

MINUTES

**of the parish council meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023 at
7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall**

094/23 - Present

Cllr. G Watts – Chairman (for part of the meeting)
Cllr. S Jones
Cllr. P Jenkins – Chairman from Item 099/23 onwards
Cllr. T Madeley
Cllr. S Jones

Apologies received and accepted from:

Cllr. L. Gray

In Attendance

The Clerk, Unitary Cllr. Motley (for part of the meeting)

095/23 - 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 were made.

096/23 – Public question time

Correspondence had been received by Cllr. Jenkins from Mrs N Yeadon, which was noted.

097/23 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 17th July 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17th July 2023 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 17th July 2023 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jenkins

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to approve the Minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

098/23 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 17th July 2023

084/23: Mr Julian Beeston had finally responded to the parish council's requests about Oaklands and advises he is considering enforcement action, but does not appear to have included the industrial unit in the proposed enforcement process. Councillors advised it

now appears the industrial unit is being used for the manufacture of shepherd's huts. The Clerk was requested to take this aspect of the enforcement up with Mr Beeston.

093/23/1: The Clerk had submitted a Freedom of Information Request to Shropshire Council enquiring whether business rates were being paid on the commercial camping activities at the Oaklands Leisure & Camping Site at Harton since 2019. The response was: "The camping business does not appear to be on the business rating list. Thank you for bringing this to our attention, we will look into the matter."

The Clerk had also raised a Freedom of Information question enquiring whether business rates were being paid on the light industrial unit at Oaklands Camping and Leisure site in Harton. The response was "Thus Business does not appear to be on the business rating list. Thank you for bringing it to our attention, we will look into the matter".

093/23/1: The Clerk had submitted a Freedom of Information Request to Shropshire Council, enquiring how much Shropshire Council had paid to the owners of Acton Scott to be released from the remaining term of the Museum Lease. Shropshire Council declined to provide this information, citing Section 43/2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Commercial Interests. SC believe this information is exempt from disclosure.

It was agreed not to pursue this matter further.

099/23 – Report from Unitary Councillor C Motley

Cllr. Motley advised that BT propose disconnecting all copper-based telephone land lines in 2025, to be replaced by a digital system. This will mean lots of new telecoms masts. SC has no means of influencing this decision, which will leave many homes and businesses which presently cannot receive digital signals without telephone access. She hopes the government will not allow this to happen.

At present the government's green agenda proposes to ban the fitting of any new oil-fired central heating oil boilers by 2030. Grants will be offered towards the cost of ground source or heat source pumps. However, not all properties can accommodate these pumps and if they have no gas supply, electric heating will be the only option.

She is happy to report that there is no WRAC in any Shropshire school buildings, however a few buildings such as libraries may have a problem.

Shropshire Council has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Herefordshire, Powys and Montgomeryshire councils which, it is hoped, will facilitate better cross-border co-operation between the councils on issues such as public transport. The initiative is termed The Marches Forward programme.

100/23 – Planning.

Councillors considered the appeal, ref. 23/03180/REF, lodged by the applicant to the refusal of planning permission for an agricultural shed on land adjoining the Bungalow in Ragdon, which was planning reference 22/01331/FUL. An agreed response is to be submitted to the Planning Inspector in Bristol outlining again the parish council's objections to the application.

At this point in the proceedings the Chairman was taken ill and Cllr. Jenkins took over as acting Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.

101/23 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications

The following items of correspondence were considered by the councillors.

