

COUND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30pm ON 17th JANUARY 2019 AT COUNDMOOR VILLAGE HALL

Present: Parish Councillors S Scott (Chairman), T Roberts (Vice Chairman), L Clutterbuck, S Green, J Hall, S. James, M Smith, Shropshire County Councillor C Wild

Clerk: Kathy Symonds

77.18 Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Councillor R Sartain. The reason given was accepted by the Council.

78.18 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

79.18 Public Participation session/Matters of Concern/Parish Matters

Two members of the public were present, both being candidates for co-option under Agenda item 83.18

80.18 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.
It was proposed by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

Resolved (without opposition)

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2018 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

81.18 Matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15 Nov 2018

- a) Update on Cound Arbour bridge (min ref 90.17 & 08.18 & 33.18 & 48.18 & 64.14)
Councillor Wild and the Clerk had contacted Gurnek Singh regarding the Council's concerns about the regularly failing traffic lights and the consequent road-users disregard for the red light. The response was that the lights must remain in place until the permanent repairs were carried out.

The work is now scheduled for Monday 11th - Friday 22nd March. The bridge will be closed to traffic and diversions around the village of Cound from the A458 will be in place.

It was reported that the old damaged rails are in the brook beneath the bridge and residents have asked whether they might not be salvaged for future use.

ACTIONS: Shropshire Councillor Wild will contact Gurnek Singh, the Bridges and Structures Manager for Shropshire Council, asking if the rails can be removed from the brook, refurbished and kept for future use if required.

- b) Environmental Maintenance Grant 2018/19 (min ref 34.18 & 48.18 & 64.14)
The Clerk had submitted the application for the EMG for 2018/19 but at the time of the meeting had not received a decision.

Subsequent to the meeting Shropshire Council confirmed the award of the full value of the requested EMG, to the value of £578, being 50% of the cost incurred by the Council.

82.18 To receive reports from Shropshire Councillor and/or local Police Officer

Councillor Wild gave some advice on the possibilities for tackling the speeding traffic problem in Upper Count - see item 85.18

There was no representative from West Mercia Police present. Dave Walton is currently on long term sick.

83.18 To consider co-option applications for Parish Councillor vacancy

Two applications for the vacancy had been received. Both candidates gave a brief presentation of themselves, their reasons for applying and what they felt they could bring to the role.

After the candidates had left the meeting the Council discussed the applications. It was agreed by all that both candidates were highly credible and that it was a pity that as there was only one vacancy one of the candidate must be turned down. Voting then took place by a show of hands. The successful candidate declared by a clear majority was Russell Davies.

ACTION: Clerk to call both candidates with the results immediately after the meeting. Clerk to advise Shire Hall, complete the formalities with Councillor Davies and arrange new Councillor training with SALC.

84.18 To receive the defibrillator audit check for the period

Councillor Roberts presented the defibrillator audit check for the period up to 17th January 2019. There were no issues to report.

85.18 To consider the 'speeding traffic' problem in Upper Count - Cllr James

There was general concern around Upper Count about the speed of traffic around the T junction, particularly from the telephone box on the approach to the village from the Count Moor direction, through the junction and down towards the tennis club. This is apparent in both directions. There are now 14 very young children within a few hundred yards of this area and Cllr James is keen to explore what measures can be taken to remedy the speeding traffic problem. It is a 30mph area but some drivers appear to regularly exceed the speed limit. Cllr Green said there are also concerns over speeding traffic on the straight stretch through Count Moor, which is 60mph.

Councillor Wild said that speed activated signs are most effective in speed reduction but are very expensive at around £7,000. There were concerns among councillors that, even if the money was available to fund them, 'neon signs' would not be popular with local residents who are keen to maintain the 'village feel' and avoid further urbanisation.

Councillor Wild said that it is possible through Shropshire Council and the Police to loan a speed gun. If enough volunteers come forward, speeds can be monitored over a period of

time. If a 'repeat offender' is noted exceeding the speed limit three times then the Police can be alerted and will follow up.

ACTIONS: Cllr James to i) contact Matthew Meade at Shropshire Council to investigate the 'speed awareness' options. ii) investigate the eligibility/feasibility of the 'volunteer speed gun' exercise with the local Police and iii) contact Sue Sheddon at Cross Houses for advice as Berrington PC's initiatives on speed reduction there have been very successful.

If the results of these actions indicate that there is a case for the volunteer speed gun initiative then a flyer will be inserted in Village Life asking for volunteers.

