

## LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2011 AT 7.30 p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE WENLOCK.

- 07/11/01      **Members present and apologies:**  
Councillors Mrs. P. Hutchings (Chair), Miss J. Esp, Mrs. S. Hutchison (Vice Chairman) and Mr. Alan Lees.  
Mr. J. F. Marcham – Parish Clerk.
- In attendance :**  
T&W Borough Cllr. J. Seymour.
- Members of the public:**  
Peter Whittle (Chairman of the Huntington Lane Surface Mine Community Liaison Committee), Marilyn Pietroni (leader of The Wrekin Trundle bid), Patrick Pietroni, Jim Roberts, Jan Mees Robinson, Mr. J.C.F. van Zuilen, T&W Councillor Tracy Hope, John Galbraith, 1 other and a member of the press.
- 07/11/02      **Apologies for absence:**  
Apologies for absence were received from T&W Borough Cllr. T. Kiernan.
- 07/11/03      **Declarations of Interest:**  
None were made.
- 07/11/04      **Public session:**
- a. John Galbraith asked why the public session was at the start of the meeting and not the end when the public would have heard the discussions on the matter. He also asked about the blocked state of the drains on Spout Lane. It was **resolved** to discuss these matters at the next Parish Council meeting.
  - b. Peter Whittle raised the following questions to the Chairman regarding the Wrekin Trundle bid:
    - i. Can you explain, why Adrian Foster (a local Veolia manager) told Jacqui Seymour when she asked him about it recently that Pat had actually telephoned him and briefed him on these issues BEFORE the 24<sup>th</sup> and that Pat followed this up with an email that she would have known would very quickly get to McNabb's boss and subsequently McNabb himself? Can you please also tell me who else on the PC knew about this prior contact?
    - ii. Knowing how contentious and controversial the subject was becoming, can you please explain why you decided NOT to invite the Parish Clerk, the Proper Officer, to the second meeting to make some notes and help ensure due process? This meeting resulted in the email I referred to above from the Committee, which included serious accusations of libel. Good governance would surely suggest that such an important meeting should have had some notes taken to record the decision process. It was claimed to be informal, but how can that possibly be the case when it resulted in such a formal email?
    - iii. This bid has been supported by a huge range of people and organisations throughout the Telford area, including senior executives of the local council, most if not all of the local Borough Councillors, the Coal Liaison committee (for which it has been our flagship project), the Local Access Forum, local landowners and several groups supporting the disabled among many others. The whole team have been working hard on it for well over a year. What mandate have you, the members of the Parish Council, and who are meant to be representing the entire local community, to brief Veolia directly, listing your concerns, only three weeks

before the final presentation? You must have known that this could only cause problems for the bid? Most of these concerns were either ancient history or entirely specious, and were easily refuted, but why on earth did you wait until there was almost no time left?

The Chairman responded by stating that these were very serious allegations and that she could not answer the questions at this meeting as there was not time to do so. She did however state that she had told Adrian Foster of her concerns about some aspects of the Wrekin trundle bid. The Chair invited Mr. Whittle and all the members of the public present to discuss these questions at a special meeting to be called as soon as possible.

The chairman offered to hold a minuted meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> (two weeks from tonight). However Patrick Pietroni stated that they required a formal extraordinary general meeting, which would require 28 days notice. After some discussion over holiday commitments, the Parish Council offered September 26<sup>th</sup> 2011. This was agreed to by Mr and Mrs Pietroni and their supporters.

- c. Marilyn Pietroni stated that councillors, under the code of conduct, should not use their position for an advantage or disadvantage and asked the Chairman if she had contacted McNabb to enable or disadvantage the Wrekin Trundle bid and that the Parish Council should act in the best interests of the community. The Chairman stated that she had not and pointed out that Marilyn Pietroni had been invited to attend 2 Parish Council meetings to discuss the bid.

