

WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 8th March 2021 at 7:30pm

Due to the COVID-19 meeting restrictions, this meeting was held remotely via Zoom

Present: Councillors Mr B Nelson (Chairman), Mrs V Amos, Mrs J Davies, Mr P Davies, Mr M Millington, Mr K Rowlands and Mr I Sherwood

In attendance: Councillor C Wild (Shropshire Council), Mrs S Morris (Clerk), 1 member of the public

1. PUBLIC SESSION

The member of the public introduced himself as the Labour Party candidate for the area in the upcoming elections.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

None other than those at item 6 and 7 below.

6. CONCEALED ENTRANCE AT CONFLUENCE COTTAGE (B4380)

The resident of Confluence Cottage had reported safety concerns at the concealed entrance, as other road users misinterpreted the signalling of those turning into the driveway as it was not clear that there was a turning. Following liaison between the Chairman, Councillor Wild, the National Trust and the Highways team, it had now been agreed that a concealed entrance sign and bollards would be installed. Councillors suggested that visibility could also be improved if the hedge bordering the entrance were cut back. Councillor Wild would raise this with the National Trust Estate office.

7. ADOPTION OF UPPINGTON PHONE BOX

Following the decision at the previous meeting, the Clerk had contacted BT regarding adoption of the phone box. Following a number of exchanges, BT had confirmed that the phone box had been placed on the consultation list by mistake and was not available for adoption as it was located on BT-owned land. This had been communicated to Uppington residents.

Cllr K Rowlands joined the meeting at 7:39pm.

8. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Power station planning application

Cllr Wild highlighted that the Buildwas power station planning application was due to be heard by the Planning Committee and she would represent all of the local parishes when speaking as Ward Member at the meeting.

Councillors queried whether there had been any decision regarding HGVs using the B4380, highlighting that a number of HGVs had been using this route recently. It was noted that JPE vehicles from the quarry had no routing restrictions and were able to use the route.

Councillor Wild was requesting routing conditions for the sand and gravel extraction planning application to prevent these vehicles from using the B4380, and 75% of the materials must go out by train. Councillors were asked to provide Councillor Wild with the registration number or name on vehicle and the time of any HGVs on the B4380, and she would follow up with Harworth to check these against their CCTV logs, as vehicles from the power station site should not be using the route.

Feedback on flooding

Councillor P Davies gave positive feedback that he had recently reported to Shropshire Council flooding on the avenue at Uppington. Within the same week, this had been investigated and work carried out to address the problem, which had led to a significant improvement.

Road signage issues

Councillors reported the following issues with road signage within the parish:-

- T-junction warning sign and SLOW road markings on B4380 near the junction with the lane to Charlton Hill had not been replaced, after being reported in January;
- The sign signifying the junction at Wroxeter, on the left had side heading from Donnington to Wroxeter, had rotted through at the base, leaving no warning that a junction was imminent;
- The large brown leisure sign at Wroxeter junction had broken away from the mounting brackets. This had been reported 3 times in recent years and had been refitted using the same mechanism, indicating a different fix was required.
- A number of signs along the B4380 through the Parish were faded and may require replacement.

The Clerk would report these to the Highway Maintenance Technician.

9. PLANNING MATTERS Planning applications for comments

- i) Ref: 21/00552/FUL, Croft Cottage
There were no comments on the application. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a note of no objection.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT

- a) To receive the Clerk's report and review the spending of the Environmental Maintenance Grant 2020/21
The Parish Council agreed that the grant funding had been spent in accordance with the terms of the grant and that the work had improved road safety on the two key junctions within the parish.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the report for submission to Shropshire Council. (Proposed: Cllr Amos, Seconded: Cllr P Davies, all agreed).

- b) To approve the application for Environmental Maintenance Grant funding 2021/22
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the funding application form as circulated. (Proposed: Cllr Amos, Seconded: Cllr P Davies, all agreed).

11. POLICY REVIEW

The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register, Risk Register and FOI Publication Scheme had been reviewed by the Clerk and circulated to Councillors for review prior to adoption at the meeting to be held in May. The Clerk highlighted the proposed changes and queries. Councillors were asked to raise any further queries or amendments via email to all.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Feedback from Q3 financial transactions check
Councillor P Davies had completed the financial transactions check and the findings had been circulated prior to the meeting. No concerns had been identified. It was agreed that Councillor P Davies would carry out a further financial transaction check for Q4 payments.
- b) To approve payments made between meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payment made between meetings:-

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P28-20/21	S Morris	Salary – February	£207.96

- c) To approve invoices for payment by online banking

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments to be made by online banking:-

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P29-20/21	S Morris	Expenses – Feb/Mar	£34.39
P30-20/21	S Morris	Salary – March	£208.56

- d) To note income received

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
R11-20/21	Buildwas PC	Zoom part payment	£6.00

13. ELECTIONS 2021

The Clerk informed Councillors that anyone wishing to stand in the Parish Council election in May would be required to complete a nomination form. These could be downloaded from the Electoral Commission website or a paper copy requested from Shropshire Council Electoral Services. Further information was also available through the Shropshire Council and Electoral Commission websites. Completed nomination forms must be delivered by hand to Electoral Services by 4pm on Thursday 8th April.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

15. PARISH MATTERS

Wroxeter noticeboard

Councillor Nelson reported that the Wroxeter noticeboard was in poor condition following the winter weather. A local resident, an ex-cabinet maker and joiner, had offered to complete the repair. He would charge no labour costs and would charge only for any new materials required, which was anticipated to be around £40. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the resident offer to repair the noticeboard for the cost of new materials. It was noted that the timing of the repair would have to be carefully planned as there were a number of upcoming statutory notices in relation to meetings and elections. The Clerk would advise on this when the timing of notices was known.

Footpaths

Councillor Sherwood expressed thanks to Raby Estates for their recent work on the footpaths and planting in the Parish. Councillor P Davies highlighted that the footpath from Uckington to Uppington had not been sprayed and was again inaccessible to walkers who were using various alternatives as there was no clear route and no signage. The Clerk would report both the message of thanks and the request for work to the Raby Estate Manager.

Liz Davies

The Parish Council sadly noted the recent death of Liz Davies. It was agreed that Councillor Nelson would write to the family on behalf of the Parish Council in recognition of her many years of service as a Councillor.

16. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Clerk highlighted that the next meeting was due to take place on 10th May, which was the date that the newly elected Council would take office. This could present administrative difficulties should there be a change of Parish Council members. It was noted that, historically, Parish elections had been uncontested and the clerk would be informed during April on whether the election would be contested. It was agreed to keep the meeting date of 10th May for the present time. The Clerk would seek advice from SALC on the date, and further review the date if required.

It was noted that as the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 allowed for remote Parish Council meetings until 7th May 2021 only. While NALC continued to lobby for their extension, at the present time, Parish Councils were being advised to prepare for a return to face-to-face meetings. Councillors expressed concern about holding public meetings in May, and noted that this did not seem in line with the wider advice and regulations. It was noted that the Clerk received regular bulletins from NALC and would circulate any further updates received.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:19pm.

Signed (Chairman):..... Date:.....