EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

**M I N U T E S**

# OF THE MEETING HELD AT HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL

**MONDAY 20th JUNE 2016 at 7.30pm**

**071/16 Present & Apologies for absence**

**Present**

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. L Gray

## Apologies for absence were received and accepted from

Cllr. B Orme

Cllr. C Pugh

Cllr. M Young

Unitary Cllr. C Motley

### In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett

**072/16: 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.

**073/16 - Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual General Meeting and the Ordinary business meeting of 16th May 2016**

The three sets of Minutes of the meetings of 16th May 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.

**074/16: Matters arising from the Minutes of the of 16th May 2016 not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda**

.062/16: Cllr. Motley reported at the last meeting that she had asked the Planning Committee to call in the Sayang House application. They had not done so, and have granted permission on the Reserved Matters application with apparently no conditions to ameliorate the infringement of neighbours' privacy. Some members felt there was really no useful purpose to be served by parish councils considering planning applications when their local knowledge and views were given no credence.

**075/16 - Unitary Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Motley was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report by email, as follows:

Cllr. Motley apologised for her unavoidable absence at the meeting. She reported by a note on the meeting of 14th June 3016 chaired by Cllr. Clive Wright of Shropshire Council. He proposed that Parish councils joined with market town led "clusters" to take over services which Shropshire Council will no longer be able to provide, such a libraries and leisure centres. She urged parish councils not to rush to join any cluster until parish councils have debated the matter - and urged Chairs of all parish councils to come to her meeting on 28th June at Culmington.

Cllr. Watts will be unable to attend as he will be abroad.

**076/16- Reports from Councillors**

076/16/1 - Chairman's Report

The Chairman had attended a meeting of Church Stretton Town Council at 6pm on the 14th June in the belief it had been called by Cllr. Motley. The Town Council was discussing how facilities in Church Stretton are to be funded when Shropshire Council withdraws support, namely the leisure centre, the swimming pool, the tourist information centre and the library. The projected cost of funding these amenities is £163,00 per annum. However the leisure centre is subject to a claw-back arrangement of £138,000 and the swimming pool is in a poor state and needs refurbishment at a projected cost of £200,000.

The Town Council were suggesting they pay 70% of the cost, with LJC parishes funding 20% and parishes further afield 10% via their precepts. The Town Council was unable to put any actual figures forward to indicate what increase in their precepts parish councils would need to fund this. There are also legal issues of funding as parish councils are only entitled to fund services within their own boundaries.

The Chairman felt it was not worth discussing the matter further in the absence of actual hard facts and figures. He also felt that town and parish council are being asked to pay twice: all the property taxes collected in our parishes go to Shrewsbury, but then we are asked to pay a second time to fund local amenities, which have already been charged in our property taxes.

076/16/2 - Cllr. Gray

Cllr. Gray reported on news from Church Stretton. The Parish Council members congratulated the Stretton Focus on their Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

076/16/3 - LJC Report

Cllr. Jones had attended the LJC meeting on 9th June at Acton Scott, at which Cllr. Clive Wright, CEO on Shropshire Council had spoken. Essentially Cllr. Wright's message was that Shropshire Council had no funds and the parish councils will have to increase their precepts if they want local services such as libraries and leisure centres to remain open, to fund them.

**077/16 - Review of insurance cover for 2016/2017**

The Clerk had circulated the renewal documents including the schedule of items covered, for the Parish Council's 2016/2017 insurance cover. The members considered the matter and concluded that they were satisfied with the level and ambit of cover.

**078/16 - Consideration of a proposal to reduce the number of Parish Council Meetings**

With a view to reducing the parish council's overheads, and in line with some parishes in the Corvedale, the Chairman **proposed** that the parish council reduces the number of meetings annually from 10 to 8. After discussion it was agreed that for a trial period, no meetings will be held in April, August, October and December. Cllr. Jones **seconded** the proposal and the members **voted unanimously** to the reduced number of meetings, with immediate effect.

Accordingly there will be no meeting on 17th October 2016.

The Clerk will draw up a revised list of meetings and will notify Hope Bowdler Village Hall accordingly.

**079/16 - Minor Highways & Environmental matters**

Mr Reynolds progress was discussed and satisfaction expressed at his work. The Clerk has ascertained that plans were available from Highways showing the location of drains and gullies. She had obtained a plan of Bull Lane for Mr Reynolds. It was agreed that an identification card should be obtained for Mr Reynolds as members of the public were challenging him for his identity.