At this stage Marilyn Pietroni passed a document to the Parish Clerk. The content of the document was identified as the same document that Marilyn Pietroni had emailed to all councillors on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The relevant extracted questions are as follows.

- i. Why would the Little Wenlock Parish Council wish unanimously to support the chair's action of directly 'raising concerns' with the local Veolia management and so disadvantage the bid in this way, bringing the Little Wenlock Parish Council into public disrepute?
- ii. Why did the Council not have these discussions and make these decisions in an open, transparent and publically accountable way?

Marilyn Pietroni then stated that, "Notwithstanding this meeting I will be making a formal complaint about the Chair of the Parish Council". She further remarked "that not one satisfactory answer has been provided".

Mr and Mrs Pietroni, their supporters, and Cllr Jacqui Seymour left the room. Subsequently Cllr Jacqui Seymour returned to the meeting and stated that after discussion, the general consensus was that they would now prefer the meeting to take place on July 25<sup>th</sup> as originally offered by Little Wenlock Parish Council.

It was **resolved** that the Parish council would hold an Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 in the Village Hall with the Wrekin Trundle as the main agenda item.

- d. Janet Mees-Robinson, in relation to Rights of Way within the parish, made the following statement:

Your last minutes stated that you are not in charge of the Definitive Map. However, you are responsible for the care of your parishioners. This includes looking after public rights of way. It is less than 100 years since parishes were completely responsible for all highways in their parish. Many parishes have kept this tradition up because it benefitted the community. They contribute to the repair and clearance, and some join the Parish Paths Partnership. But not Little Wenlock, which has the most rights of way in the Borough, and also the most miss-matched paths. The Definitive Map should be regularly updated, but Little

Wenlock has not reviewed it since the map came into being in 1960. It has footpaths going into bridleways and back to footpaths. What sense does this make? It has blocked paths, overgrown paths, and hardly any way marking. When was the last time members of the Parish Council last walked their paths and checked their condition, or put any money towards them? The Parish Council has the power to maintain rights of way, require the Highway Authority to clear obstructions, make proposals to amend them, carry out way marking, and creating new rights of way or update them. The Highways Act states that the public may pass and re-pass without impediment on public rights of way. They cannot in Little Wenlock. It is gridlocked. I did a paper "Little Wenlock Unlocked" to you a year ago which pointed out all these facts, including the law on disabled use. I have had no response and nothing has been done. I can only assume therefore that you do not want Little Wenlock "unlocked".

Councillor Sheila Hutchison stated that she had only just received the latest definitive map that day and that she would reply to the questions once she had time to study the definitive map.

- e. Mr. J.C.F. van Zuilen raised the question of the state of some of the stiles and footpaths. He also pointed out that disabled people cannot use stiles or kissing-gates. The Clerk asked him to locate the position of the stiles on a map, and he was unable to do so.
- f. Mr Jim Roberts asked a question relating to "Standing Orders" and was advised that LWPC conforms to the latest edition dated 2010

**07/11/05**      **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011:**  
The minutes were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

**07/11/06**      **Affordable Housing:**  
Cllr Alan Lees reported that he had been in contact with Fiona Stewart who has stated that question 25 in the survey "is entirely relevant and serves a purpose and should remain in the form".

It was **resolved** that Cllr. Lees would ask her to clarify why it should be included.

**07/11/07**      **Highways:**

- a. Malthouse Bank would be closed for 3 weeks and not 1 as originally expected.
- b. T&W had not yet called a meeting of the new group to discuss the highway issues relating to the Forest Glen and rural roads.
- c. Cllr. Lees outlined to flooding problem on Coalbrookdale Road which had been brought to his attention by Juliet Owen. He reported that gully cleaning took place on 8<sup>th</sup> July and that Jim Barber had contacted Juliet Owen and the problem would be assessed for a long term solution. It was however pointed out that the maintenance of the road side ditches was the responsibility of the land owner.
- d. The Clerk reported that it would seem that the kerbing on Coalmoor Road would be installed.

