

Atcham Annual Parish Meeting

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Chairman: Colin Wildblood
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Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th May 2022

MINUTES

1. Chairman's welcome The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting
2. Present Councillor C Wildblood-Chairman, Councillor L Dixon, Councillor S Cook, also present C Higgins, locum clerk to the council, Shropshire Councillor C Wild and two members of the public.
Apologies were received from Councillor S Adney; Councillor S Sheddon and Councillor R Trow.
3. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2021. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were proposed by Cllr L Dixon and seconded by Councillor S Cook and approved by all present.
4. Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising.
5. Public session. Those present wished to make no comments
6. Finance Report. The locum clerk presented a financial report as prepared by the Clerk detailing key income and expenditure, including grants to the village hall and bowling club, new streetlights on the Glebe and environmental maintenance of the B4380 verge and Glebe.
7. Chairman's Report. Councillor Wildblood reported on successful clearance of the overgrown grassed areas to the footpath from Emstrey roundabout to Tern Bridge. He reported that the replacement streetlights on Atcham road bridge are being progressed and should be installed by the end of the summer. He expressed some concerns about the condition of the B4380 and Malthouse Lane which both require some repairs. He gave assurances that the parish council would continue to work to address local issues in the coming year. He thanked the clerk for her hard work during the year and wished her a speedy recovery. He also thanked the Shropshire Councillor for her support.
8. Shropshire Councillor's Report. Councillor C Wild summarised her written report focussing on the three promises made by Shropshire Council at the beginning of the year. On local housing, they had established Cornovii to build affordable homes for Shropshire residents which all benefit from renewable heating systems; On Highways, they have invested an additional £60M and on recycling they have made a third wheelie bin available to all residents on request. The bins will be available later in the summer. Shropshire Council is supporting 200 families to host Ukranian refugees. Budgets remain very tight with 75% being spent on adult social care (3% of the population). Those living in homes rated band A – D have received a council tax rebate of £150 to help with rising energy bills and the council is regularly reviewing how it tackles climate change issues.
Locally, traffic engineers have visited the Berwick Wharf layby and cleaned the slurry. They will review the size of the layby near to the Mytton and Mermaid pub to try to

relieve the parking issues there. She advised that the lights for Atcham Bridge were taking longer than expected due to the listed status of the bridge but she hoped the work would be completed by the end of the summer. She thanked the parish council for their continued hard work.

9. Reports from other organisations.

a. Village Hall Committee. Sue Rothwell sent her apologies for not presenting a report and it was suggested this be brought to the next meeting of the Council. Martin Ruston (committee member) gave a brief update on the building works undertaken using the parish council grant, which had been much appreciated. He acknowledged the contribution of the late Jane Caswell whose recent sad death had created some changes for the committee, with duties of the Booking Clerk and Secretary being taken on by other members. The committee were considering how to commemorate her lifelong contribution to the community.

b. Bowling Club. Colin Wildblood reported on the Bowling Club which had spent time during the lockdown on maintenance and renovation of the green. The club thanked the parish council for the grant and confirmed the work had been completed as planned, ensuring the club facilities would be available for many years to come. The club has 48 league members and 9 social members playing in two leagues.

10. Highways. A resident had expressed concern about potential parking problems arising following the proposed improvements to the Mytton and Mermaid. He requested parking restrictions be introduced on Malthouse Lane.

11. Other Matters. Councillor Wild suggested a memorial be created for Jane Caswell. It was noted that the bench opposite Malthouse Lane needed replacement and it already bore a memorial plaque, so it was suggested the bench be replaced in her honour.

The Clerk reported that a resident had requested permission to install a memorial bench near the river in memory of her father. She would provide a sketch to show the location proposed which would be considered by the parish council.

12. Date and time of next meeting. It was agreed the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7:00pm

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 7:35pm