Cllr. Madeley reported that whilst the blocked drain by the old railway bridge in Eaton had been attended to by a suction lorry, it was still blocked and needs jetting. The Clerk will refer the matter again to Highways.

**080/16- Planning matters**

No planning applications had been received.

**081/16 - Correspondence and communications**

The members considered the following items of correspondence.

. 1. Temporary Road Closure notification re Sandford Avenue (Hope Bowdler side of Sandford Avenue) on 24th August 2016 from 9.30am to 4.30pm (for overhead power cables to be renewed)

2. Road closure notification from Highways England:

**A49/B5477 - Church Stretton resurfacing**:

Start Date: 15th August 2016

Completion date: 30th September 2016

Roads closed from 20.00 to 06.00 each day.

**A49/A489 Henley Lane resurfacing**

Start date: 26th September 2016

Completion date: 13th October 2016

Roads closed from 20.00 to 06.00

3. Legal advice in relation to how those parish councils which may wish to part-fund services previously carried out by the unitary council may do so legally, since many services (e.g. funding a library service) do not fall within the parish's boundaries or powers.

4. Planning Notifications

* 15/00708/FUL and 15/00709/LBC - applications relating to Ticklerton Hall, Ticklerton: Planning and LBC permission granted 4th April 2016.
* 16/00602/REM - Approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission for erection of dwelling at Sayang House, Hope Bowdler

Permission granted 15.06.16

5. Bundle of emails - Cllr. C Motley and Planning Officers re 16/00602/REM

6. 26.5.16 - Letter Clerk to Mazars (external auditors) sending the Annual Return documentation.

**082/16 - Finance report for June 2016 and cheques to be authorised for payment**

082/16/1 - Finance Report

**Precept balance b/fwd. from 16th May 2016 £4,799.00**

**LESS**: cheques authorised for payment on 20th June 2016

1. Clerk’s net salary for June 2016 £126.16
2. HMRC – PAYE on Clerk’s May 2016 salary £ 31.40

3. Expenses incurred by the Clerk in June

2016 in connection with Parish Council business:

* Contribution to Broadband/telephone and

office overheads - June 2016 £10.00

* 6 x 2nd class stamps £ 3.30
* Postage to Mazars £ 0.96
* 1 x HP364 black ink cartridge £ 6.00
* Travelling expenses claimed at 30p per mile:

20.06.16 - To Hope Bowdler Village Hall for

PC meeting - 46 miles £13.80

Total of Clerk's expenses June 2016 £34.06 £ 34.06

£191.62 £ 191.62

**Balance of Precept as at 20.06.16 £4,607.38**

**Ring Fenced Funds**

**1. Highways & Environmental Grant**

Balance of Highways & Environmental Grant b/fwd £4,518.73

Less: cheque authorised at meeting 16.05.16 for Mr Clive Pugh

not shown on May Finance Report £ 355.00

Balance c/fwd to June 2016 £4163.73

**Less:**

Oak Garden Services - Inv. No. 16/045 £ 16.00

Kinch Parry Ltd - Inv. 161709 £280.80

£296.00 £ 296.80

Balance f/fwd to July 2016 £3866.93 **£3,866.93**

**2. Transparency Code Grant** balance b/fwd from May 2016 **£ 840.20**

**082/16/2 - Reconciliation of HSBC Bank Statement number 56**

The Clerk presented to councillors for verification a cash book/bank statement reconciliation, which was duly checked and verified by Cllr Jones. .

**083/16 - Questions for the Chairman**

083/16/1

The question of the parish council seeking legal advice on a recent issues was debated. Cllr. Gray proposed that the cost of membership of SALC be investigated , as they have a legal tea. It was agreed membership of SALC be debated at the July meeting.

083/16/2

Cllr. Madeley proposed that it would be useful if parishioners were able to come to the parish council for pre-application advice on planning applications. This would enable the parish council to give its view on an application, and perhaps influence changes, without parishioners having to go to the expense of submitting full applications which may not succeed or may have aspects which the parish council objects to. The Clerk advised that since, she believed, 2012 there has been a pre-planning procedure administered by local and unitary councils - full details are on the Internet. Whilst they are normally used for large developments, a Corvedale parish had recently received one for an individual house.

Cllr. Madeley felt a more informal discussion might be useful. It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting, when it would be discussed by more members and Cllr. Motley's input could be obtained.

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

**Date & Venue of next Meeting**

Monday 18th July 2016, 7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

**MINUTES SIGNED BY:**

**DATED**