

IGHTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ightfield Parish Council Meeting held at on 29 November 2021 at Calverhall Village Hall, Calverhall

Chairman: Cllr M Astley
Councillors: Cllr H Hitchman; Cllr M Procter; Cllr D Price; Cllr Rich; Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale;
Cllr P Wynn (Unitary Councillor)
Cllr Heywood Lonsdale left the meeting following item 91/21
Locum Clerk: A Roberts
Members of the Public: None

81/21 Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Public Session

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting, opening proceedings at 7:30pm.

82/21 Present, apologies or absent

Councillors present as noted above. Cllr Roberts was absent – no apologies received.

83/21 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests or requests for Dispensations

Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale declared an interest in item 92/21a.

84/21 To approve the minutes of the of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 September 2021

Councillors confirmed that they had received and read the minutes of the meeting. Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale proposed them to be a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Hitchman, agreed by all. **Resolved**

85/21 Matters arising from and action taken from the minutes (not otherwise on the agenda)

19 May 2021

- The Bletchley Road meeting has not taken place, but Cllr Wynn will raise the matter with Shropshire Highways.
- The streetlight is still out. The Clerk will report it to Eon again, along with a broken light at SY13 4QB
- Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale will ask the resident to provide Cllr Wynn with details of the blocked drain at Church Barn

86/21 Reports: Unitary Councillor, Councillors and Clerk

- Councillor Wynn reported that Shropshire Council continues to push for fairer funding and hoped to get the new North Shropshire MP to support the campaign. The Council spends 83% of its budget on Adult and Child Social Care, which only serves 3% of the population. Also, the decision on the North West Relief Road is now expected in January or February 2022.
- Cllr Hitchman reported on Calverhall playground condition: Urgent action is required because there is bare concrete beneath the rockers. The clerk will explore options and agree a course of action with the Chairman as soon as possible.
- Cllr Astley reported that the back fence at Ightfield playground was down and urgently needed new posts. In addition a tree bough needs to be removed. The clerk will explore options as above.

87/21 Parish Matters - An opportunity for Councillors to report items requiring attention:

- Resignation of Clerk
Cllr Astley reported that Juliet Jones had tendered her resignation for personal reasons and Amanda Roberts will continue as locum clerk until a replacement is found. Adverts have been placed on the website, the Village Crier and through SALC. The Clerk will contact South Cheshire ALC and ask them to distribute the advert.
- Footpath maintenance plan
Cllr Price has obtained a spraying plan – action is required in the spring.
The contractor who constructed the path has provided a proposed solution to the surface erosion on the rise towards the wooded area. The estimated cost is £2,800. It is unclear if drainage would provide a better solution.

Cllr Price and Cllr Astley will go on site after the winter and present a recommendation to members in spring.

c. Parish hedge and grounds maintenance plan

To be deferred to the next meeting. The contract is currently with KG Landscaping and will need to be re-let in 2022/23.

d. Footpath lease

Following recent issues with contractors working on behalf of EDF, Cllr Astley wanted to ensure that those who have a say regarding access to the path are the Parish Council and the companies within the Estate. As the lease is a lease of easement, not leasing the land itself it is difficult to be certain of the legal position without taking legal advice. The view of the meeting was that a third party should, at the very least, go through the estate and The Parish Council before accessing the footpath.

e. Ightfield Playground repair and replace plans 2022

Cllr Astley had obtained quotes from 2 companies. In line with financial regulations a third quote will be obtained before a decision is made.

Proposed Cllr Hitchman. Seconded Cllr Price. Agreed All

Resolved: A steering group comprising Cllrs Astley, Rich and Procter will review the options and quotes and agree a choice of equipment up to a maximum of £30k. Their decision is to be based on a combination of cost and quality rather than the lowest cost.

Once a decision is reached, Cllr Astley will progress funding applications.

f. Strategic objectives 2022 - 24

Proposed Cllr Astley. Seconded Cllr Procter.

Resolved: The Council's strategic objectives will remain as they are for the period 2022 – 2024

g. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and Speed Indication Device (SID)

VAS – Cllr Procter reported that the PCC grant is available until March. Cllr Heywood-Lonsdale will be meeting a representative from Shropshire Council on 9 December to agree a suitable location.

Purchase of a solar powered unit has been quoted at £3,744 and £4,174.

SIDs – Cllr Procter reported that the request to move the SIDs beyond the footpath entrance is still on the Shropshire Council jobs list.

h. War Memorial maintenance over the last few years

The Chair expressed the gratitude of the Parish Council for the maintenance work carried out by The Ightfield Parishioner Graham Parker over previous years.

i. Tractors and mud on the road

This issue was raised with the Chair following a traffic incident. The company concerned has provided reassurance that soil movements have now ceased.

j. War Memorial Wall

Deferred to the next meeting.

k. Jubilee Celebration

Members discussed the possibility of combining this with the official opening of the footpath. A more detailed plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

88/21 Highways / Environmental Health

The following will be reported to Shropshire Council by the Clerk:

- Sunken manhole cover and associated damaged footpath – Corra Meadow
- Cracked BT cover – Corra Meadow

89/21 Correspondence

- SALC information bulletins and legal topic notes - noted
- As received by the Clerk and circulated by email – noted
- Additional correspondence -none

90/21 Finance

- Balance reconciliation & cash book for information: Councillors reviewed the figures. Bank statements were checked against spreadsheets for accuracy.
- Cllr Astley presented the cashflow prediction for the rest of the financial year.
- The Clerk presented payments due for approval.
Proposed by Cllr Astley, seconded by Cllr Procter, agreed all.

Resolved: The payments shown below are approved for payment and income is noted.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Cheque No.(if paid)	Power of Expenditure
Employee 2	Hours worked in September & October	309.70		LGA 1972 s112
HMRC	PAYE	206.40		LGA 1972 s112
Scottish Power	Energy Supply	157.88	100701	PHA 1957 s3; HA 1980 s301
Employee 2	Expenses	82.93		LGA 1972 s112
Ben Hill	Grounds Maintenance	142.00		PHA 1875 s164
		898.91		
Income Received				
	Broadhey Eggs Ltd	567.50		War Memorial Refurbishment
	Ray Parry Playground Services	300.00		Snagging Costs
	HMRC	9370.59		VAT Reclaim
		10,238.09		

- Future Banking Arrangements
All forms were ready to be signed and submitted once a date for the bank switch had been agreed. As only the current account can be switched, funds in the Money Manager account need to be transferred into the current account before the switch to Unitary Trust Bank.
Proposed Cllr Price. Seconded Cllr Astley.

Resolved: HSBC will be instructed to transfer funds into the current account, from the Money Manager account which is then to be closed. The bank switch will take place on the first working day in January (4 January) 2022.

Having all Councillors as signatories will be brought forward for agreement at the January meeting.

91/21 Meeting Dates 2022

The following dates were agreed:

10 January	18 July
14 March	19 September
16 May	14 November

92/21 Planning

a. Applications

Reference: 21/05305/FUL

Address: Ightfield Hall, Ightfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 4BN

Proposal: Refurbishment and alterations of Ightfield Hall including change of use of adjacent outbuilding into ancillary use

Resolved: Support without comment

b. Decisions – none received.

93/21 Items for Next Agenda (10 January 2022)

- Parish budget and precept
- Banking signatories
- Grants
- Place Plan
- Parish Grounds Maintenance Plan
- Jubilee Beacon
- Village Crier
- Pathway Repairs
- War Memorial Wall

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was declared closed at 21.46