

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING HELD on 17th JANUARY 2022, at 7.30pm at HOPE BOWDLER VILLAGE HALL

001/22 - Present

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. P Jenkins

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. C. Pugh

Cllr. S Jones

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. L. Gray, Cllr. B Orme and ,
Unitary Cllr. Cecilia Motley

In Attendance: Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett

002/22 - 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 of interest were made.

003/22 – Public question time

No members of the public attended.

004/22 – Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2021

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2021 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes of the meeting.

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that the Minutes be approved by the members.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

Vote: The members present voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meeting on 15th November 2021 and they were duly signed by the Chairman as being a true record of the meeting.

005/22 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 15th November 2021

No matters were raised.

006/22 – Reports

Cllr. Motley was unable to attend but emailed a report saying “It’s been a rather hectic period with the North Shropshire by-election, Cabinet meetings, the onset of the omicron

variant and booster vaccine programme all causing a bit of a whirlwind and, due to the pre-election period, some shifting of meetings on into the New Year.

Following the return to school in the New Year Shropshire's omicron cases remain stubbornly high peaking at 2,009 as at 4 January but now fortunately beginning to plateau. On the brighter side, some 84% of the population has now had a booster jab. Let us hope we can soon bid farewell to omicron and get back to normal.

On top of usual portfolio meetings I had a session with John Bellis, drainage manager, to discuss some of the ongoing problems around the Division with lanes undermined and made dangerous by water run-off. He told me that the drainage contract presently with WSP is up for renewal with a plan to bring drainage in-house to six smaller areas countywide with local technicians in charge. The south technicians will report to Andy Keyland. This seems a more satisfactory solution but I emphasised that we need drainage officers with good local knowledge. John is also very keen to see more Flood Action Groups around the county. The Corvedale have been leaders in setting up these Groups. It also appears that DEFRA is rowing back on its proposals for new regulations for cemeteries which included a five metre area for each grave which would be impossible for smaller churchyards with limited space to comply with.

Some good news which may already have reached you is that we are now taking orders for the rollout of a new (free) recycling wheelie bin. This will take recyclates such as plastics, bottles, cans etc all of which currently go into the boxes. This was one of our manifesto commitments that we particularly wanted to deliver on as not only will it save householders from lugging boxes but also save our binmen's backs and stop the plastic flying away and lodging in hedgerows etc. Details of how to apply for a box are on www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste or for those without access to internet 0345 678 9007.

The knottiest problem we have is – as usual – the government's funding settlement which came out just before Christmas and was discussed at Council last week. This was flagged as a three year settlement, allowing us to plan budget requirements over a reasonable period. In fact it is another stop-gap one-year budget and local government is fed up. In Shropshire we are hamstrung by our ballooning social care budgets, which now absorb some 85% of our disposable income. This means that portfolio areas like my own with such a wide remit are hobbled by lack of funds yet again and are very vulnerable to budget cuts and salami slicing through the year.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that the funding raised through the forthcoming NI increase for health and social care will benefit the NHS but not be put towards local authorities' social care costs. Our Leader, Lezley Picton, with Philip Dunne had two sessions with Michael Gove to make our position clear and we met with our MPs to ask that they protest vigorously about our position. We are meeting them again at the end of this week to follow up on this.

Finally, we are resuming the meetings of the Community Governance Review Group which had to be postponed due to the by-election, after which we will be asking for views and comments from parishes and town councils which wish to make changes to their boundaries."

Cllr. Motley also advised by email on the current situation of Acton Scott Museum: it is running at a large deficit – £168,000 - each ticket sold is subsidised by SC to the extent of £8.40. SC are currently running a consultation process to determine the future of the museum. The Chairman and councillors will respond to the consultation on behalf of the parish council. As much as they appreciate the museum, it was felt the losses are unsustainable in the current economic climate.

007/22– planning applications

21/04006/FUL an application for the installation of two external air heat source pumps following removal of an external boiler and oil tank, at The Stables, Ticklerton, SY6 7DQ. Councillors considered the plans and photographs submitted. It was noted there were no public objections.

The Chairman **Proposed** that the parish council should support the application and raise no objections to it.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

008/22 – Consideration of Correspondence and Communications received in December 2021 and January 2022

1. 24.11.21 – Letter from Parish Council to Enforcement Officer at SC re 20/07296/ENF – Oaklands Leisure. Response from Mr Beeston on 06.12.21.
2. 02.12.21 Invitation from Mr C Carson asking if the parish council wishes to make any contributions or express any views on the Church Stretton Community Emergency Plan, which is currently being reviewed.
3. 18.11.21 Further details about Defra’s proposed amended regulations affecting bore holes, septic tanks and burial grounds.
4. Notification by Clerk to Highways of damaged bridge on lane between New Hall and Harton, and the response received from FixMyStreet confirming it has been logged.
5. Bundle of emails between the parish council and a resident about signage needed for a concealed entrance at Mount View, Hope Bowdler. Request for signage sent to Highways by Clerk. FixMyStreet responded on 08.12.21 that the request has been logged.
6. Information sheet dated 21.12.21 from SALC re Expressions of Interest for CIL Funding – Future Working.
7. Information from SALC about BT’s proposal withdrawal of the old copper network which currently services cable-based telephone and broadband services. It is to be replaced with the fibre optic network once 75% of properties in an exchange area can access the fibre optic network. The other 25% of properties, it appears, will need to organise their own special equipment.
8. Information from SALC about a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. It will affect Ludlow and Church Stretton amongst other towns.
9. Email from Cllr. Gwilym Butler who is the Cabinet Lead for Finance at SC. He seeks views on SC’s budget plans for 2022/2023.
10. FOI request to parish council re donations to assist with maintenance of churchyards, which the Clerk had responded to..
11. Notification from SALC of new wheelie bin regime: new wheelie bins can now be requested for recycling cans, glass and plastic. Contact www.shropshire.gov.uk/waste for details.

