

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 21 MARCH 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL, RUSHBURY

Two parishioners attended the meeting. One parishioner advised Councillors that he was seeking from the Parish Council a letter confirming that he was deemed to be of a local connection to enable him to make a pre-application to Shropshire Council to allow him and his partner to build an affordable home in the parish. Following a presentation of the parishioner's case, Councillors discussed the request with the parishioners. It was considered that there was sufficient merit to have the letter issued on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk would follow up with the letter after the meeting.

The parishioners thanked Councillors for their time and considering their case and left the meeting at 7:45pm.

2780. APOLOGIES

Apologies due to work commitments were received from Councillors A Dixon, Ms A Henderson, M Pye and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley. Apologies due to illness were received from Councillors T Flashman and M McFarland. Apologies noted and accepted.

2781. PRESENT

Councillor Dr C Stevenson - Chairman, Councillors P Bodimeade, G Gough and A Richards. Clerk C Maclean.

2782. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

2783. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 15 NOVEMBER 2021

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed and Councillor A Richards seconded that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 November 2021 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

2784. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 24 JANUARY 2022

Councillors noted that of the three Councillors present at the meeting on 24 January 2022 only Councillor Dr C Stevenson was present at this meeting and in a position to comment. It was agreed that approval of the Minutes be deferred to the next meeting.

2785. CHAIRMAN'S/CLERK'S NOTES

No updates were provided by the Chairman or the Clerk to the meeting as relevant items would be covered within the Agenda items.

2786. CORRESPONDENCE

2786a. Request for Potential Confirmation of Local Connection: Councillors reviewed the discussion earlier with the parishioners. It was recalled that there were listed criteria from Shropshire Council to establish the connection and this would be sourced and further reviewed.

2786b. **Nomination for Attendance at Shropshire Lieutenancy Garden Party:** Councillors considered nominations for attendance from the parish. Two parishioners were identified and the Clerk would provide details to the Shropshire Lieutenant's office.

2786c. **Council Representation at Proposed Meeting on Shared Parking at Village Hall:** Councillors considered the letter received from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee proposing a joint meeting between the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and Millennium Green Trust to discuss the maintenance of the parking area at the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Parish Council's representation comprise Councillors T Flashman and M McFarland along with the Clerk.

2786d. **Church Stretton and Area Community Emergency Plan:** the Clerk advised Councillors that advice had been received from a Councillor of Church Stretton Town Council that the Plan was being updated and enquiries were received to check whether the Village Hall was still available as a possible alternative site and to check on the local contacts. Feedback had been provided to advise that the Village Hall could be available and two contact names were provided. Councillors noted the position.

2786e. **South Shropshire Area Committee Attendance:** it was agreed this item be deferred to a future meeting.

2787. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillors noted the absence of Councillor Mrs C Motley and no report had been received for this meeting.

2788. **PARISH COUNCILS WORKING RELATIONSHIPS**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised Councillors that he and Councillor M McFarland had a meeting with Councillors G Watts and P Jenkins of Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council to discuss the merits of enhanced working relationships and possible merger. Some pros and cons were identified and discussion revolved around achieving the right balance of local representation within dispersed populations across the parishes. A preference was expressed at the joint meeting for there to be no wards to save on election costs.

There was agreement between Councillors that there should be no negative impact on households in terms of the Precept if there was a combined Parish Council.

The feedback would be taken to each Council and the Annual Parish Assemblies for further discussion.

Councillors considered the merits of a joint meeting of all Councillors in the coming month and attempts would be made to see what was possible. The Clerk would contact the Clerk to Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council to see if a meeting would be possible in early April.

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillors A Richards seconded and it was resolved that a joint meeting be facilitated between Rushbury Parish Council and Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler Parish Council.

At 8:21pm, a resident joined the meeting to raise a parish matter. Councillors agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the resident to participate.

The resident advised Councillors of concerns over safety to the entrance of Gilberries Lane off the B4371. To enable large articulated trucks coming from Wall Under Heywood and

wishing to turn left down Gilberries Lane, they were required to pull across onto the other side of the carriageway to effect the turn. Coming from the other direction, this manoeuvre is unsighted and there is the risk of collision. Councillors were requested to raise the matter with the appropriate authorities to see if action could be taken to improve visibility. Councillors agreed that this would be referred to Shropshire Council Highways.

The resident thanks Councillors and left the meeting at 8:29pm. Following the departure of the resident, the meeting reconvened.

2789. PARISH PLAN

Councillors considered previous experiences in updating the Parish Plan where initial widespread interest diminishes down to a small core number of individuals undertaking all the work. Views were shared on the appropriateness of creating documents with options to select from rather than seek views from a blank canvass.

Councillors shared the desire to undertake the exercise online.

Councillors also considered the relevance of a Plan update being undertaken alongside a similar exercise with residents of Eaton Under Heywood and Hope Bowdler where the two Parish Councils could work on a joined-up plan approach but with separate elements to reflect the parishes.

It was noted that progress on this exercise would be undertaken by Councillors P Bodimeade, A Dixon and Ms A Henderson.

2790. MILLENNIUM GREEN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Councillors noted the increase in costs advised by Tivoli Group Ltd for the contract to March 2023. It was also noted that the continuation of the contract with Tivoli had been agreed by the Millennium Green Trust.

The Clerk advised that confirmation had been provided by Tivoli that the cost for the next year amounted to £1,497.72 + VAT.

