

Culmington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on **Tuesday 5th March 2024**

Present: Councillors Mrs J Mear (Temporary Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mr M Seabrook, Mr I Steele, And Mr J Turley. **In Attendance:** Mrs C Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr Ian Alderson and Mrs M Holland.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** Cllr Seabrook declared an interest in the item raised in the public session and left the meeting for that item.
3. **Public Involvement Session:** A member of the public asked about the possibility of joining up the sewage system from properties at the entrance to Sparchford Lane to the new system being installed at the Culmington Farm site. Cllr Motley advised them to contact Shropshire Planning who will advise them of which department to contact.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th February 2024.
RESOLVED: that they were correct and signed by the chair.
5. **Community Governance and Boundary Review:**
 - 5.1. Update on the Letter to Diddlebury Parish Council (DPC) Regarding the Boundary at Seifton Batch: The letter had been received by DPC and the minutes of the meeting recorded that Cllr Poval 'will need to discuss the matter with the new owners of the Old Chapel before we can respond.' and 'the Chairman doubted it is open to DPC to change the designation of Seifton in the Local Plan from a Community Cluster to Open Countryside.
 - 5.2. Final Decision on the Parish Boundary at Vernolds Common: The Clerk reported that letters had been hand delivered to 6 properties in Vernolds Common and she had not had any contact since then. There had only been 1 person who attended the Stanton Lacy meeting who had expressed a wish to remain in Stanton Lacy Parish. Shropshire Council will carry out a formal consultation in 2025.
RESOLVED: To inform Shropshire Council that Culmington Parish agree to extend the parish boundary to cover the 6 properties presently in Stanton Lacy Parish.
6. **Reports from Members**
 - 6.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that due to the financial difficulties there will be redundancies for SC employees. The strategy for library provision, which is statutory, has already been completed. They are considering reducing the number of household recycling centres and charging for the collection of green waste bins, cutting the number of council buildings and accelerating the move from Shire Hall.
 - 6.2. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that they are networking with other village halls. The most recent event attracted different people. The Wi-Fi issues is still ongoing.
 - 6.3. Flood Action Group – Cllr Byng reported that the FAG had received a letter from the National Flood Forum suggesting a meeting between the FAG and the Parish Council to improve communication.
RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Jayne suggesting that a communication system between the FAG and the Parish Council is already in place and sees no need for a meeting with the National Flood Forum.
 - 6.4. South Shropshire Area Committee – H Coonick (Clerk) reported that there had been a presentation by Planning Enforcement regarding their new protocol.

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Investigations of enquiries is mandatory but the powers available to the council are discretionary. When considering enforcement action the team will consider public interest, having regard to the risk and planning harm arising from an alleged breach.

7. Highways

- 7.1. Update on the Speed Indicator Device at the Eastern Entrance to Culmington Village: A post for the sign has still not been erected by Shropshire Council.
RESOLVED: to write to the PCC to request an extension to the period for the expenditure of the grant.
- 7.2. Update on Repairs to the Footbridge on Seifton Lane: the council would like to thank Mr Jeff Williams and the team for repairs to the footbridge and to them and the scouts for the work on the Church Walk.
- 7.3. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Funding Application:
RESOLVED: to apply to Shropshire Council for a grant of £1,000 matched with £1,000 from the Parish Council funds for the period April 2024 – March 2025.
- 7.4. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Contract and Hourly Rate for 2024-25:
RESOLVED: To amend the contract to state that no pesticides will be used by the contractor and the hourly rate will remain at £18 per hour.
- 7.5. Update on Manhole Cover on Seifton Lane: this has been reported on multiple occasions to Shropshire Council. A further report with an image will be submitted on Fix My Street.
- 7.6. Update on Repairs to Seifton Batch: Cllr Steele reported repairs had been carried out on a section of the Batch but not the section where the road has subsided. After contacting Lezley Picton (Shropshire Council Leader) they returned and completed that section.

8. **Update on the Blocked Bridleway:** Shropshire Council Outdoor Partnership team have visited the site and will take action if necessary.

9. **Consider Adopting a .gov Domain Name and Council Specific Email Addresses:** If councillors wish to have specific email addresses (as recommended by NALC) they will provide them to the clerk.

RESOLVED: to not take a .gov domain at this point due to the increased cost.

10. **Update on Volunteers to Manage Website Pages:** Two volunteers have come forward to update the village hall and flood action group pages of the website. The site is password protected and the Clerk will oversee the access to the site.

11. Finance:

11.1. Decide on Donations:

RESOLVED: to donate £15 each to Ripples, Dial-a-Ride, Midlands Air Ambulance and Ludlow Hospital League of Friends.

11.2. Authorise Payments: Direct Debit of £35 for Data Protection Fee, D Lewis

(Environmental Maintenance) ££51 and H Coonick (Clerk) for Salary £834.60 for January to March and for travel £32.85 from November to February.

RESOLVED: to authorise the above payments.

12. Elect a Chairperson for the Next Meeting:

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr M Seabrook as temporary chair.

13. Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2nd April, 2024: a. Speed Indicator Devise

Note: a card of condolence will be sent to Cllr Mary Holland on the sad death of her husband Mr Martin Holland.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: