

MINUTES

**of the parish council meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 at
7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall**

001/24 - Present

Cllr. G Watts – Chairman

Cllr. P. Jenkins

Cllr. L. Gray

Cllr. C. Pugh

Cllr. B Orme

Cllr. S Jones

Apologies received and accepted from

Cllr. T. Madeley

In Attendance

The Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Motley (for part of the meeting) and two members of the public.

002/24 - 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.

003/24 – Public question time

A resident from Ragdon sought assistance and advice from the parish council on the implementation of a recent planning permission. They had issues with watercourses being incorrectly delineated on plans submitted to Shropshire Council, including a 90 degree angle in a proposed drainage pipe, possible septic tank contamination and other issues. The Chairman advised that the parish council does not have the expertise to deal with these issues and advised they instruct their planning consultant to prepare a report on these matters and when it is available, the parish council can consider the matter further.

004/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 20th November 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 20th November 2023 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Gray **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 20th November 2023 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

Vote: Those Councillors who had attended the meeting of 20th November 2023 voted unanimously to approve the Minutes.

005/24 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 20th November 2023

005/23: The Clerk advised no response had been received from Julian Beeston, Enforcement Officer, to the parish council's letter of 23rd October 2023.

128/23/1: as requested, the Clerk confirmed she had reported the pothole in Bull Lane, Hope Bowdler to Highways.

131/23: The Clerk had contacted the Police & Crime Commissioner to enquire how much match funding would be required if a grant for a SID unit (for Hope Bowdler) was submitted to the PCC. The officer spoken to advised the council to offer the £450 CIL funds it has available. The Clerk had therefore drafted a grant application form and brought it to the meeting for council approval and approval was given. It is a condition of PCC grants for SID units that the Highways authority has approved the siting of such a SID Unit. The Clerk had therefore written to Highways seeking their approval and requested a date for a site meeting to discuss the location of the unit.

006/24 – Report from Shropshire Councillor C Motley

Cllr. Motley reported on the current status of SC's deliberations on their 2024 – 2025 Budget. The cost of adult and child social care has been a particular budget concern: a few years ago, 230 children were in SC's care: the figure is currently 725 and many have complex needs, some of which are being catered for by specialist private care sector providers at great cost. An Ofsted Report was critical about some children being placed out of county, but Ofsted acknowledged the difficulties SC faced. With the elderly, bed-blocking is again an issue due to the lack of domiciliary care and the increasing number of dementia patients needing assistance.

The Chairman asked why carers in the community are not paid more, so more staff could be recruited, thus easing the bed blocking issue. The issue was debated.

Cllr. Pugh was concerned that it is almost impossible to find a parking space at Shrewsbury Hospital, and the situation is going to worsen as building work is about to begin and half the car parking has been reserved for the builders. Cllr. Motley advised visitors should use the park and ride service or visit Ludlow Hospital Minor Injuries unit for treatments, rather than Shrewsbury.

007/24 – To consider planning matters.

The Conditions attached to the recent Ragdon planning permission were noted.

008/24 – To note the list of parish council meetings for 2024 up to May 2025

Cllr. Jenkins asked if the meeting on 15th April 2024 clashed with the Easter bank holiday. It was established that Easter is at the beginning of April this year. The dates have been circulated and the meeting venues booked.

009/24 - Correspondence/Communications considered at the meeting

1. Notification from John Bellis, Drainage and Flood Risk Manager at SC relating to grants available to support property owners impacted by Storm Henk. Details of

the scheme are available on: <https://www.gov.uk/news/government-payments-for-communities-affected-by-flooding>

