



---

## **Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm at Atcham Memorial Hall**

### **1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

### **2 APPOINTMENT OF CLERK/RFO**

It was confirmed that Alison Utting has been appointed to the post of Clerk/RFO, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

### **3 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**Present:** Cllrs Colin Wildblood (Chairman), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Laura Dixon, Robert Trow.

**Apologies:** Council resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Martin Ruston (personal commitment).

**Clerk:** Alison Utting

**Also:** 13 members of the public (9 left after item 6). SC Cllr Claire Wild (left after item 9). Mathew Mead - Place Plan Officer, Shropshire Council.

Council noted the resignation of Cllr Sue Sheddon (16<sup>th</sup> August 2023). The vacancy has been advertised through Shropshire Council, who will notify us in the next few days about whether we can proceed to co-option.

### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.**

**5 MINUTES** - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 19th July 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

*The Chairman suspended Standing Orders for the following item:*

### **6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

- a) There was much discussion of the ongoing parking problems (see last minutes). Residents viewed and considered the draft TRO (Traffic Regulation

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Order) which had been provided by SC Highways. This is a first draft to give the community something to consider. It is open to amendment and debate.

Points raised were:

- SC has said that it cannot pay for the scheme (approx. £4K). Various ways of funding it were discussed, including use of the Parish Council's CIL money reserve and/or involvement of the Place Plan team (see item 12d).
- If this proposed TRO is implemented, will it simply displace the problems?
- Can any extra alternative parking be provided?
- How would parking restrictions affect residents' parking?
- The rocks on the lay-by have meant that water sports visitors are also parking elsewhere in the village now.
- Should the double yellow lines proposed for the entrance to St Eata's lane be extended to stop vehicles blocking access to the Old Bridge?

Councillors agreed that the next step would be to share the draft TRO with as many parishioners as possible and ask for feedback (see item 9a). Copies to go on the notice board and the website, with responses requested by email or post (deadline 31<sup>st</sup> October). CW suggested that this should be shared as widely as possible by word of mouth as well. Councillors also agreed that representatives of Longner Estate and Brunning & Price should be asked to attend the next parish council meeting.

- b) A member of the public reported dangerous driving having caused near-collisions on Cross Houses lane. This is also being exacerbated by inconsiderate parking near the junction.

**7 SOVEREIGN PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** – A representative conveyed the grateful thanks of this group for the Parish Council's donation that has helped it to progress. Significant steps have been made: Two committee meetings have been held, a newsletter has been sent round to residents, and an online group set up. representatives of the Residents Association met with the management company this week. The management company and expressed disappointment that their contractor does not seem to have been carrying out work as agreed. Legal letters to residents who have withheld maintenance payments have been stopped while the management company addresses these issues. Work is progressing towards making the development ready for adoption by Shropshire Council. APC agreed that the Residents Association could have a presence on the Parish Council's website, to share contact details and their newsletter.

**8 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Cllr Claire Wild reported that there had been some issues with the 436 bus being overcrowded since the school/college terms had started. This is being resolved by a bigger bus being used.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- a) **Parking restrictions – to consider TRO** – See item 6a. LD asked whether the existing task of junction repairs/white lines will go ahead before any consideration of the TRO. Clerk to clarify this.
- b) **Planter and boulders at Cross Houses Lane junction** – Clerk to send official thanks to Salop Leisure for this donation and to ask about planting. There has been an offer of voluntary help with planting.
- c) **Emstrey roundabout** – Data has been sent by Highways England, but there is not enough recent data yet to make comparisons.
- d) **Speeding/visibility on Emstrey Bank** – This was deferred to a future agenda.

## 10 CLERK'S REPORT

The council noted a written report sent by the Locum Clerk, Caroline Higgins.

Council agreed to cancel the AED training as there had been only two people interested. It was agreed that information and a training video for the AED be put on the Parish Council website.

The new Clerk, Alison Utting, reported that her other council (Hadnall) is happy to share use of their printer with ink and paper costs being split equally between the two councils. APC agreed to this arrangement.

## 11 PARISH MATTERS

**SC Highways** are scheduling a one-day closure of the road south of Uffington (by the Church Road junction) on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

## 12 PLANNING

- a) **Previous planning applications** – nothing to report.
- b) There were no further **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.
- c) **Planning appeals** – nothing to report.
- d) **Place Plan Review** – Mathew Meade talked through the updated Place Plan priorities list for Atcham (see separate document). With regard to the draft TRO, he was keen to let some of his colleagues with long experience in traffic engineering have a look at the problem. He proposed that he should do this and then arrange a meeting with the Parish Council in the next few months to bring

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

some ideas and options forward. Council agreed that this would be very helpful. He also pointed out that the National Trust has a scheme in the pipeline to improve pedestrian and cycle access to Attingham from Shrewsbury, which would possibly help to alleviate some of the traffic problems.

### 13 WEBSITE

Council considered the new charges being brought in by Hugo Fox for hosting the APC website. Having discussed possible alternatives, council resolved to remain with Hugo Fox and to opt for the Bronze package (without Planning Tracker). The Clerk will set up a planning information page on the website with a direct link to the Shropshire Council Planning Register. Council resolved that the payments to Hugo Fox will be made by Direct Debit.

### 14 FINANCE

- a) There was no **budget report** available.
- b) Council received and approved the **bank reconciliation** to the end of August.
- c) Council resolved to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
420.50	Clerks' salaries and expenses	LGA1972s112, LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
93.60	PAYE (month 6)	LGA 1972 s112
396.00	New APC laptop	LGA 1972 s111

- d) Council resolved that the new clerk, Alison Utting, should be set up as administrator of the Lloyds bank accounts.
- e) Council resolved to give a grant of £300 to the Memorial Hall Committee to pay for the installation of wifi, with any surplus funds going towards ongoing costs.

**15 NEXT MEETING** – This will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

*There being no Staffing Matters to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.*

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Alison Utting – Atcham Parish Council  
1 Cherry Drive, Ellesmere SY12 9PF  
hadnallparish@gmail.com 01691 622093

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_