

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 28th September commencing 7.00pm held at Craven Arms Community Centre.

Councillors:

Cllr D Mills (Chair), Cllr N Carter, Cllr D Evans, Cllr N Stephens, Cllr A J Willetts, Cllr A Jolley Cllr R Conway, Cllr S Demos, Cllr V Bailey

In Attendance:

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Cllr J Rickson

Members of the Public:

A member of the public attended the meeting to express concern at the closure of the Craven Arms Ambulance Station and the impact that it may have in the already long response time to incidents in the Craven Arms Area.

Cllr D Evans explained that he had taken up the matter with Shropshire Council and the West Midlands Health Authority both as a County Councillors and a Town Councillor representing Craven Arms.

The Clerk would write to the West Midlands Health Authority to express the Town Councils concern and to obtain details of current response times for paramedics and ambulances in the Councils Area

22/21 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr D Evans declared a Personal Interest as Chairman of the Southern Area Planning Committee.

Cllr N Stephens declared a Personal Interest as paying a membership subscription to the Craven Arms Discovery Centre,

23/21 Minutes:

The Town Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on the Tuesday 27th July 2021.

24/21 Matter arising from the Minutes:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

25/21 Chairman's Items:

No items

26/21 Highway/Street Lighting Items:

- a) The Clerk reported that discussions were taking place concerning the condition of the unadopted roadway of Brook Road Craven Arms for which an improvement scheme was considered under the Craven Arms Partnership Market Towns Initiative in 2002. The scheme however was not undertaken because agreement on release of required small parcel of land could not be obtained from adjacent residents by the body responsible for administering the project South Shropshire District Council. The Town Council were not responsible for the scheme and received no financial grant from the Craven Arms Partnership in respect of Brook Road. Shropshire Council have recently patched potholes on the unadopted road to enable the Refuse Vehicle to collect the Refuse Bins.
- b) The Clerk reported that Highway England would have no objection to the installation of a speed monitoring signs along Shrewsbury Road from the North side as you enter Craven Arms, however this would be for the Town Council to negotiate to install the sign on private land and to pay for the sign. No finance would be available from Highways England the Clerk would enquire if the Local Police and Crime Commissioner were still providing grant for the installation of road safety signs.
- c) Cllr N Stephens reported the need for the clearance of the stream by Lambeth Close and concerns about the amount of litter in parts of Craven Arms. Items were also raised concerning the overgrown hedge by the Severn Tret Water Pumping Station, Greenfields Road condition of Public Rights of Way and CCTV by the Public Conveniences.

27/21 Amenity Items:

- a) **Craven Arms Playing Fields - BMX Track** – The work on the BMX track had been completed and the improved facility was now being enjoyed by all users, with visitors travelling from Shrewsbury and parts of Wales to use the track.
- b) **Gate Barrier** – Car Park/Picnic Area Corvedale Road Craven Arms – The Chair had obtained a quote for the cost of a steel/iron metal barrier should the present wooden structure again be damaged.

- c) **Update on Craven Arms Flooding Scheme** – Cllr N Carter reported that the grill by Stokesay Castle Inn had been cleared.
 - d) **Litter Picking** – Cllr S Demos would look at the forming of a volunteer Litter Group.
 - e) **Remembrance Sunday** – Cllr S Demos was planning for the remembrance service and the organisation of the sale of poppies.
 - f) **Climate Change** – The Town Council spoke of the need to keep abreast of Climate Change issues that could impact on Craven Arms with Cllr A Jolley acting as the Councils representative on Climate Matters.
 - g) **Men's Shed** – For information Cllr N Carter reported that he was helping to establish a group called the "Men's Shed based at Craven Arms Community Centre – this is a group which enables older men to meet, converse and create.
 - h) **Planters** – The Clerk reported that the watering of the flower planters will finish at the end of September and that they would be taken down early October.
 - i) **Craven Arms Discovery Centre and Meadow Land** – The Clerk had produced a report concerning discussions about the future of the Craven Arms Discovery Building and Land which are owned by the Housing Association Connexus.
Connexus were proposing that
 - i) The freehold transfer to the charity, Grow Cook and Learn (GCL) of the Discovery Centre Building and the element of car park land with appropriate covenant and legal charge of £250,000 to cover the outstanding loan between GCL and Connexus.
 - ii) The freehold transfer of the meadow land to the Town Council for the recreational benefit of the Local Community of Craven Arms subject to the land being leased to Grow Cook Learn by the Council for a minimum of 25 years.
- It was proposed by Cllr R Conway and Seconded by Cllr N Carter and agreed by the Town Council to support the proposals of Connexus and that a lease agreement be negotiated with Grow Cook Learn the term of which could be between 25-99 years with appropriate break clauses and will include the community gardens and access and use of the car park area.
- The Town Council also agreed that a solicitor should be appointed to act for the Council in the Land Transfer from Connexus, Leases Agreement and Land Registration at an estimated cost of £5,000.
- j) **Christmas Lights** – Cllr S Demos reported that the Christmas lights group have suggested a reduction in the purchase of the number of Christmas trees, however new lights will be purchased to installed along Corvedale Road the new lights will be purchased from the Welcome Back Fund.