1. Freedom of Information Request from parish council to Shropshire Council asking (1) if Oaklands Leisure Campsite & Fishery at Harton, Church Stretton, SY6 7DL pays business rates in respect of the commercial camping and allied activities carried out on this site. Asking SC to advise when business rates commenced being paid, if ever: the parish council believes the site has been run on a commercial basis since at least 2019. (2) asking if business rates are paid on the industrial building erected at Oaklands Campsite circa 2021, which is believed to be used for commercial light industrial works.
Response from Shropshire Council: To (1) they respond: “This business does not appear to be on the business rating list. Thank you for bringing it to our attention, we will look into the matter.
To (2) they respond: “This business does not appear to be on the business rating list. Thank you for bringing it to our attention, we will look into the matter.”
2. Freedom of Information Request from parish council to Shropshire Council asking how much money SC paid to the proprietors of Acton Scott in order to be released from the remaining term (believed to be 15 years) relating to Acton Scott Museum Lease, Acton Scott, Church Stretton.
Response: “Request for information refused on the grounds that it falls within exemption section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – commercial interests. This section provides an exemption from disclosure of information which would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any persons. SC believes disclosure of detailed information in this case is more likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the other party than it would benefit the public by its disclosure”.
3. Email from Cllr. Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council, advising about the “Marches Forward Project”, namely SC’s intention to work with Herefordshire Council as well as Monmouthshire and Powys County Councils on common issues that cross our national boundaries. Collaboration is planned on transport, energy, housing and the visitor economy, amongst other shared interests.
4. Notification of invitation to free Conference at Montford Village Hall on Friday 13th October, 10am – 4pm (lunch included) on “Restoring Shropshire’s verges, hedges and watercourses.” To make a booking, send an email to: conference@middlesmarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk
5. Planning permission result notification: **23/02128/FUL** – erection of two storey side and rear extension including a balcony at the side elevation at Belvedere, Common Lane, Soudley. Planning Permission granted 14.09.23

102/23 – Highways and Environmental matters

Councillors reported that the Birtley/ Soudley road has been repaired and greatly improved. Also Darby Lane between Eaton and Wall had been repaired but the work standard of the was considered to be poor. The 20mph speed limit imposed in urban areas of Wales was noted with concern.

103/23 – To further consider possible amalgamation with Rushbury Parish Council and possible joint Parish Plan

Cllr. Jenkins advised that the Chairman, Cllr, Watts, had been in discussions with Rushbury Parsh Council's chairman, and was going to report to the meeting about it, but due to his absence the matter cannot be progressed. The Clerk reminded the meeting that at the Culmington meeting in June Cllr. Motley had advised that the parish council boundary changes/amalgamations etc cannot be progressed until the Local Government Boundaries Commission has reported on its review of Shropshire boundaries. This has not yet happened. It is just possible that the Commission may change some of the parish boundaries, so until their decision is made public, the parishes cannot progress with their reviews or revised parish plans.

104/23 - Finance Report for August/September 2023

1. Precept Funds – balance b/fwd from July 2023	£7,630.79
ADD. Insurance Premium refund from BHIB	<u>£ 22.87</u>
	£7,653.66
Less: Payments to be made on 18th September 2023 from Precept Fund	
• HSBC bank charges to	£ 12.40
• Clerk's net salary for Aug & September 2023	£353.12
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's Aug & September 2023 salary	£ 88.20
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in August & September 2023</u> <u>paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>	
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for Aug & Sept. 2023 @ £20 p.m.	£40.00`
○ Ream of A4 copy paper	£ 4.99
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 18.09.23 to Ticklerton Village Hall	
Total: 32 miles	<u>£14.40</u>
Total of Aug/Sept. 2023 admin. expenses	£59.39
	<u>£ 59.39</u>
	£513.11
	<u>£ 513.11</u>
Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to October 2023	<u>£7,140.55</u>

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the cheques listed above totalling £513.11 be approved for payment.

Cllr. Madeley **seconded** the proposal

Vote: councillors unanimously voted in support of the payment of the cheques listed.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Environmental/Maintenance Fund balance c/fwd from July 2023 **£1,161.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance c/fwd from July 2023 **£ 451.59**

Total funds held by Parish Council following authorisation & presentation of the above cheques.

Precept Fund	£7,140.55
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£1,161.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	<u>£ 451.59</u>
	<u>£8,753.92</u>

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The Clerk's reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statements 142 and 143 for August and September 2023 was checked and verified by Cllr. Jones.

105/23 – Further consideration of the provision of SmartWater kits to all households in the parish

The Clerk advised that despite notices in the parish magazine, on notice boards around the parish and in the Minutes which are available on the website, of the 187 houses in the parish, only five householders had contacted her registering an interest in SmartWater kits. The Police will not assist with the distribution of the kits nor provide the SmartWater warning notices unless 75% at least of the parish sign up, and nor will the Police and Crime Commissioner assist with funding the scheme with such a poor response. Cllr. Madeley regrettably **proposed** that due to apathy, the scheme of providing all households with a SmartWater kit will have to be abandoned.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously to abandon the SmartWater scheme.

106/23 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Date & Venue of the next Parish Council
Monday 16th October 2023, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall

Graham Watts

SIGNED

16th October 2023

DATED
