

Atcham Parish Meeting

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Chairman: Colin Wildblood
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Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7:00pm

MINUTES

1. Chairman's welcome: The Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair and welcomed all guests including members of the parish council and residents from Sovereign Park.
2. Present: Councillor C Wildblood-Chairman, Councillor L Dixon, Councillor R Trow, Councillor S Adney, 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 Sheddon and Councillor M Ruston
3. Confirmation and acceptance of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2022. It was agreed that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters arising from the meeting; The request for yellow lines in Malthouse Lane had been raised with Shropshire Council and a meeting held on site. The officer had agreed to review the impact of the reopening of the Mytton and Mermaid on parking and if problems are identified they would undertake a formal consultation on parking restrictions.
5. Police report: Not available
6. Public session. *Open forum at which any elector of the parish is invited to speak.*
The following points were raised:
 - A resident of Sovereign Park recorded the serious concerns relating to the poor maintenance of Sovereign Park verges and the non-adoption of the highway by Shropshire Council. Some residents had refused to pay the maintenance fees due to poor performance and this had prompted heavy handed debt collection action by the developer. The resident had formed a Residents Association which had wide support but no funding.
7. Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported on the efforts of the Parish Council to secure some works for the benefit of the parish of Atcham. Improvements have included the installation of new lights on Atcham Bridge, which are a marked improvement and will be replicated on the other side of the bridge when budgets allow. He proposed a vote of thanks to Shropshire Council Highways for executing the work. He noted that the closing of the Mytton and Mermaid Hotel had been a sad occasion but its purchase by Brunning and Price had led to serious renovations and improvements and would be reopening on 1st June 2023. There was an issue over the last two summers of 'wild water swimming' in the river adjacent to the old bridge. After consulting with the landowners, the broken fence has been replaced to prevent access to the water, which is a dangerous stretch. The Chair thanked the Locum Clerk for her work whilst the appointed clerk was unwell. He also wished a speedy recovery to Cllr Sue Sheddon who had also been unwell. He had himself suffered a period of ill health and thanked Cllr L Dixon for standing in as Chair when necessary. He thanked all the Councillors for their continued support.

8. Finance Report: The Locum Clerk presented a summary of the accounts of the Parish Council and variances from the previous year. The parish did not receive any CIL Neighbourhood Fund which reduced income by £17,103 but did receive an insurance settlement of £2,500 due to the absence of a key member of staff. Staff costs increased by £4,319 due to the employment of a locum clerk and a national pay award. Other payments reduced significantly by £35,985 due largely to the payment of grants to the village hall and bowling club during the previous year using CIL Neighbourhood Funds. The accounts will be published on the council website in early June.
9. Shropshire Councillor's Report: Cllr C Wilde referred to her extensive written report that is attached to the minutes but added that this was Fostering Fortnight which she wished to raise awareness of. Children placed in foster care have better outcomes than those in children's homes but there is a great need for foster carers and they receive a great deal of support.
10. Village Hall Committee Report: The Locum Clerk read the written report detailing the extensive refurbishment work carried out by the village hall committee using the grant from the parish council. The hall has been used to provide a range of community events including those for the Queen's Jubilee, a harvest lunch, pop-up pub and a Coronation lunch. More events are planned by the organisers, the Malthouse Merry-makers.
11. Bowling Club Report: Not available
12. There being no other reports, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:20pm