

CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU

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Minutes of the Meeting of Craven Arms Town Council held on Tuesday 30th January 2024 commencing 7.00pm held at Craven Arms Community Centre.

Councillors:

Cllr D Mills (Chairman), Cllr J Fuller, Cllr D Evans, Cllr Mrs R Pitt, Cllr N Stephens, Cllr R Conway, Cllr A J Willetts, Cllr S Demos

In Attendance:

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

79/23 Apologies:

Cllr V Bailey, Cllr J Rickson.

80/23 Members of the Public:

No members of the public were present.

Jason Norgrove the Station Manager from Craven Arms Fire Station attended the meeting to explain the difficulties in recruiting, training, and the retention of on call Fire officers to manage the fire facilities at Craven Arms.

Jason explained that it could take up to three years to train as a qualified fire fighter who currently need to be on call for 84 hours a week and should ideally live or work near the Fire Station.

Currently Craven Arms Station is down to nine employees this being the minimum requirement and if recruitment does not take place there is an imminent danger that there would be insufficient staff to man a callout.

Jason was asking for help to advertise recruitment and members of the Council were more than happy to distribute leaflets around the Town Area.

The Chairman thanked Jason for his attendance and updating the Town Council.

81/23 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr D Evans – Southern Area Planning Committee Shropshire Council.

82/23 Minutes:

The Town Council confirmed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 28th November 2023 which were signed by the Chairman.

83/22 Matter arising from the Minutes:

No Items.

84/23 Chair's Items:

No Items

85/23 Highway and Amenity Items:

- a) **Craven Arms Playing Fields** – No items to report.
- b) **Craven Arms Flooding Scheme** – The Clerk reported that the culvert by the Stokesay Hotel was regularly cleaned by Jamie Kinsey particularly during the adverse weather conditions the cost of which is reclaimed from Shropshire Council.
- c) **Highways/Street Lighting** – Cllr J Fuller referred to the number of highway issue on the A49 through the centre of Craven Arms which related to faulty Highway Lights and Signs,

and damaged grass verge. Cllr D Evans and the Clerk had taken up these matters with Highway England and were awaiting a response.

Cllr S Demos raised about the streetlights that were not working along parts of Clun Road, the Clerk reported that these had been recorded on the Shropshire Council website Fixmystreet.

The Clerk to raise the issue of the pruning of trees along Corvedale Road Craven Arms

- d) **Land at Corvedale Road Craven Arms** – The Clerk was currently obtaining an independent valuation of the land from McCartneys Craven Arms before any further progress can be made on this item, the Clerk also reported that potential for the sale of the Land should be advertised for public Consultation.

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the developer, of the two houses to the rear of Barclays Bank, to use the Councils parcel of land for a period of six months to store materials and put up a site cabin during construction of the houses. The developer will pay a licence fee of £1,000 for an initial period of six-months and a returnable deposit of £1,000.

Subject to the Councils solicitor agreeing the Licence the Town Council agreed to the use of the land by the developer for storage of equipment and siting of site cabin for an initial period of six-months.

- e) **Benches** – The Clerk will arrange for the installation of the two benches one on the play area of the recreational field and that other on the patch of land at the junction of St Johns Crescent and Greenfield Road Craven Arms.

86/23 Financial Items:

The Clerk had produced and Income and Expenditure Statement which showed the Council had balances of £206,682 as at the 31st January 2014 following approval of the accounts listed below and a statement of balances held in the appropriate bank accounts to comply with the Councils investment policy.

The Following accounts were approved for payment:

C E Williams	735.78	Disbursement Dec
Inland Revenue	158.20	Tax
G Morris	580.00	Amenity
Geosphere	162.00	Mapping Licence
Water Plus	21.27	Water Rates
Bank Charges	5.50	Charges
Water Plus	72.12	Water Rates
Water Plis	9.23	Water Rates
Water Plus	72.54	Water Rates
C E Williams	716.59	Disbursement Jan
Inland Revenue	158.20	Tax
G Morris	460.00	Amenity
J Kinsey	610.00	Clearance of Grills - to be recovered by SC

The Clerk had produced a summary of the Budget Requirements for the financial year 2024/25 which was considered by the Town Council, it was agreed that the precept amount for 2024/25 would be £53,788 which would represent a 0% increase in the Town Councils Tax Rate.

The Clerk was thanked for his report.

87/23 Planning Items:

Planning Application 24/00043/Full – The Cottage 1 Newton Craven Arms – Erection of two storey rear extension and associated works – No Objection

Planning Application 23/05540/Full– Onny Cottage 152 Whettleton Hill, Whettleton – Proposed side extension – No Objection

Planning Application 23/05268/Full – Hill View Clun Road – Erection of single storey and two storey extensions and single storey to rear elevation roof and boundary works – Object as the proposals will not fit in with the local environment and adjacent dwellings.

88/23 Reports from Other Organisations:

Cllr D Evans reported on Shropshire Council matters.

Annual Budget where savings of over £51million had to be achieved despite an increase in the Council Tax rate of 4.99% the largest item of expenditure was Adult and Social Care.

The updated Shropshire Plan was still with the Planning Inspectorate for approval.

Cllr R Pitt reported on the litter picking group and Cllr J Fuller reported on CAVE activities and consultation on Tree works and Car Park improvements with Network Rail.

89/23 Items for the Agenda Next Meeting:

No Items

90/23 Next Meeting:

Tuesday 27th February 2024

Chairman