

WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THE WROXETER HOTEL, WROXETER

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr. B. Nelson (BN), L. Davies (LD), P. Davies (PD), C. Eade (CE), J. Guttridge (JG), M. Millington (MM), S. Rowlands (SR)

In attendance: Cllr. Wild (Shropshire Councillor)

Absent: V. Amos, M. Jones

Clerk: Miss R. Sara

045/1314 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

046/1314 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following apologies for absence:

- Cllr. Amos

047/1314 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

048/1314 REPORTS FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR AND OTHERS

Cllr. Wild reported that the A458 is closed at Cross Houses to Cressage from 16th September for up to 6 weeks to address drainage issues centred around Venus Bank, Cound. It is hoped to complete the work as soon as possible and the contractors will be working extended hours. Council were concerned about present procedures which permit contractors to close roads and/or severely disrupt traffic flow for their own operational convenience, without fully consulting with the public to seek a solution which will allow the work to be completed, whilst mitigating its impact as far as possible. Cllr. Nelson cited recent examples of how this has caused problems. It was agreed that the Council would write to Cllr. Wild raising these concerns and asking if the permit scheme to ensure quality of road maintenance could equally be applied to associated traffic management measures.

Cllr. Wild reported that plans are being developed for work by the Highways Agency to improve 5 roundabouts in the county, scheduled to finish by Autumn 2014.

Cllr. Wild gave an update on the Connecting Shropshire high speed broadband project. The areas which will benefit are not known yet but an indicative map has been produced showing which areas may benefit. It is available on www.connectingshropshire.co.uk. A campaign group

have also set up a petition for rural areas with poor broadband to be prioritised for high speed broadband - <http://petitions.shropshire.gov.uk/petitions.ti/betterruralbroadband>. It was agreed that Council would write asking if an update meeting could be arranged by the Connecting Shropshire team to ensure rural areas have the opportunity to have an input before the roll-out plans are finalised.

Cllr. Wild advised that letters are to go out to all Shropshire Link service users, regarding its termination and replacement with alternative provision.

It is hoped that Shropshire Council will make a report to the next LJC on what ICT services it can offer for parishes. Cllr. Nelson stressed that this matter has been ongoing for a very long time and needs to be concluded. Cllr Pritchett expressed an interest in attending the forthcoming LJC meeting when ICT matters (including broadband developments) are to be discussed.

The police had reported that there has been 1 burglary of a dwelling and 3 road collisions in the parish, during July and August.

049/1314 TO CONFIRM AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 8TH JULY 2013

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2013 and they were duly signed by the Chairman (P: JC, S: AHR).

050/1314 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

051/1314 SHROPSHIRE HELICOPTER LIAISON GROUP

It was agreed to decline the invitation to appoint a representative to the group.

053/1314 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) 13/03383/FUL - 1 The Crescent, Rushton, Telford, TF6 5AF Proposal - Erection of two-storey side extension – **no objections**

(b) Mount Pleasant, Wroxeter, SY5 6PH – proposed sun room extension – Cllr. Nelson had been given some draft plans by the property owners who were soon to submit a planning application. He described the proposed plans but made no comment since he had a bias, as he is a neighbour. Cllr. Nelson's purpose in tabling the plans was to invite Council to make any observations on the draft plans. Councillors were keen to ensure the extensions tied in with the existing property. Once received, the planning application will be circulated for comments in the usual way.

054/1314 RURAL FAIR SHARE PETITION

This is a national petition which is seeking to address the inequity in distribution of the Local Government Finance Grant, whereby urban areas currently receive 50% more funding per head than rural areas. The petition is opposing the planned freezing of this inequity in the 2013/14 settlement, until 2020. The petition is calling on the government to reduce the inequity by at least 10% by 2020. The Council **RESOLVED** to sign the petition.

055/1314 ROSPA INSPECTION OF UPPINGTON PLAYGROUND

ROSPA had carried out the annual inspection of the playground and provided a report, with observations and risk assessments for each item. Some rotten “stepping stone” stumps identified in the report had been removed and the ground levelled off. The report also highlighted that the condition of the ramp on the multi-play area needs monitoring, as do the swing bolts and the timber on the toddler swing, which is showing some slight signs of decay. Based on the ROSPA report and Cllr. Pritchett’s periodic checks of the playground, none of these items were considered to be a cause for immediate concern. Independent of the ROSPA report, it had been reported that the fence between the playground and the church is bending slightly. It was **AGREED** that Cllr. Pritchett will assess these items closely when he next visits the playground, as part of the regular spot checks he undertakes and report back to the November meeting.

