garden Services - Inv. No. 16/083 £ 16.00

2. Invoice for May/July 2016 from Graham Reynolds HMO £263.90

3. Invoice from Mr Clive Pugh for fencing in Ticklerton £300.00

£579.90 £ 579.90

Balance of Highways Grant at 18.07.16 **£3,287.03**

**2. Transparency Code Grant**

Balance b/fwd from June 2016 **£840.20**

**LESS:** IT and website assistance provided on 23rd June and 11th July

2016 by Andy Holmes (cheque payable to Clerk, as she settled his

account) £ 70.00

Balance of Transparency Grant at 18.07.16 £**770.20**

095/16/2 - HSBC Bank Statement number 57 dated 4th July 2016

The bank/cash book reconciliation was presented to councillors for verification, and duly verified by Cllr. S Jones.

**096/16 - Questions for the Chairman**

It was agreed that the Clerk will seek a legal opinion from NALC on the libellous statement made against the parish council in a recent planning application.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

**Date & Venue of next Meeting**

Monday 19th September 2016, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall

**MINUTES SIGNED BY:**

**DATED**