2. Invitation to consult with SC on its 2024 – 2025 budget. A 20 minute survey is available on: Budget consultation 2024/25 Shropshire Council.
3. Updated from Shropshire Council on the Community Governance Review. Details can be accessed on: <https://www.lgbce.co.uk/all-reviews/shropshire>
At present SC is focusing on Shrewsbury Parish and adjacent parishes; Albrighton and Donnington parishes; Ludlow and Ludford parishes; Baschurch and Bomere Heath (Pimhill) parishes and Market Drayton and Adderley parishes.
4. Email Clerk to Mrs Ruth Jenkins with list of parish council’s meeting dates up to April 2025, requesting that Hope Bowdler Village Hall be booked for those dates, and seeking an invoice for 23/24 hall bookings.
5. Email Clerk to Mr Will Allen with a list of parish council meeting dates up to April 2025, requesting that Ticklerton Village Hall be booked for those dates, and seeking an invoice for 23/24 bookings.
6. Notifications of road closures:
22nd - 24th January 2024 – unnamed road between B4368 and Westhope
14th – 15th February 2024 – unnamed road between Ticklerton and Darby Lane
12th – 23rd February 2024 – B4371 Sandford Avenue (west), Church Stretton.
Diversions in place
7. Notifications of requests sent by Clerk to Highways Dept via Fix My Street
Pot hole by Nethersprings, Bull Lane, Hope Bowdler
Pot hole in carriageway of lane adjacent to Ticklerton Village Hall
Renewal and enlargement of pipe under bridge in Darby Lane, near Whitefields Farm

010/24 – Highways and Environmental matters

Cllr. Orme reported on discussions he had with a road repairing crew. He was advised SC no longer do the work in-house, rather it is contracted out to a private company who charge £600 a ton for tarmac as opposed to the former SC cost of £200 a ton. The information was deplored by the council members.

Cllr. Pugh reported on an area of serious tarmac/road surface erosion in Darby Lane, by Boystones Farm. The Clerk will advise Rushbury PC of the problem as it is in their area.

011/24 – To review progress the amalgamation of Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council with Rushbury Parish Council

The amalgamation procedure is in abeyance until 2025 but contact with Rushbury PC will be maintained. To this end, the Chairman sought the permission of councillors to send a list of their contact details to Rushbury PC, to facilitate communications. All councillors agreed and the Clerk was asked to forward the details to Rushbury PC’s Clerk.

012/24 - Finance

Finance Report for December 2023 – January 2024

1. Precept Funds – corrected balance b/fwd from November 2023 **£5,637.48**

LESS; Payments to be made on 15th January 2024 from Precept Fund

• HSBC bank charges	£ 6.20		
• Clerk’s net salary for December 2023 & January 2024	£353.12		
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk’s Dec. 2023 & Jan 2024 salary	£ 88.20		
• Mr Clive Martyn – website management fees	£ 12.50		
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in December 2023 & January 2024 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>			
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for Dec. 2023 & Jan. 2024 @ £20 p.m.	£40.00		
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 15.01.24 to Hope Bowdler Village Hall			
Total: 34 miles	<u>£15.30</u>		
Total of Dec. 2023/Jan. 2024 admin. expenses	<u>£55.30</u>	£ 55.30	
-		£515.32	£ 515.32
Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to February 2024			<u>£5,122.16</u>

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that the cheques listed above totalling £515.32 be approved for payment

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

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

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

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

Precept Fund	£5,122.16
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£1,161.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	£ 451.59
	<u>£6,735.53</u>

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The Clerk’s reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 146 was verified by Councillor Jenkins.

013/24 – Consideration and adoption of the Precept Budget for 2024/2025

Councillors had considered a draft Precept Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year at the November 2023 meeting. They now agreed the Budget in the sum of £5,588 made up by the following sums:

Clerk’s gross salary	£2,855.84
Administration expenses (Broadband, etc.)	£ 500.00
Insurance	£ 500.00
Village hall hire for meetings	£ 140.00
Payroll administration	£ 120.00
Audit fees	£ 125.00
Contingency sum	£ 200.00
SALC affiliation fee	£ 250.00

Data Protection annual fee	£ 40.00
Donations towards churchyard upkeep	£ 400.00
Website hosting fee	£ 250.00
Website management fee	£ 60.00
HSBC bank charges	£ 90.00
	£5,530.00 – rounded up to £5,588.

The Chairman **proposed** that the parish council's precept for the financial year 01/04/24 to 31/03/25 be set at £5,588.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jenkins

Vote: Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

013/24 - Up date on the new arrangements for the administration of the parish council's website.

The Clerk confirmed that as SALC are no longer able to administer the parish council's website, Mr Clive Martyn of Bache Mill has taken on the role at a stipend of £60 per annum. He has liaised with WebOrchard and is now in control of the website. He enquired why there is not a list of councillors and their contact details on the website. Councillors confirmed that such a list can be added to the website and the Clerk will send one to Mr Martyn.

014/24 – 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 8.40pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council
Monday 19th February 2024, 7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall**

SIGNED Graham Watts

19th February 2024

DATED _____