



Minutes of a meeting of Atcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th January 2024 at 7.30pm in Atcham Memorial Hall

24/001 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Colin Wildblood (Chairman), Simon Adney, Stephen Cook, Keith Daley, Laura Dixon, Martin Ruston, Robert Trow.

Apologies: None.

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Claire Wild (left after item 24/006). 11 members of the public (8 left after item 24/002).

24/002 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Welcome - The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped they had all had a good Christmas.

Footpath overgrowth – Several residents expressed concern over the state of the roadside footpath between Homestead Barn and Salop Leisure. Overgrowth is forcing pedestrians into the road and making wheelchair/pushchair use impossible. AU and RT to look into this.

Parking problems – It was asked whether the Parish Council could progress the TRO (parking restrictions). There was a detailed discussion, during which the following key points were made:

- The Parish Council has not yet received any of the car park plans put forward by Brunning & Price or had any update on whether these are progressing. This may or may not have a bearing on the Parish Council's next steps.
- Cllr Wild indicated that it was necessary to get the resurfacing and white line marking at the junctions completed first.
- The informal opinion survey did not result in a clear mandate for proceeding with the TRO as proposed in the draft plan. What it did do was to highlight some important issues that need to be considered going forward (e.g. possible displacement of problem parking).
- A more specific type of questionnaire for all residents would need to be carried out in order to ascertain clear support for any proposed parking

restrictions. LD proposed that the Councillors will look into this (using responses to the informal survey as a guide) and bring a draft questionnaire to the next meeting, when next steps will be discussed. It will be important to carry out the formal consultation in a manner that ensures the integrity of the results and adheres to Data Protection legislation. Clerk/MR to look into this.

- An alternative form of parking restriction marking was suggested by a resident ('Keep Clear' marking with H-bars). This does not need to be part of a TPO but can be applied and paid for separately. Council will look into this as an option when looking at specific proposals.
- The cost of a TRO (approx. £4K) would not be met by Shropshire Council. This would mean the Parish Council and/or other bodies would have to pay for it. The Parish Council has Neighbourhood Fund monies that could be used and will consider this when setting the budget (item 24/011).
- If a proposed TRO were supported by a majority of residents, it would still have to go through a formal process with Shropshire Council. This means the actual implementation of the scheme could take around 6-12 months, depending on whether there was any opposition to it.

24/003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

24/004 MINUTES - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 8th November 2023 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

24/005 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **Parking issues** – Covered in public session.
- b) **Lloyds online banking** – The Clerk is now registered for online banking and is attempting to cancel access for the previous locum clerk.
- c) **Planters** – The planting up has not yet been done. Clerk to continue trying to contact Salop Leisure.
- d) **Resurfacing and white line reinstatement** – scheduled for 13th – 29th March (Berwick Wharf road and junctions).
- e) **Parking in the Glebe** – MR reported that problems have eased somewhat. Residents to contact Clerk if it gets worse again.
- f) **Memorial Hall wifi installation** – this is in progress (and eagerly awaited).
- g) **New Councillor training** – KD was unable to attend the session due to work commitments.
- h) **Clerk training** – The session was cancelled.

- i) **Passwords** – These were given to the Vice Chair (in a sealed envelope) for use in case of an emergency requiring councillors to have access to the Parish Council email, website, etc.

24/006 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CLlr Claire Wild had already given feedback on parking matters during public session. She also mentioned a proposal being put forward by Berrington Parish Council to register the Crosshouses lane as a 'Quiet Lane'. Further information to be brought to the next meeting, when APC will be able to submit a response.

24/007 ANY OTHER REPORTS – None.

24/008 PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications received in advance of this meeting.
 b) The following **planning decision** was published by Shropshire Council:

Reference: **23/04668/FUL** and **23/04669/LBC**
 Address: The Walled Garden, Attingham Park
 Proposal: Removal and replacement of two glasshouses
 SC decision: Grant Permission

- c) There were no further planning decisions published in advance of this meeting.

24/009 FINANCE

- a) Council noted the following **payments** made since the last meeting:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
315.80	Clerk's salary (Dec)	LGA 1972 s112
195.00	PAYE (months 8 and 9)	LGA 1972 s112
11.99	Website fee (Dec)	LGA 1972 s142

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
315.60	Clerk's salary (Jan)	LGA 1972 s112
71.20	PAYE (month 7)	LGA 1972 s112
19.35	Clerk's expenses	LGA 1972 s112
11.99	Website fee (Jan)	LGA 1972 s142
90.00	Room hire for meetings	LGA 1972 s134 (1-3)

1500.00	Grounds maintenance (2023 season)	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 and 10
30.00	Cllr training (KD)	LGA 1972 s111
51.70	Streetlight maintenance contract	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3 Highways Act 1980 s301

It was noted that £32.32 was received in bank interest for Dec-Jan.

b) Council approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.

24/010 SPEEDING

Council agreed in principle to purchasing two new vehicle-activated signs, to show vehicle speed and smiley/frowny face, possibly solar-powered, with downloadable data, at a cost of approximately £5K per unit. These to be sited at each end of the 40mph section in the village, replacing the existing ones. Full details, siting, and quotes to be considered at the next meeting. Possible solutions for speeding on Emstrey Bank to be considered at a future meeting.

24/011 BUDGET

Council agreed the budget for 2024-25, published separately. (Prop: CW. Sec: SC. Nem con.)

24/012 PRECEPT

Council agreed to request a precept of £14,047. This will mean a 0% increase on the Parish Council's part of the Council Tax (based on average Band D). (Prop: MR. Sec: LD. Nem con.)

24/013 POLICIES

Council resolved to adopt the **Staffing Committee Terms of Reference** and Freedom of Information **Policy** (Prop: SA. Sec: RT. Nem con.)

24/014 POLICING PRIORITIES

Council agreed to submit the following policing priorities to West Mercia Police:

1. Speeding (through the village, and on Emstrey Bank and Berwick Wharf road).
2. Rural theft.
3. Dangerous parking by road junctions in the village.

These priorities to remain unchanged unless otherwise resolved at a future meeting.

24/015 PARISH MATTERS

Cllr Wildblood announced his intention to resign from the Parish Council in May. He will preside over the election of a new Chair at the start of the Annual Meeting, before standing down.

It was asked whether there is any progress towards widening the lay-by next to Paradise Meadow? (Clerk to ask Cllr Wild).

There are no directional signposts to Berwick Wharf from the main road. Can this be rectified? (Clerk to investigate)

24/016 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **West Mercia Police** – online fraud and scam bulletin (shared on Facebook).
- b) **SC Flood Management Team** – grants available for property owners impacted by recent floods.
- c) **Shropshire Council** – budget consultation (deadline 28th January).
- d) **SALC** – training programme 2024 now available (forwarded to Cllrs).
- e) **Shropshire Council** – parish boundary review consultation (deadline 26th January).
- f) **SC Tree Team** – Community Orchard scheme, other grants for trees.
- g) **Resident** – Speeding concerns Emstrey Bank.
- h) **Able Community Care** – Free door stickers available for vulnerable residents (no cold calls, etc.)
- i) **Highways - Scheduled road closures:**

Uffington to Berwick Wharf road: 28th January for one day (Severn Trent).

Cressage Bridge: 29th January to 14th April 2024 (bridge deck replacement).

Berwick Wharf to Atcham road: 13th to 29th March 2024 (pre-dressing patching works).

Church Road end of Atcham jct with B4380: 13th to 29th March 2024 (pre-dressing patching works).

24/017 **NEXT MEETING** – This will be on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Alison Utting – Atcham Parish Council
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