

**Buildwas Parish Council  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
at 7.30pm in Buildwas Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr. L. Pratt (Chairman), Cllr. J. Heath, Cllr. S. Heath, Cllr. V. Morgan, Cllr. R. Wilcox

**In attendance:** Mrs S. Morris (Clerk), Cllr C. Wild (Shropshire Council), 1 member of the public

**1) Public Session**

A member of the public spoke regarding the proposed power station site development. The objections that had been submitted appeared to have a general consensus that any development should be concentrated on the brownfield and not greenfield areas of the site. The member of the public raised the concern, as had been noted in the Parish Council response to the application, that there was no guarantee that the number of houses on the site could be controlled, and the applicant may make a supplementary application for additional houses. He therefore reiterated the view that a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish would make a stronger case for what the community wants, and could be used to lock down the number of houses in the proposed development, and protect the existing community.

**2) Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs J Grainger and S Ratcliffe.

**3) Declarations of Disclosable Interests & Dispensation Requests**

None declared.

**4) To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as being a correct record and the Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**5) Matters arising from the minutes**

We Don't Buy Crime/SmartWater. As had been noted in the Annual Parish Meeting, once 19 more kits were registered, the parish would qualify for the signage. Cllr. Wilcox intended to make further approaches to those residents not yet registered, and a notice had been put into Under the Wrekin to encourage registrations.

**6) Shropshire Councillor Report**

Cllr. Wild had reported to the Annual Parish Meeting. In addition, she suggested that the Parish Council hold an additional meeting in due course with the Shropshire Council Planning Officer and Senior Highways Officer to discuss the implications of the traffic modelling outcomes. Further meetings might then be held to discuss the other issues raised in the response to the planning application. It was noted that meetings were currently suspended until at least May, in light of the Coronavirus social distancing requirements.

**7) Power Station site development**

The responses to the planning applications had been submitted. There was no further information to discuss at this point.

## 8) Finance

### a) To approve payments made between meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Ref	No	Payee	Item	Amount
P34-1920	DD	N Power	Electricity	£99.94
P35-1920	DD	N Power	Electricity	£80.52
P36-1920	SO	S Morris	Clerk salary January	£195.00
P37-1920	SO	S Morris	Clerk salary February	£195.00

### b) To approve payment of accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payment, noting that the increase in the Clerk's expenses was due to the additional meetings held in relation to the power station site planning application:-

Ref	Chq No	Payee	Item	Amount
P38-1920	580	S Morris	Expenses Feb/March	£70.40

## 9) Planning matters

### a) Notifications & updates on previously reported applications (information only)

Change of use, land adjacent to Appleby      Decision: Grant permission

## 10) Correspondence

All relevant correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors by email.

Coronavirus guidance. The Clerk highlighted that SALC was sending regular updates regarding the impact of coronavirus on parish councils, in particular any changes to the requirements for audit and the holding of Annual Council meetings. The Clerk would contact Councillors further as guidance was received. It was anticipated the Parish Councils may be unable to hold meetings in the coming months and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to approve the following scheme of delegation to enable the necessary work of the parish council to continue:-

The Parish Council resolved to:-

- Note that it is lawful for the Clerk to spend against specific items in the Parish Council's budget, all of which have been identified in the budget when setting the precept, and which shall be reported to the Council at the next available meeting. The Parish Council authorised for these payments to be made by online banking;
- Approve that the Clerk shall continue to follow the agreed procedure for responding to planning applications received between meetings by email noting that physical meetings are unlikely to be possible;
- Delegate the decision to postpone the meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, should this be necessary;
- Receive and act upon Government advice in relation to the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council scheduled to meet on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020, noting that such meetings must be held before 1<sup>st</sup> June, thereby giving delegated power to the Clerk to make necessary arrangements for the meeting on an alternative date, in consultation with the Chair.

## 11) Parish Matters

### a) Update and actions arising re matters previously reported

#### Potholes.

Highways teams had carried out work on the road in recent weeks but any repairs made to the reported potholes had been ineffective and required further work. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would report these again.

### b) Reports of new parish matters and actions arising

#### Footpath and verge debris.

Councillors reported the need to clean debris from the footpaths and verges between The Homestead and Home Farm.

#### Gully cleaning.

Councillors reported that the gully at the bottom of Blacksmiths Lane required cleaning. The gully outside Severn Valley House had been cleared but the wider area required clearing to resolve the issue.

#### BT phone lines.

A resident had contacted the Clerk by email to explain that they had been experiencing dropouts on their BT Broadband. This was due to a poor quality line between the cabinet and the exchange in Ironbridge. BT were unable to move the resident to a new line as there were no additional lines available in the cabinet. The resident requested that the Parish Council contact BT to ask that they investigate this matter and look into providing additional lines. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would contact BT.

#### Park View street lights.

Shropshire Council had reported to the Clerk that the lights on Park View had been out. Councillors confirmed that the lights were in full working order.

## 12) Date of next meeting

18th May 2020, Annual Council meeting

## 13) Employment matters

The Clerk's report was received and discussed. The Parish Council **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) To note the incremental pay increase that would come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020;
- (ii) To approve payment by cheque for 11.5 additional hours worked between January and March 2020:

Ref	Chq No	Payee	Item	Amount
P39-1920	581	S Morris	Overtime payment	£129.03

- (iii) To support the Clerk in taking the CILCA qualification when next available. The underspend in the 2019/20 training budget shall be carried forward into 2020/21 to pay half of the cost of the course, subject to the remaining cost being met by the other Parish Council for which the Clerk also works, under the Clerk's Training Agreement.

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.