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed and Councillor A Richards seconded that the contract be extended to cover the period April 2022 to March 2023 and that the Clerk sign the contract on behalf of the Parish Council.

2791. TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES WITHIN THE PARISH

Whilst Councillors noted that work was being undertaken to identify and secure speed indicator devices for the parish, they considered other economic measures that could be introduced to assist in calming the traffic through Longville and Wall Under Heywood. Councillor P Bodimeade shared photographs of fence erections at sides of entrances to villages elsewhere in the country and which he thought may be a viable option. It was agreed that further investigations be undertaken and the topic be raised with Shropshire Council Highways.

2792. POLICE COMMUNITY CHARTER

Councillors reviewed the priorities listed in the charter and agreed that the three priorities of rural theft, fly-tipping and speeding remain unchanged.

The Clerk shared with Councillors the concern raised by Councillor M McFarland of observing that police tapes placed at sites of incidents do not appear to be removed after the incidents have been dealt with.

2793. **STANDING ORDERS**

Councillors noted the review of the Council's Standing Orders and the values set out in Clauses 18 f and g have been amended. The Clerk advised that the content of these clauses was mandatory and set by NALC and updated advices were awaited from NALC prior to the Council's own updating. Councillors noted that on receipt of revised Standing Orders from NALC, an updated document would be presented to Council. The document presented to the meeting represented a review within the current financial year to satisfy an audit point.

Councillor A Richards proposed and Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was resolved that Council accept the review as it currently stood in anticipation of updated Standing Orders being presented at a future meeting.

2794. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Councillors noted the review of the Council's Financial Regulations and that references in Clauses 11 b and c may be subject to review as they refer to EU guidelines and monetary values. The Clerk advised that on receipt of updated Financial Regulations from NALC, a revised document would be presented to Council. The document presented to the meeting represented a review within the current financial year to satisfy an audit point.

Councillor A Richards proposed and Councillor P Bodimeade seconded and it was resolved that Council accept the review as it currently stood in anticipation of updated Financial Regulations being presented at a future meeting.

2795. **PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Councillors noted the Assessment compiled by the Clerk on the Parish Council and covering (i) Financial; (ii) Assets; (iii) Management Administration; (iv) Liability; (v) Councillors Propriety; (vi) Services; and (vii) Miscellaneous risks.

Councillors noted that Councillor T Flashman had a venue that may be considered an alternative to the Village Hall in the event it was unavailable.

Councillors also noted that the Assessment should include the two defibrillators within the parish. The Clerk advised that the document would be updated and presented to a future meeting. The document presented to the meeting represented a review within the current financial year to satisfy an audit point.

Councillor P Bodimeade proposed and Councillor A Richards seconded and it was resolved that the Council adopt the Risk Assessment as it currently stood in anticipation of an updated document being presented at a future meeting.

Councillor G Gough joined the meeting at 9:10pm.

2796. **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Councillors considered possible dates for the Assembly meeting which was dependent upon availability of the main hall. A desire was expressed for 25th April and the Clerk would check with the Village Hall Committee Chair.

2797. **PLANNING**

Planning Application received for:

2797a. 22/01138/FUL (validated 08/03/2022): Brook House, I The Woodlands, Longville in the Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6EB

Proposal: Erection of extension to existing garage by 10m

Decision: No objection

2797b. **Planning Decisions**

Ref:21/03256/FUL (validated 01/07/2021): Malt House, Malthouse Farm, Wall Under Heywood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 7DU

Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to side elevation

Decision: Grant Permission

Ref: 22/00187/FUL (validated 14/01/2022): The Old Parlour, Longville in the Dale, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6EE

Proposal: Erection of porch and garden room extensions, rendering of existing external walls and alterations to roof and fenestration

Decision: Withdrawn

2798. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

2798a. **Current Finances:** Councillors noted the balances on the Council's accounts.

Community Account at 02.03.2022	£156.79
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Deposit Account at 01.03.2022	£6,950.87
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2798b. **Invoices to Pay March**

Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd (119151)	£3.60
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Clerk Salary	£250.00
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Councillor P Bodimeade proposed, Councillor A Richards seconded and it was resolved that the payments be made.

Councillors noted that the outstanding invoices from Jason Gough had been settled and that this had been due to an oversight by the Clerk.

2799. **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Councillors there were no updates or reports relating to the Village Hall and Millennium Green and Playground.

2800. **PARISH MATTERS**

2800a. **Car Park opposite Wenlock Edge Inn**

Councillor P Bodimeade advised that he had raised the state of the car park with the authorities to be advised that as this was private land, no action could be taken.

2800b. **Stile at Caradoc Yard**

Councillor G Gough advised that the stile adjacent to the yard was broken and this would be taken up with Shropshire Council.

2800c. **Shropshire Council CIL Meeting**

Councillor Dr C Stevenson advised that he would attend the meeting arranged to discuss CIL payments and spending and the meeting link would be forwarded to him.

2800d. **Zoom Account**

Councillors discussed the merits of purchasing a zoom account for the purpose of holding online meetings of Councillors and parish related meetings as appropriate. The Clerk would investigate costs.

2801. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

- a) Parish Plan
- b) Clerk to be advised of items in advance of meeting.

2802. **FURTHER MEETING DATES**

Councillors discussed the merits of a reduced meeting frequency. A schedule of meetings in May, June, September, November, January and March was considered. Online meetings of Councillors could be held in intervening periods.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

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Chairman

Date: 20 June 2022