86.18 To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported some of the activities she had been involved in since the last meeting and on-going work:

Since last meeting:

- Minutes and admin from last meeting
- Regular correspondence, bank, bank recs, payments, etc.
- Received confirmation of successful completion of CiLCA qualification
- Completed and submitted EMG application
- Liaised with candidates for co-option, received applications, forwarded Good Councillor guides etc
- Emailed Richard Hutchinson re next year's Highways maintenance and any costs savings possible
- Completed year end forecast, draft budget and precept proposal

To do:

- Submit precept application before 31 Jan 19
- Prepare for year end
- Arrange training for new co-opted Councillor

87.18 To consider appointment of Highways Maintenance Contractor for 2019/20

The Hutchinson Groundcare quotation for the main part of the contract was at the same price as 2018/19. The price for the work at the War Memorial had increased slightly, but Mr Hutchinson often works in an extra 'free of charge' cut and other small jobs as required while he is doing work for other customers in the area and Council considers that he is good value for money. The Council commended his work and proposed his reappointment without reservation.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Clutterbuck and

Resolved (without opposition) to re-appoint Hutchinson Groundcare as the Highways Maintenance contractor for 2019/20

88.18 To approve Clerk/RFO's salary wef 01/04/19

The Clerk had written to Council asking for her salary to be reviewed. She had been in post for over two years now without a merit increase and had recently completed her CiLCA qualification.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hall and

Resolved (without opposition) to increase the Clerk's salary scale from SCP 19 to SCP 22 (SCP 12 on the new scale) with effect from 1st April 2019.

89.18 Financial matters

a) To approve outstanding accounts for payment

Payments for Dec 18/Jan 19 from Treasurers' Account

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
17/01/2019	Mrs KJ Symonds	Clerk's net pay Dec 18/Jan 19	323.48
17/01/2019	HMRC	PAYE re Dec/Jan Clerk's salary	80.80
17/01/2019	Mrs KJ Symonds	Clerk's expenses Dec 18/Jan 19	24.46
17/01/2019	Hutchinson Groundcare	Nov 18 Highways Contract	152.98
17/01/2019	Information Commissioners Office	Subscription 2019/20	40.00
Total			621.72

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Smith and

Resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Financial statements

The receipts and payments to date were presented by the Clerk.

The bank was reconciled at £4,412.41 being the online banking balances on the date the meeting Agenda was prepared. Of this, 'ring-fenced' cash was £469.69 relating to the Transparency Code funding. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

c) Projected Year end accounts 2018/19

The Clerk presented the receipts and payments account to 12th January '19 and a projection of receipts and payments and the cash balance to the end of the year. The projected year-end cash balance was similar to the previous projection at £3,800 which assumed that the 2018/19 Environmental Maintenance Grant application would be successful at £578.50.

d) Budget and precept 2019/20

The Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft budget and explanatory notes before the meeting. The key point for discussion was regarded what assumption to make regarding the likelihood of receiving the 2018/19 and 2019/20 EMG from Shropshire Council as this was now awarded on a 'points basis', was not assured, and nothing had yet been heard regarding the 2018/19 application. Council took the view that it could not assume that the grant would be awarded by Shropshire Council, and must therefore fix the precept on a 'worst-case' basis that it would not receive those funds for either year. In the circumstances Councillors determined the best course of action was to fix the precept the same for 2019/20 as for 2018/19 in order to secure a viable level of on-going cash reserves.

It was proposed by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Roberts and

Resolved (without opposition)

That the precept for 2019/20 be set at £5,756.

Action: Clerk to submit a request to Shropshire Council for a precept of £5,756 for 2019/20

90.18 Planning

1. Decisions to note:

a) Ref: 18/04905/FUL

Validated: 24 October 2018

Address: Barn at Cound Arbour Farm, Cound, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6AW

Proposal: Change of use from domestic outbuilding to storage and office; installation of treatment plant

Status: Permission granted 10/12/18

b) Ref: 18/05073/FUL

Validated: 2 November 2018

Address: The Old Rectory, Cound, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 6EW

Proposal: Erection of single storey timber orangery to rear

Status: Permission granted 30/11/18

2. Planning applications for consideration

No new planning applications to consider

91.18 Correspondence

- Email from Matthew Mead re Local Plan meeting (24th Jan '18) Forwarded 08/01/19
Clerk was to attend but had to cancel due to illness
- Email from local resident regarding stiles on 'snowdrop walk'
ACTION : Cllr Scott to follow up regarding the 'long drop' on the second stile on the walk and the lack of easy access for dogs at the third stile.
- Buckingham Palace Garden Party
ACTION : Cllr Scott to submit the application to the ballot.
- Shropshire Council Bring Banks consultation. Forwarded 20/12/18
ACTION: Councillors to respond individually. Clerk will also respond on behalf of the Council.

92.18 Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items noted.

93.18 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 March 2019 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Cound Moor

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed by Chairman: _____

Date: _____