

WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 8th November 2021 at 7:30pm Visitor Centre, Wroxeter Vineyard

Present: Councillor B Nelson (Chairman, Councillor J Davies, Councillor P Davies, Councillor M Millington, Councillor I Sherwood
In attendance: One member of the public, Councillor C Wild (Shropshire Council), Mrs S Morris (Clerk)

1. PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public spoke in relation to the Local Plan, highlighting to the Parish Council that the revised Local Plan is currently being looked at by the inspector, and that representations can still be made in relation to it. The member of the public with some others is looking at proposing an alternative to elements of the Local Plan as the proposal to create 40 small villages to which residents will need to drive is against the priorities in relation to the climate emergency.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor V Amos and Councillor K Rowlands.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

The following matters arising from the previous meeting were discussed:-

a) Road signage

Councillor Amos had confirmed that she would survey the signage along the B4380 and report to Councillor Wild, per the minutes of the last meeting. It was noted that the reported items were being worked through, as the SLOW road marking had been repainted, however, the large sign at the visitor centre was still awaiting repair.

b) Road speed

Councillor Nelson and Councillor Wild had met with a Police representative and Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer to look at the key points of concern within the parish, and some speeding had been witnessed during the site visit. Councillor Wild understood that the speed limit along the B4380 may be reduced to 50mph when work is carried out on the road as part of the Ironbridge Power Station development. As part of this work, Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) may also be installed. A meeting would take place in the new year for the affected parish councils to discuss the needs and proposals with traffic engineers in more detail. SLOW road markings were visible along the road and the Police had carried out random speed checks. Councillor Wild had suggested that an average speed check camera from Buildwas to Atcham would be beneficial to control speeding as the Police cannot be present at all times. The Parish Council highlighted that this would only be of significant help if the speed limit is reduced.

6. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Thefts. Councillor Wild alerted the Parish Council to a number of recent thefts, particularly from outbuildings in rural areas, with a focus on items such as quad bike and tools. The Police have a new Neighbourhood Matters scheme in place which residents can sign up to in order to receive alerts on current issues.

Parish Council scope. In relation to agenda item 9, Councillor Nelson asked Councillor Wild if other Parish Councils limit their focus to the immediate concerns of the parish or take a wider scope. Councillor Wild advised that they tend to focus on parish matters, but that she would present on or answer questions in relation to wider matters if the Parish Council requested it. Often the wider matters were raised by individuals outside of the meeting as they related to confidential matters such as Adult Social Care or school places.

7. UPPINGTON PLAY AREA

a) To receive the annual play area inspection report and agree actions

The Parish Council received the report and noted the recommendations. The vast majority of recommendations in the report were low risk. One recommendation was of moderate risk: replacement of rotten timbers in the log walk. The report also identified the strimmer damage which the Parish Council had discussed at the previous meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to display a laminated sign with the Clerk's contact details. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Amos would assess the recommendations and seek a quotation for any required actions, including replacement of any rotten timbers on the log walk.

b) To discuss new piece of play equipment

Councillor Amos had no further update on the position of the residents' group fundraising or the preference for a new piece of equipment. It was **RESOLVED** to contact a representative of the group to seek an update.

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

The new LGA Councillor Code of Conduct for Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct.

9. PARISH COUNCIL SCOPE

The Chairman summarised that the Parish Council had, to date, focused on parish matters of immediate local concern. Some Councillors had expressed some interest at the previous meeting in widening the scope of meetings to look at wider issues. Councillors were satisfied with the response Councillor Wild had made under item 6 in relation to this matter. The Clerk also reminded Councillors that consultations on wider matters/policies, training and other events were circulated by email as and when received, and that Councillors could add these or other matters to meeting agendas if they so required.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications for comment

i) 21/04939/LBC – Barn at Charlton Hill Manor

Councillors expressed some concern that while the application was for a home office, it may be turned into a holiday let or sold on. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment on the application to emphasise the importance that all work should be carried out in a sympathetic manner given the location of the barn within the curtilage of a Grade II listed house.

11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To approve the Q2 budget report and bank reconciliation

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Q2 budget report and bank reconciliation.

b) To review the draft budget, including appointment of internal auditor

The Parish Council received the initial draft budget. The Clerk highlighted training and asset maintenance as potential areas in which the budget could be reduced, although it was noted that these costs could not always be anticipated in advance. Councillors were invited to propose any amendments to the budget in advance of the January meeting, at which the 2022/23 must be approved and the precept set.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint SDH Accounting as internal auditor for 2022/23.

c) To approve the Neighbourhood Fund Annual Report

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Neighbourhood Fund Annual Monitoring Form for submission to Shropshire Council, with the full amount of £461.22 retained to purchase a new piece of equipment for the play area.

d) To approve payments made between meetings

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

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P16-2021/22	SALC	Affiliation fees	£191.56
P17-2021/22	S Morris	Salary - October	£208.56

e) To approve invoices for payment by online banking

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P18-2021/22	S Morris	Expenses – October/November	£28.10
P19-2021/22	S Morris	Salary - November	£208.56
P20-2021/22	SALC	Clerk training – Code of Conduct	£10.00

12. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Local Policing Charter meetings

Parish Councils had been invited to send a representative to bi-annual meetings with Superintendent Bill to discuss the Local Policing Charter. Councillor Sherwood had volunteered to attend the meeting due to take place on 11th November 2021.

b) Email from Much Wenlock Town Council

An email had been received inviting Parish Councils to support Much Wenlock Town Council in their request to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to call in the Ironbridge Power Station development. A further email had then been received giving the response of the Secretary of State, who had decided not to call in the application as he believed it to be a matter for local determination.

13. PARISH MATTERS

Flooding at Norton Crossroads

Councillor Sherwood reported that the flooding at Norton Crossroads was again occurring as a result of rain water discharging from Norton Farmhouse roof. The Parish Council had reported this issue a number of times in recent years and continued to be concerned about the impact on road safety, particularly with winter approaching. Councillor Sherwood advised that by discharging water onto the highway, the occupier was in breach of Section 163 of the 1980 Highways Act. It was **RESOLVED** to report this to the Shropshire Council drainage team.

Bus shelter

Councillor Sherwood advised that there was a gap between some of the slats of the bus shelter at the Roman ruins. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Nelson would carry out or arrange for the required repairs.

Norton crossroad verge

Further to the discussion at the previous meeting, Councillor J Davies reported that while one part of the verge had been cleared, the part which blocked visibility from the junction still required clearing. There was some discussion over who was responsible for this area, as the National Trust had confirmed to Councillor Wild that they had completed the work on the part within their ownership. It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Wild would liaise with the

Shropshire Council Highways Maintenance Technician to investigate. Councillor Nelson agreed to provide an image to clarify the exact location of the concern.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 10th January 2022.

It was resolved to exclude the press and public for the discussion of item 16 due to the confidentiality of some aspects of the item.

15. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the annual incremental pay increase for the Clerk with effect from 1st December 2021.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:13pm.

Signed (Chairman):.....

Date:.....