28/21 Financial Items:

The Clerk had produced an Income and Expenditure Statement and comparison with the annual budget the Town Council had bank balances of £217,337 after approval of the accounts listed below which will be paid through the online banking system with the Chair verifying and releasing the payments setup by the Clerk.

The following accounts were approved for payment.

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|--------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------|
| B G Business | 118.44 | 5.64 | Bank Charges |
| Water Plus | 64.01 | | Water Rates |
| J B Extreme | 10.00 | | BMX Track |
| Inland Revenue | 120.00 | | Tax |
| D F Campbell | 336.00 | 56.00 | Grass Cutting |
| C E Williams | 687.00 | | Disbursement August |
| G R Morris | 1,510.00 | | Amenity - August |
| Water Plus | 217.55 | | Water Rates Toilets |
| Water Plus | 64.01 | | Water Rates |
| J B Extreme | 17,184.00 | 2,864.00 | BMX Track |
| British Gas | 118.93 | 5.66 | Electricity Charges |
| Cyril Bason | 28.50 | | Supplies |
| Stone Bookkeeping | 50.00 | | Admin |
| Shropshire Council | 1,330.36 | 221.73 | Street Lighting Energy |
| Shropshire Council | 744.00 | 124.00 | CCTV |
| G R Morris | 1,280.00 | | Amenity - September |
| Inland Revenue | 120.00 | | Tax |
| C E Williams | 690.10 | | Disbursement September |
| PKF | 360.00 | 60.00 | Audit Fee |
| D F Campbell | 336.00 | 36.00 | Grass Cutting |

The financial Governance and Financial Statement for 2020/2021 had been approved by the external auditors PKFLittlejohn.

29/21 Planning Items:

a) Reference: 21/03971/- The Old Post Office, Shrewsbury Road, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 9NZ
Proposal: Application for prior approval under Part 3 Class JA of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the change of use from Class Use A1 (retail) to Class Use B1(a) (office) – No Objection.

b) A review of the Shropshire Council Planning Committee Structure was being undertaken with the majority of questions relevant to Shropshire Council Members only however the Chair and Clerk will respond on other questions raised although it was the general opinion that as the new system had only been in place for a couple of years it was too soon to make a suitable judgement on the current two committee structure.

30/21 Reports from other Organisations:

Cllr D Evans reported Shropshire Council matters referring to Adopted Code of Conduct, Governance with the consideration of the merger of parishes, the Craven Arms Level Up Fund.
Reference was also made to the Craven Arms Hotel and the work being undertaken by Network Rail at the Level Crossing. The Town Council thanked Cllr D Evans for consulting with Network Rail on the works at the crossing and negotiating minimal closure of the Crossing.

The Chair reported on the recent meeting of the South Shropshire Association of Local Councils which had received a presentation on Safeguarding and the problem of County Line Drug Abuse. Future meetings will continue to be held by Zoom the next meeting being attended by the Leader of Shropshire Council.

31/21 Items for the Agenda next Meeting:

Climate Change, Queens Celebration 2021, Defibrillators.

32/21 Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th October 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

Chair