

Minutes of the Annual Community Meeting for Atcham held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall

Present: APC Cllrs Colin Wildblood (Chair), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Laura Dixon, Martin Ruston, Robert Trow. SC Cllr Claire Wild. 9 members of the public. Minutes taken by the Parish Clerk, Alison Utting.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all present.
2. **Minutes** of the last ACM, held on 17th May 2023, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Parish Council:** Cllr Wildblood did not present a formal report but reflected informally on the achievements of the Parish Council in recent years. In announcing his retirement from the council, he encouraged residents to be supportive of their parish councillors, who are all volunteers.
4. **Shropshire Council:** Cllr Claire Wild thanked Cllr Wildblood for his work while on the council and congratulated him on the many projects that had come to fruition under his Chairmanship. Cllr Wild's full report is attached separately.
5. **Other reports:** Sue Rothwell shared a report from the Memorial Hall Committee (attached separately) and answered questions.

6. **Parking issues**

Those present discussed the results of the recent TRO questionnaire and related matters. Key points raised:

Some present were unhappy with the methods of data analysis used. The Clerk agreed to supplement the report with the requested additional information.

The Memorial Hall Committee have agreed to allow pub patrons to park in their car park for the 1 Year Anniversary pub event on 1st June. This will be viewed as a trial to see how it goes. The car park to be monitored by pub staff. The Mem Hall

Committee has voted against any further use of their car park at present. Challenges would be: Difficult to manage, traffic past neighbouring properties, resistance from nearby residents. The possibility of using the Mem Hall car park for staff parking (day shifts only) has been discussed with the pub management.

Re: proposed extra car park. The pre-application was submitted on 17th April. It is being dealt with by Balfours on behalf of the Longner Estate. No update as yet. Projected timescale for pre-app 4-6 weeks. Cllr Wildblood said that he had been told the car park would have ANPR cameras and that car park users would have to enter their car registration via a machine in the pub.

A resident asked whether the advisory signs could be replaced at The Glebe and St Eata's Lane ('Parking for residents only').

A resident pointed out that the worst season is upon us for people parking dangerously on Cross Houses Lane.

7. Footpath

Those present considered the suggestion for a community-linking permissive path joining Atcham and Cross Houses. Points raised:

All present were in full support of the idea of a path to link the two communities.

Cllr Wild has been investigating the possibility of such a path for several years.

The proposal would have a section of path dangerously close to the river.

The siting of the proposed pub car park would have an impact.

Any engineering works would be a) expensive, and b) at risk of being washed away every flood season.

Councillors requested copies of the correspondence that is mentioned in the proposal document.

8. Speeding on Emstrey Bank

Following repeated concerns from residents, Cllr Wild suggested that the Parish Council should email the traffic engineers to formally request a 40mph speed restriction between Emstrey and Atcham. Arguments to back up request: Danger of pulling out from residences. Risk to caravan park visitors and other users of the bus stops by Salop Leisure.

9. **Any other matters** of community concern to be considered by APC.

A resident asked about progress on white line painting and resurfacing. No further news at present. Latest news on highways work will always be made available on the Parish Council website and Facebook page as soon as we receive it.

A resident proposed a vote of thanks for Cllr Wildblood.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.