**07/11/08**      **Street Signage:**  
Cllr. Lees stated that Lee Barnard (T&W) had been very helpful in this matter. It was **resolved** that a bid be made to HLSMCLC for new street signs and that the actual signs be made by "Signs of the Times", the art work be done by Placemarque and that Howes Property Services do the installation once they have been approved by T&W.  
It was noted that the bid did not include finger posts.

**07/11/09**      **Street Lighting:**

Cllr. Lees reported that he had received no reply from T&W regarding the parish council taking over responsibility for the lights in Crofters View.

07/11/10

**Rights of Way:**

See Jan Mees-Robinson's statement in agenda item 07/11/04 (d).

07/11/11

**New Works:**

- a. It was **resolved** that 2000 Dutch Master daffodil bulbs be planted at a cost of £450.
- b. The location of the bench had been agreed but the Parish Council had been advised to make sure that the resident of "Bel Vista" agrees with the proposal and also the neighbouring land owner. It was also pointed out that the bench would need to be installed so as to not obstruct the sightline when exiting both access points and for the verge itself to be maintained.
- c. It was **resolved** that the 30 mph sign no longer needed to be moved at this moment, it depends on the response to item 'b'.
- d. It was **resolved** to ask T&W to replace the damaged grit bin and to re-site the new one nearer to the steeper part of the road. The Clerk to consult with Vernon Plim as to the exact desired location.
- e. No one had objected to the construction of the bus shelter.
- f. It was **resolved** to ask Veolia if the bus shelter could be erected at the T junction where the Parish Notice board is situated.

07/11/12

**Litter Bins:**

The Clerk reported that he and Cllr. Esp felt that a litter bin could not be located at the top of Willowmoor Bank as it would restrict vehicular access into the two fields. Cllr. Hutchison and the Clerk would clearly identify the location for the other litter bin at the pull in by the gate way down to the pool on Coalbrookdale Road.

07/11/13

**Defibrillator for Little Wenlock:**

A letter had been received from Mark Pritchard MP requesting the Parish Council's view on one being kept in the village.

The Parish Council **resolved** that it fully supported the suggestion and an item would be placed in the next edition of the Community Newsletter seeking volunteers interested in becoming Community First Responders.

07/11/14

**The Wrekin Trundle**

- a. The Clerk reported that the Wrekin Trundle Team had made an excellent presentation to Veolia on 16<sup>th</sup> June and had reached the last two from a total 200 applicants.
- b. The team had not yet heard whether they had ultimately been successful but hoped to know by mid July.

07/11/15

**Queen's Jubilee:**

The Clerk reported that he had sought costs for the bunting. It was **resolved** to put the date of celebration in the Community Newsletter and note that it was a joint event with the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Parochial Church Council.

07/11/16

**Parish Plan:**

The Parish Plan was now complete and the number of maps reduced.

It was **resolved** that a notice be placed in the Community Newsletter asking who would like a printed copy (i.e. they cannot access it electronically). It was **resolved** that 20 copies be printed and that it be made available on a disc and the web site (as it is a large file the maps may not be included).

07/11/17

**Community Newsletter:**

Besides the items listed in the Clerk's Report the following additional items would be included: dog fouling on the playing field, wild flower verges, defibrillator and Community First Responders.

07/11/18

**Clerk's Report:**

- a. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received letters of thanks from all the charities and organisations it had recently financially supported.
- b. Tim Stevens will take a copy of the Parish Plan to the top of The Wrekin when he does one of his weekly runs up in August.
- c. The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a reply from the leader of T&W Council regarding the continued support of the rural areas.
- d. The Clerk reported that eviction papers had now been served on the UK Coal site protestors.
- e. The Clerk reported that T&W had still not given the clearance for the £900 for planters in New Works to be spent.

07/11/19

**Planning:**

- a. To consider planning application TWC/2011/0517:

To situate mobile silo on site, store sand and gravel on site.  
24/7 Concrete, The Garage, Coalmoor Road, Little Wenlock, TF6 5AS.

