EATON UNDER HEYWOOD & HOPE BOWDLER PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Graham Watts

**M I N U T E S**

# of the parish council meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024 at

#  7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

**015/24 - Present**

Cllr. G Watts – Chairman

Cllr. P. Jenkins

Cllr. C. Pugh

Cllr. T. Madeley

Cllr. S Jones

**Apologies received and accepted from**

Cllr. L. Gray

### In Attendance

The Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. Motley for part of the meeting.

**016/24 - 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.

**017/24 – Public question time**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**018/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 15th January 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15th January 2024 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 15th January 2024 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

**Vote:**  Councillors voted unanimously to approve the Minutes.

**019/24 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 20th November 2023**

131/23 and 005/24: The Clerk reported a grant application had been submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioner for a second SID unit for Hope Bowder, no response as yet. She mentioned the Police & Crime Commissioner is understood to be attending a meeting at Cardington PC due to a crime wave in that parish. She has contacted Highways for permission to site a second SID unit in Hope Bowdler – response awaited.

010/24: The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the Clerk at Rushbury PC about the road works needed by Boystones Farm in Darby Lane.

The Chairman advised a second informal meeting is to be held between Eaton and Rushbury parish councils to discuss the forthcoming proposed amalgamation. He had learned that the Clerk at Rushbury has resigned and is leaving on 12th March 2024.

**020/24 – Report from Shropshire Councillor C Motley**

Cllr. Motley reported on the current situation regarding SC’s 2024 – 2025 budget, which is facing a shortfall of some £62 million. 76% of the budget is taken up with adult and child social care: these are statutory duties which cannot, by law, be either cut out completely nor scaled back. Thus only 24% of the budget is available for all the other services Shropshire Council has to provide. There has been a considerable increase in the number of children coming into care, many with complex needs requiring expensive solutions. Additionally, over 65’s, often with co-morbidities including dementia, are constantly requiring care. Given the rural nature of Shropshire, carers are having to travel considerable distances to assist the elderly needing domiciliary care: areas such as between Bridgnorth and Clun are not uncommon. This limits the number of clients who can be assisted in a day by individual carers.

At present it looks as if cuts or closures will have to be made to libraries, leisure centres, household re-cycling centres, transport for children, especially taxi transport for those with special needs. SC will be launching a consultation on the budget from 29th February 2024 to which all are invited to contribute their views.

As to the Shirehall, it used to accommodate 4,000 people but now has only 400. As an alternative, hubs are being sought and when acquired the Shirehall will be vacated and sold for development.

Councillors expressed their concerns at the suggestion that the only south Shropshire household re-cycling centre for miles around, at Craven Arms, may be closed. This would obviously lead to a massive rise in fly tipping.

**021/24 - Correspondence/Communications considered at the meeting**

Councillors considered the following documents**.**

1. Newsletter from Police & Crime Commissioner reinforcing his commitment to community projects and setting out his budget proposals for 2024 – 2025. Query raised about the budget by EHB PC and the PCC’s response
2. Email from Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council, advising of a shortfall of £62M in SC’s 2024 – 2025 budget and indicating services which may be reduced or even withdrawn altogether. These include libraries, leisure centres, household recycling centres, transport for children, charging for green waste collections.
3. Newsletter from the Winter Support Services team of services available to keep people well this winter, which include services at the Mayfair Community Centre in Church Stretton.
4. Warning from Shropshire Council that its Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Team have seen an alarming rise in the number of cold calling canvassing by companies offering free energy efficiency improvements, many of which are scams. In the event of any doubt, contact ksw@mea.org.uk or call 0800 112 3743 to ascertain authenticity of cold callers. Check SC’s website for details of the scheme promoted by SC.
5. Notification about the use if pesticides on public land. Contact https://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/register.htm for details.
6. Agenda for South Shropshire Area Committee Meeting to be held via Zoom on 22nd February 2024.
7. Request from BBC Radio Shropshire to nominate anyone who has made a contribution towards this community, for their BBC Radio Shropshire Make A Difference Award. Nominations must be received by 10th Mach 2024 and should be sent to https://www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference.
8. Road closure notification 19th and 20th March, unnamed road between Eaton Under Heywood & Ticklerton.
9. Road closure notification 25th March – 3rd April 2024, unnamed road between Westhope and Middlehope.
10. Notification from Vicky Turner that she is leaving the Place Plan department at SC and moving to the Schools Sustainable Travel Team. er place is now taken by DanCordenShe is replaced by Dan Corden who can be contacted at dan.corden@shropshire.gov.uk
11. Confirmation from the Clerk that she has submitted a grant application to the Police & Crime Commissioner for a SID Unit for Hope Bowdler, and contacted the Highways Department for permission to site the unit on the B4368.
12. Email Clerk to Rushbury PC’s Clerk asking for a list of their councillor’s contact details, and advising of road repairs needed in Darby Lane.

**023/24 – Highways and Environmental matters**

Cllr. Jenkins reported that the Hope Bowdler bus shelter window has been repaired. A Ticklerton road sign is lying on the verge. Mr Hall will be asked to investigate.

**024/24 - Finance Report for February 2024**

1. **Precept Funds – corrected balance b/fwd from January 2024 £5,122.16**

**LESS; Payments to be made on 19th February 2024 from Precept Fund**

* HSBC bank charges - Dec 2023 & Jan 2024 £ 11.60
* Clerk’s net salary for February 2024 £176.46
* HMRC - PAYE on Clerk’s February 2024 salary £ 44.20
* Hope Bowlder Village Hall 2023/2024 hire charges £ 50.00
* Ticklerton Village Hall – 2023 – 2024 hire charges £ 72.00
* Information Commissioner (data protection annual fee) £ 40.00
* Admin expenses incurred in February 2024

 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.

* Contribution towards telephone/internet

 provision for February 2024 @ £20 p.m. £20.00

* 1 book 2nd class stamps £ 6.00
* A Holmes – IT support – checking Word

Processor & renewing anti-virus control £35.00

* Electricity for heating at HBVH on 15.01.24 £ 4.00
* Travelling expenses:19.02.24 to Ticklerton

Village Hall - 32 miles @ 45p per mile £14.40

Total of February 2024 admin. expenses £79.40 £ 79.40

 ` £473.66 £473.66

 **Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to March 2024 £4,648.50**

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the cheques totalling £473.66 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded by** Cllr. Jenkins

**Vote:** Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

**Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council**

 Environmental/Maintenance Fund balance b/fwd from January 2024 **£1,161.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from January 2024 £ **451.59**

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

 **Precept Fund £4,648.50**

**Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund £1,161.78**

**Neighbourhood Fund grant £ 451.59**

 **£6,261.87**

**2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.**

Clerk’s reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statements 147 and 148 was verified by Councillor Jenkins.

**025/24 – Matters to be dealt with in preparation for the 2023 – 2024 Audit**

025/24/1 – appointment of an auditor

Cllr. Jenkins **proposed** that Mrs Jennie Griffiths of Leebotwood be appointed as the parish council’s auditor for the 2023 – 2024 financial year’s audit.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

**Vote:** councillors voted unanimously for the appointment of Mrs Griffiths**.**

025/24/2 – review of the parish council’s current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Strategic Risk Assessment and the Register of Assets

Councillors reviewed these documents and were of the view that none of them needed any revision this year.

The Chairman **proposed** that the council was satisfied that the documents did not need any revision this year.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Madeley

**Vote:** Proposal carried by a unanimous vote by the councillors.

**026/24 – 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 8.30pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting**

**Monday 18th March 2024, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall**

**SIGNED Graham Watts**

**DATED 18th March 2024**