056/1314 ASSETS MAINTENANCE

It was reported that the Rushton and Garmston noticeboards are in good condition and the Wroxeter one is currently out of use and about to be replaced with a new one. Cllr. Nelson will check the condition of the bus shelters and report back to the November meeting.

057/1314 JUBILEE FUNDS

Cllr. L. Davies had sold a further £43 worth of mugs, a cheque will be provided to the Council. This means that funds spent on the jubilee to date minus income from mug sales, leaves a total of £431 of the £1000 jubilee grant unspent.

058/1314 WROXETER NOTICEBOARD

It has previously been agreed to spend the remaining jubilee funds on a commemorative noticeboard for Wroxeter. Council considered three quotes to replace the Wroxeter noticeboard with one commemorating the jubilee. It was **RESOLVED** to use Downes Timber to supply the board subject to the Clerk verifying that the quoted price of £380 plus VAT includes delivery (**P: PD, S: MM**). A 50% deposit would be required at point of ordering. A plaque will also need to be sourced.

059/1314 DONNINGTON EXHIBITION FUND CHARITY

Further to the suggestion of the Council taking on trusteeship of the charity, the Clerk had written to the Charities Commission to enquire as to what this would involve. It would be complicated and could place the Council in a difficult position in regard to conflicts of interest and there would be strict restrictions on what the funds could be used for. It was **AGREED** that the Council did not want to take on the running of the Charity. It was understood that the remaining trustees of the account were considering closing the account and passing the remaining funds to a suitable like-minded charity and it was agreed this was, perhaps, the best outcome in the circumstances.

060/1314 THE SOUTH-WEST SHROPSHIRE AND MARCHES CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER BROADBAND

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council sign this petition which is campaigning that the Connecting Shropshire project prioritises the rural areas with poor broadband first, for improved provision.

061/1314 REVISED NJC SALARY SCALES

The NJC have recently issued revised salary scales, backdated to 1st April 2013. It was **AGREED** that the backdated payment for 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 would be made when the standing order for the Clerk's pay expires in March 2014, as to do so prior to that would require an amendment to the standing order.

062/1314 FINANCIAL ITEMS

(a) Bank reconciliation & report on the Council's bank balances

As per bank statements, covering the period to end of August 2013, the Council had bank balances of £2584.24 (a/c ref ****4342) and £320.49 (a/c ref 0130), giving total balances of £2904.73. This reconciled to the cashbook.

(b) The following payments were approved:

Payee	Item	Ref no	Net	VAT	Gross
ROSPA	Playground inspection	357	£65.00	£13.00	£78.00
R. Sara	Expenses – 1 st July to 31 st August 2013	358	£28.80	£0.00	£28.80
Wroxeter Hotel	Room hire	359	£8.33	£1.67	£10.00

(c) The following payments made were noted:

Payee	Item	Ref no	Net	VAT	Gross
R. Sara	Salary – July 2013	SO	£124.68	N/A	£124.68
R. Sara	Salary – August 2013*	SO	£124.68	N/A	£124.68

*Not showing on bank statements yet

(d) Receipts

Interest totalling £0.02 during July and August 2013 and jubilee mug receipts totalling £64.00

(e) **Bank account administration** –It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should be named as a non-signatory point of contact on the account.

063/1314 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was **NOTED**:

- (a) Councillor training dates
- (b) Connecting Shropshire broadband project updates
- (c) Closure of A458 Cross House to Cressage for 6 weeks from 16th September

064/1314 PARISH MATTERS

(a) Severn Trent – Cllr. Rowlands is trying to find out who was affected by the water pressure leak

- (b) Bollards on road between Wood Green and Uppington – Shropshire Council have re-assessed the bollards and left some in place and removed those not needed.
- (c) Parking outside Old Wroxeter Stores – it was thought that the land in front of the property might be within its curtilage and, if so, the owners could have a right to park there.

**NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM AT THE WROXETER
HOTEL, WROXETER**

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN)

DATED

DRAFT