

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 24th November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre Craven Arms

Present:

Councillors:

Mr D Mills (Chairman), Mr N Stephens, Dr K Bartlett, Dr Asif Rao, Mr M Trafford, Mr R Conway, Cllr C Leworthy, Cllr G Cowley, Cllr D Evans

In Attendance:

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Cllr S Greenway and Cllr T Willetts

Members of the Public:

No members of the public present

56/15 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr D Evans – Personal – Southern Area Planning Committee Shropshire Council
Cllr N Stephens – Personal – Stokesay Primary School

57/15 Minutes:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th October 2015 were agreed by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

58/15 Matters arising from the Minutes:

No Matter arising

59/15 Chairman's Items:

- a) The Chairman had attended the Craven Arms Fire Station Open Evening. The local fire service are looking to recruit additional retained fire fighters for Craven Arms.
- b) The Chairman referred to the online web consultation "The Big Conversation" being held by Shropshire Council in relation to its services and future budget.
- c) The Council had received confirmation of the public rights of way order in respect of the upgrade and addition to footpath 50 which runs along the River Onny.

60/15 Highway Items:

The Town Council agreed to refer the following items to Shropshire Council for consideration:

- a) The condition of Watling Street with the increased traffic use and increased mud on the road because of damage to the verges – The Town Council request that the passing laybys are repaired/resurfaced.
- b) The narrow footpath which runs along Clun Road – the surface in places has become uneven leaving pools of water and with the freezing weather may leave a dangerous surface on this very stretch of footway running along a busy roadway – What are the plans for the resurface or repair of the footpath
- c) The Town Council wish to support a request from the Stokesay Primary School that some form of advance flashing warning lights are placed near the crossing which is used by the children on a regular basis.
- d) The Clerk to report the unlit streetlight in Halford Crescent Craven Arms and the overgrown tree covering the streetlight in Maple Close Craven Arms.

61/15 Amenity Items:

- a) The Council considered the management of the hedgerow which borders the Craven Arms Playing Fields adjacent to the football pitch and which overlooks Halford/Corvedale which will involve cutting the hedgerow to near ground level and putting up new fencing and an appropriate planting scheme.

The Chairman reported that the hedgerow will be cut back by Central Networks however there will be costs of approximately £3,300 for the clearance and burning of the hedgerow, and the provision of a stock proof fence to which CAPFA had agreed to make a contribution.

A letter had been received from a local resident, a copy of which was given to each councillor, expressing concern at the impact to the wild life and although appreciating the need to manage the area urged the council to consider all options before making any decision.

The letter also referred to planning issues regarding the removal of the hedge and the implications of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

The Town Council noted the comments in the letter and the Clerk explained that the Chairman had met with representatives of Central Networks and Shropshire Council at which it was agreed that there was no requirement to submit a planning application or a hedgerow removal notice this was also confirmed by email to Central networks. However councillors requested the Clerk should submit a removal notice to Shropshire Council under the Hedgerows Regulations Act 1997 and obtain any necessary planning consent or receive confirmation that these were not required by the Town Council.

The management of the hedgerow will enable the re-growth of the hedgerow and the clearance of the existing ditch/stream which runs along and through the hedgerow.

It was proposed by Cllr R Conway and seconded by Cllr D Bartlett and agreed by the Town Council, subject to any required planning or hedgerow consent having been received, proceed with the proposed management scheme. (Cllr M Trafford abstained from the vote)

b) A grant application had been received from the Shropshire Hills Mini Music Festival and Eisteddfod concerning the setting up costs of an annual event to be held in Craven Arms to encourage more people to join local choirs, groups, bands and perhaps learn to play a musical instrument.

The Town Council agreed that as the initial event had already been held and that this was a retrospective application no grant would be made but consideration may be given if a grant application is submitted prior to the event next year.

c) The Town Council to consider at the next meeting a grant application for assistance towards a Christmas Dinner for anyone in need to be held Christmas day at the Craven Arms Community Centre.

62/15 Financial Items:

a) The Town Council had balances of £213,124 at the 24th November 2015. The Council considered the Income and Expenditure Statement produced by the Clerk and approved that following accounts for payment.

Society of Local Council Clerks	131.00	Annual Subscription
G R Morris	450.00	Amenity Work
C E Williams	520.88	Disbursement
Inland Revenue	240.00	Tax
Royal British Legion	50.00	Wreath

63/15 Planning Items:

a) Planning application 15/04739/FUL – Erection of a single storey rear extension, extension to garage and alteration to porch – 3 Hawthorn Close Craven Arms

b) The Clerk reported that the Planning Inspector had now completed any proposed modifications to SAMDev which is the approval of sites for Housing and Employment land to 2026, with the proposals for employment land and housing land in Craven Arms being accepted.

The SAMDev proposals will now be formally adopted by Shropshire Council at its full council meeting in December 2015.

64/15 Reports from other organisations to which the Town Council have appointed a Representative:

Cllr N Stephens had attended the South Shropshire Area of Parish and Town Council meeting which considered the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Transparency Code for smaller councils.

Cllr M Trafford reported on the recent Local Joint Committee Meeting which was also attended by representatives of the local business community and received an update on the development of Shrewsbury University.

65/15 Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th January 2015