It was **resolved** to object to the planning application on the grounds that:

- i. It was a change of use on the site.
- ii. There would be an increase in the frequency of HGV on Coalmoor Road and possibly through the village of Little Wenlock.
- iii. The process would create an unacceptable level of dust.
- iv. There were not proper storage facilities for the sand and gravel and again wind blown dust could be a problem.
- v. Water and material could leak from the site onto the highway and consequently block the road drains.

- b. To consider planning application TWC/2011/0535:

Demolition of existing dwelling & erection of a detached dwelling and detached double garage.

39 Coalmoor Lane (Nailors Cottage), Coalmoor, Telford, TF4 3QB.

It was **resolved** to support the application subject to there being no objections from neighbours.

- c. It was **resolved** that any planning applications received in August be seen and discussed by any 3 Parish Councillors.

07/11/20

**Local Councillor Shadowing Award:**

- a. One young person within the parish had expressed a wish to take part in the award.
- b. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Alan Lees would be the link Parish Councillor for the project.
- c. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would pay the £30 fee for the award.

07/11/21

**Borough Liaison:**

T&W Borough Councillor reported that:

- a. The Chief Executive was departing from the Council and would be replaced by a Managing Director.
- b. T&W intends to become a co-operative council.

07/11/22

**Individual Parish Council updates:**

Cllr. Esp reported that she and the Clerk attended the Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The main items discussed were:

- a. Co-operative Council: the Chairman informed the Forum that a Co-operative Commission would be set up which would utilise the skills of people from all walks of life, that the principle was designed to identify new ideas and better ways of delivering services and that the Borough Council would recognise the importance of local knowledge of Parish and Town Councils.
- b. Community Fund: each ward member would be given £1,000 to spend to support schemes in their ward.
- c. The Parish Charter was to be reviewed.
- d. The Single Point of Contact (SPOC) was briefly discussed.

07/11/23

**Finance:**

- a. The Clerk reported that Cllr. Roberts had carried out the quarterly audit. As he was not present it was **resolved** to place the report on the September agenda.
- b. It was **resolved** not to financially support the Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB. Cllr. Lees stated that he opposed the request due to their current policy on renewable energy as outlined by George Chancellor at a meeting of LWPC on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and reported statements from the chairman, Phil Holden. Also Phil Holden in the Shropshire Star dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011, in response to CPRE concerns about the impact of proposed wind farms and pylons on the Shropshire landscape has stated, "It is too early to say what could happen in Shropshire". Cllr. Hutchison stated that their Sustainable Tourism Strategy was focussed on the Shropshire Hills and Ludlow Development Partnership and does not include the area around the Wrekin. Cllr. Esp also pointed out that they did nothing to oppose the UK Coal planning application. The Chairman also stated that the AONB were not interested when woodland down Spout Lane was destroyed. It was **resolved** to write to Shropshire Hills and express the reasons why LWPC would not support them.
- c. The approval for the expenditure on daffodil bulbs was agreed in minute 07/11/11 (a).
- d. It was **resolved** to pay the following accounts:
 

T&W Council	Election costs	£130.00
George Chancellor	June Newsletter printing costs	£12.00
Madeley Print Shop	Website updates Jan to June	£36.00
John Marcham	Salary	£238.58
HMRC	PAYE	£59.65
Npower	Energy Consumption	£33.35
Npower	Energy Consumption	£79.68
- e. The balance on the Community Account on 7<sup>th</sup> July was £5,380.63 with all cheques cleared, the balance on the Business Reserve Account is £ 5,786.20. This balances with both the quarterly Account Statements from Barclays Bank (Sheets 137/8 & 90).
- f. It was **resolved** that accounts for payment in August could be signed by two authorised signatories and the accounts presented for approval at the September meeting.

07/11/24

**Date of the next meeting:**

- a. The date of the extra ordinary parish council meeting will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.
- b. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 in the Village Hall.