

**THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RUSHBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL REMOTE PLATFORM**

**2603. PUBLIC SESSION**

Chris New and Rachel Corner from SWS were welcomed to the meeting who explained the proposed expansion of their firm's internet and broadband offering.

The installation of the aerial at the Village Hall had been delayed as some of the kit was still awaited. The fibre extension to the Hall had been completed and once the aerial is connected, the upgraded service linked to the mast at Stone Acton would be available.

The new GB capability connection for rural communities was being promoted by Shropshire Council but early interest is encouraged as the current promotional scheme will change in March 2021. The scheme operates via expressions of interest from householders who receive vouchers that will equate to monetary values, contributing towards the costs of any new installation.

Chris advised Councillors that with the support from Shropshire Council, the number of properties allowing projects to be considered had dropped to between 5 and 8 allowing the company to consider smaller clusters for promotion and possible implementation.

Implementation of any approved projects would be within 12 months of confirmation.

Promotion of the offer was discussed and all avenues would be explored, including the parish magazine.

Chris advised Councillors that SWS was now part of Rural Broadband Solutions PLC.

Councillors thanked Chris and Rachel for their attendance and providing the details. Chris and Rachel left the meeting at 8:03pm.

**2604. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors T Flashman and G Gough.

**2605. PRESENT**

Councillor M McFarland - Chairman, Councillors P Bodimeade, Mrs S Madeley, M Pye, A Richards, Mrs V Smith, Dr C Stevenson and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley. Clerk C Maclean.

**2606. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

**2607. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 OCTOBER 2020**

**Councillor A Richards proposed and Councillor M Pye seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

**2608. CHAIRMAN'S / CLERK'S NOTES**

**2608a. Chairman Update**

Councillor M McFarland advised Councillors that he had no news or updates to provide to Councillors.

**2608b. Clerk Update**

Clerk advised Councillors of the continued lack of progress of the tickets previously raised with Shropshire Council Highways. Councillor Mrs C Motley suggested that it may be

worthwhile raising these issues directly with Steve Smith, Assistant Director covering Highways at Shropshire Council. Councillor Mrs C Motley also advised that she had placed a number of issues on the MyShropshire portal but no priority had been set to address these. Councillor A Richards advised that no progress had been seen with regard to the issues raised on the lane at East Wall.

#### 2609. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Mrs C Motley advised Councillors of the following:

##### **Posters Advertising Help Channels and Support for Residents During Coming Season:**

A number of posters have been prepared by Shropshire Council and these would be forwarded for promotion.

**Shropshire Council Meetings:** These continue with focus being extended to support for rough sleepers and housing supply. The Homepoint portal is not seen to be working as efficiently as expected and is to be reviewed. Consideration also being given to improving responses where flooding problems exist.

**Rural Services Network:** A number of meetings have been attended with focus on social care and health. Their AGM was also held which was attended by Philip Dunne in his role of Chair of Environmental Audit Committee. Concern increasingly being focused on untreated sewage in rivers and excesses of phosphates and nitrates. Maps of the water courses across counties are being created.

**Trees:** A further community tree scheme is being established by Shropshire Council where limited offers would be made for access to free trees. It had been recognised that the previous scheme had not been well managed.

**Environmental Maintenance Grant Scheme:** The scheme was being reviewed. It was recognised that greater focus required on the right levels of training, equipment and insurance.

#### 2610. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

Councillor Mrs C Motley extended her apologies and left the meeting at 8:31pm.

#### 2611. **PLANNING**

##### **Planning Application has been received for:**

2611a. None.

##### **Planning Decisions made:**

2611b. None.

#### 2612. **FOOTBRIDGE AT CHURCH FARM**

Councillor Mrs S Madeley advised that some discussions are being held with Footpaths representatives from Shropshire Council. Councillors considered what options were available in relation to temporary versus permanent repairs. Concerns remain over liability in relation to repairs undertaken. Councillors recognised that the Environment Agency may require to be involved and any work undertaken would require a temporary diversion of the stream to be in place, adding to the work and costs.

2613. **FINANCE**

2613a. **Banking**

Community Account at 02.11.2020	£43.93
Deposit Account at 01.11.2020	£4,545.98

2613b. **Invoices to pay November**

Sodexo (9900565760)	£135.26
Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd (115564)	£3.60

**Invoices to pay December**

Sodexo (TBA)	£135.26
Jason Gough Computing Services Ltd (TBA)	£3.60

**Resolved: Councillor P Bodimeade proposed and Councillor Mrs S Madeley seconded that the payments be made.**

2614. **2021/2022 EXPENDITURE AND PRECEPT**

The Clerk advised Councillors that the papers distributed prior to the meeting reflected a first cut of the projected expenditure for the year and budgets for the next financial year. Further work is required and a fresh set of papers would be presented to Councillors along with proposals on the Precept amount for the next financial year at the next meeting.

Councillors noted the advice received via SALC that payments made by Parish Councils to local churches to cover maintenance costs of burial grounds may be subject to legal challenge and it was agreed that such payments cease unless further clear advice was received allowing such payments.

Councillors noted the potential increase in the SALC Affiliation Fee. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to SALC advising that the Parish Council would withdraw from the voluntary contribution of £15.00 towards the South Shropshire Area Committee. Removal of this amount would help to contain the fee.

2615. **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

2615a. **Village Hall**

Councillor Mrs V Smith advised Councillors that the Village Hall Committee conducted their AGM in person, having deemed it safe to do so. Merle Lippitt has been appointed as Chair, Liz Welch as Secretary and Christine Beaver as Treasurer.

2615b. **Millennium Green and Playground**

No update provided in relation to the Millennium Green and Playground.

Councillors noted concerns and complaints expressed over the state of surface of the tennis/ball court. Councillors felt that the surface was no longer fit for purpose and that consideration be given to its resurfacing. Currently the Council does not have funds to meet the costs of any work and consideration would require to be given to securing funding.

In terms of resurfacing costs, Councillor A Richards advised that he would discuss with colleagues to get an indicative quote.

Councillor M McFarland advised that the net had been removed.

Councillors discussed the issues around liability over the court remaining open and Councillor Mrs V Smith offered to seek advice in this respect and advise back.

2616. **PARISH MATTERS**

2616a. **Broadband**

Councillors noted the discussions within the Public Session and that advice of the new offerings would be promoted within the parish magazine.

2616b. **General Parish Matters**

None raised.

2617. **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

Packhorse Bridge, Church Farm

Precept and Budget

Tennis/Ball Court Resurface

Further items to be advised to Clerk in advance of meeting

Councillors considered the merits of using the Zoom platform and compared experience with Microsoft Teams. Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial to continue with the Zoom platform.

2618. **DATES OF FURTHER MEETINGS**

18 January 2021, 15 February 2021, 15 March 2021.

Meeting closed at 9:33pm.