

FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

held in Forton Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday 19th July 2023

Present:

Councillors: S Spencer (Chair), P Hammond (Vice Chair), O Thomas, Z Young (arrived 7:25)

Clerk: Carol Little

Members of the Public: Bernie Jones and John Myers (two members of the Shropshire Canal Trust)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Borough Councillors: Mark Winnington and Scott Spencer sent apologies as they were at a planning meeting.

Cllr Carver & Cllr Hawkins also submitted apologies to the Clerk which were accepted.

2. Declaration of Councillors' Personal Interests:

None

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 May 2023:

Councillors approved the minutes without amendment.

Matters arising - The Clerk advised that the speed watch initiative had not progressed as planned. Cllr Young confirmed this when she arrived explaining that the villagers who had expressed an interest in taking part had since withdrawn their support.

4. Parish Council Vacancy:

The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the Elections Office to confirm that we could just re-advertise the vacancy and co-opt. The clerk agreed to make a poster for the notice boards and arrange for the vacancy to be advertised on the Parish website and the Council website.

5. Finance Report:

5.1 2023/2024 Quarter Two

The financial statement dated 11 July 2023 was presented. It balanced to the latest bank statements received with a closing balance of **£1,214.60**

BANK STATEMENT RECONCILIATION

Current Account Statement @ 11 July 2023	£125.00
Reserve Account Statement @ 11 July 2023	£1,089.60
Reconciliation TOTAL	<u>£1,214.60</u>

5.2 Payments Approved

Precept Payments	Budget £ p	Actual to Pay £ p
Clerk's Salary (net) – 2 nd quarter	122.85	98.25
PAYE	nil	24.60
Clerk's Expenses – 2 nd quarter	15.00	nil

5.3 Annual Audit 2022/2023

Our Internal Audit was completed on the 10th May and no external audit is required. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been on the website since 15th May together with the notice of Local Government Electors Rights (the right to view papers closes on 21st July). There have been no requests to view to date.

6. Shropshire Canal Trust:

The Chairman welcomed Bernie Jones and John Myers from the Trust. They shared slides on their recent work further down the canal and advised that they had retained the money allocated in the budget to complete the works in Forton which was started some years ago.

They explained that unfortunately their efforts have been frustrated by local landowners not allowing access to land owned by the Canal and River Trust, however the Trust continue to work with the landowners towards a resolution and feel as though some progress has been made.

Bernie advised that the bed dumped under the canal bridge and the damaged fencing would need to be reported to the Canal and River Trust. The Clerk agreed to take some images and submit a report.

Action: Clerk

7. A519 Update:

There was nothing to report on the resurfacing of the road. It was noted that the 40mph sign had still not been replaced. It was suggested that Cllr Winnington could invite the Cabinet Minister for Highways to our next meeting so that we can establish when we can get repairs. The clerk agreed to chase both.

Action: Clerk

8. Matters Requiring Attention in the Parish:

The Clerk advised that she had reported an inaccessible stile at Windswell Pool for which she had received notification via the Parish website.

9. Correspondence:

The Clerk distributed Pecuniary Interest Forms to Councillors for completion. The Chairman advised that he had heard about a revised planning application for the Red Lion in Sutton but as yet we have received no official notification from the Council. He also advised that he had been informed of sewage from a septic tank in Sutton running onto the road. Clerk agreed to report this.

Action: Clerk

10. AOB:

Cllr Hammond advised that the A41 from Forton to Hinstock is to be closed for the whole of August and a diversion put in place. There was no information given regarding the works taking place which were being undertaken by Telford and Wrekin Council.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

22nd November 2023

At 7.00pm in Forton Parish Hall

Meeting Closed at 8:05 p.m.