12. Notification from SALC that all councillors now have to complete and lodge with SC an Other Registerable Interests form. Clerk has circulated the forms by email.
13. Clerk's enquiry to SALC about WebOrchard no longer displaying planning information on our website – displays ceased in August 2021 following the SC planning portal software being changed. SALC advise all SC's laptops are suffering the same problem. WebOrchard assure them they are working with SC's IT department to resolve the problem. Clerk has contacted SC's IT department on four occasions to obtain information about this problem, but they have not responded.
14. Email from Cllr. Madeley with photograph of blocked drain in Eaton, by Darby Lane. Clerk has raised the issue with Highways again, asking for a permanent solution to this perennial problem.
15. Request from Clerk to Highways for the chevron attached to the wall of Lower House Farm, Hope Bowdler, to be replaced following car colliding with the wall at 2am on 02.02.22, causing damage to the chevron and the property

Responses.

Item 2 – Invitation to this parish council to propose any amendments or additions to the Church Stretton Community Emergency Plan. The 63-page plan had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration. The Chairman had discussed it with the Chairman of Rushbury PC and Cllr. Motley. The consensus of the discussion was that (a) in no way had CS ever assisted our parishes and thus we don't see the point of being involved with this plan and (b) we prefer to distance our parishes from Church Stretton Town Council rather than get involved with their initiatives. Cllr. Madeley said the council had discussed this plan when it was first mooted years ago and felt then it was unnecessary to be involved with it: if anything goes wrong in our parish, we just all pull together to sort it out using our own resources.

After further discussion the Chairman **Proposed** this parish council should withdraw from Church Stretton's Emergency Plan and not be a part of it.

Proposal seconded by Cllr. Madeley

Vote: councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Carson advising that as this parish council sees no benefit from being involved with the Church Stretton Emergency Plan, it wishes to withdraw from it.

Item 12: The Clerk had circulated a new disclosure form which all councillors have to complete and lodge with SC – namely the Other Registerable Interest form. It was agreed that all councillors will complete the forms and bring them to the February meeting.

009/21 – Highways and Environmental matters

Cllr. Jenkins reported that Mr Bent has not yet repaired the roof of the Hope Bowdler bus shelter and it was deteriorating. The Clerk agreed to contact him again. The Chairman suggested the Clerk contact Mr McFarlane, Chairman of Rushbury PC, to ask who they use if Mr Bent is no longer available.

010/22– Financial Matters

010/22/1 - Finance Report for January 2022

The Clerk had circulated a first draft of the 2022/2023 Precept budget for councillors' consideration at the November meeting. Further consideration was given to the budget. The Clerk's salary was increased by £100, making it £2,498.24 p.a. w.e.f 1st April 2022. The legality of S.137 donations had been researched by the Clerk: the auditor had confirmed the payments for churchyard maintenance are legal. The exact figure for the election costs is still unknown. It was agreed the sum of £1000 for asset maintenance and environmental work is necessary.

The following figures were agreed for the 2022/2023 Precept:

Clerk's salary	£2,498.24
General administrative expenses	£600.00
Insurance	£500.00
Hall hire	£120.00
Payroll administration	£ 95.00
Audit fees	£140.00
Contingencies fund	£200.00
SALC subscription	£210.00
Data Protection registration fee	£ 40.00
Asset maintenance & environmental work	£1,000.00
S.137 LGA donations	£400.00
Estimated May 2021 election costs	£150.00
Website annual hosting fee	£185.00
Fund towards purchase of 2 nd SID	£250.00
Estimated bank charges	£ 84.00
Total ;	<u>£6,472.00</u>

Cllr. Jenkins **Proposed** that the Precept Requirement for 2022/2023 be set at £6,472.00
Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Madeley

Vote: Councillors unanimously voted to set the 2022/2023 Precept at £6,472.

The Chairman and the Clerk duly signed the Precept Requirement form.

A copy of the Precept Budget will be available to view on the council's website.

011/22 - Questions for the Chairman

011/22/1: Cllr. Madeley asked all councillors to support Rushbury PC's petition that parish council be allowed to resume remote platform meetings (Zoom),

011/22/2: The Clerk had circulated a list of meeting dates up to and including 15th May 2023. Councillors approved the list.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting
Monday 21st February 2022, 7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall.

SIGNED Graham Watts

DATED: 21st February 2022