

Atcham Parish Council

Locum Clerk: C Higgins
atchampc@gmail.com
07850 226511

Chairman: Colin Wildblood
15 The Glebe
Atcham
SY5 6QL
01743 762374

Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th July 2023 at The Old Malthouse, Atcham

MINUTES

1. Chairman's Welcome: Cllr C Wildblood welcomed all present, which included a number of residents and requested those wishing to speak in the public session to keep to three minutes, to ensure there was time for all to be heard.
2. Present: Councillor C Wildblood, Chairman, Councillor L Dixon, Vice chair, Councillor S Adney, Councillor S Cook and Councillor M Ruston. Also present C Higgins, locum clerk to the council, Shropshire Councillor C Wilde, and 17 members of the public, including representatives of Brunning and Price (owners of Mytton & Mermaid Hotel) and of the Longnor Estate, (riverside landowners).
A request for a further six-month extension of leave for Councillor S Sheddon was unanimously approved for health reasons.
Cllr R Trow was absent.
3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest: None
4. Minutes: It was unanimously resolved to approve the draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held 17th May 2023 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 14th June 2023 the Chairman signed them as a true record.
5. Public Session: The Chairman suspended standing orders and invited comments from the public. Five people spoke in total with most comments concerning the impact of overflow parking from the recently re-opened Mytton and Mermaid Hotel. Issues raised included:
 - Dangerous road conditions due to restricted visibility and poor road markings
 - Near misses due to blocking of access to residents' parking area
 - Parking on pavements, blocking access for pedestrians and in bus stop
 - Noise from staff / vehicles late at night disturbing sleep
 - Restricted access for emergency vehicles
 - Impact on quality of life and privacy

Representatives of Brunning and Price responded with assurances they were seeking additional parking and attempting to minimise the impact on residents. They have addressed some concerns (eg noise) and were limiting the number of bookings taken whilst alternative solutions are assessed. They are manning the car park to maximise use of available spaces and encouraging those parking on Malthouse Lane to park considerately.

Shropshire Council Highways have visited Atcham to assess the parking problems and will be preparing a scheme to restrict parking for informal consultation via the Parish Council. If supported, the scheme will be put out for formal consultation. It could include double yellow lines along part of Malthouse Lane and Cross Houses

Lane and clearways signs in the bus stops. A resident suggested 'keep clear' markings and the restriction of parking to one side of Malthouse Lane. Representatives of local landowners acknowledged the strength of feeling and offered to work with Brunning and Price to seek alternative parking solutions.

6. Shropshire Councillor's Report: Cllr Wilde, (Shropshire Councillor) expressed ongoing concerns about the safety of people swimming in the River Severn at Atcham, which has dangerous eddies around the bridge piers and is polluted from sewage outfalls upstream. She outlined the steps taken to discourage swimming and the associated nuisances of littering and inconsiderate parking blocking the lane to Cross Houses, which had been supported by the Parish Council. Measures have included the replacement by Shropshire Council of bollards in the disused layby and provision of planters on the verge. The landowners have replaced fencing and erected signage but these have been removed by visitors.

At 8:15pm the Chairman closed the public session and the majority of the public left the room.

7. Highways Matters: Cllr S Adney declared a pecuniary interest as a tenant of the Longnor Estate and St Eatas Church.

Cllr C Wilde confirmed that a traffic scheme would be drawn up as soon as practicable. She had also arranged a meeting with a representative of Salop Leisure to discuss the provision of additional planters for Cross Houses Lane and invited Councillors to attend. She suggested installing additional bollards around the verge and had sought cost estimates from both Shropshire Council and a suitably qualified contractor. The Parish Council considered paying for additional bollards on Cross Houses Lane but preferred to try to source additional planters first. It was agreed to relocate the existing planters to the Cross Houses Lane side of the junction.

It was resolved to investigate the cost of parking enforcement in the village once a scheme was in place. It was noted that any objections to the scheme could result in considerable delay, so it was important to engage with the National Trust to seek their support.

8. Sovereign Park: Deferred to the next meeting for a report following the first meeting of the residents' association.
9. Policing Priorities: The Council confirmed their priorities as parking enforcement, speeding and rural theft.
10. Locum Clerk's Report: The Council noted an updated report. Accident statistics had been received from National Highways about Emstrey Roundabout and would be circulated to members. It was agreed to include a short summary of the meeting discussions in the Village Pump.
11. Licensing Policy – Consultation noted – no comments
12. Parish Matters:
 - a) It was agreed to dedicate a new planter as a commemorative feature to mark the King's Coronation, to be located at the Cross Houses Lane junction.

- b) Cllr Cook reported a footpath blockage to the rear of Keeper’s Cottage. Cllr Adney to investigate the cause.
- c) Cllr Wildblood reported a build-up of flotsam around the bridge piers. To be reported to the Environment Agency to remove.

13 Planning Matters:

- a) The Council noted the replacement of railings at the entrance to Attingham Park had been completed (23/01676/FUL)
- b) Planning applications – no new applications
- c) The Council noted an appeal against refusal of 22/04616/FUL, Emstrey Farmhouse, which will be determined on the basis of written representations.
- d) Place Plan Review – The Council reviewed a list of place plan priorities and identified the following projects for inclusion;
 - a. *Parking restrictions in Malthouse Lane and bus shelter*
 - b. *Traffic management improvements on the B4389 (resurfacing and replacement of road markings)*
 - c. *Speed restrictions on B4380 through Atcham*
 - d. *Reversal of traffic flows through Attingham Park*
 - e. *Quiet Lane on Cross Houses Lane*
 - f. *Reinstatement of streetlights on Atcham bridge*
 - g. *Provision of broadband at Atcham village hall*

14. Staffing Committee: The Council unanimously adopted the draft Terms of Reference for the Staffing Committee

15. Adoption of Co-option Policy: The Council unanimously adopted the draft Co-option Policy (as deferred from May meeting)

16. Finance

- a) The Council noted the receipt of the VAT refund of £864.45 and an Environmental Maintenance Grant of £750.
- b) The Council noted and approved the bank reconciliation to the end of June tabled by the Clerk.
- c) It was RESOLVED to approve the July payments list presented by the Clerk. The Council further RESOLVED to approve the July salary payments when they become due. The Chairman signed the list of approved payments, as detailed below.

Payment ref	Payee	Reason	Amount £
BACS	Malthouse Merry-makers	Grant (S137)	342.00
BACS	Staff payments (amalgamated)	June Salaries	534.62
BACS	HMRC	June Deductions	133.60

BACS	Sovereign Park Residents Association	Grant (S137)	500.00
BACS	EON	Streetlight maintenance	51.70
BACS	Cardinus	Valuation of bus shelter	156.00
BACS	L Pardoe	Office Expenses	113.96
BACS	Information Commissioner	Annual registration fee	35/00
BACS	C Higgins	Office Expenses	198.06
BACS	Staff payments	July salary	312.90
BACS	HMRC	July deductions	78.40

- d) The Council approved the disposal of out of date SmartWater kits but agreed to advertise in the Village Pump for any resident to claim a kit by the end of September.
17. Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 13th September 2023.
18. Exclusion of the Press and Public: In accordance with the Public Admission to Meetings Act, 1960, it was RESOLVED to exclude the press and the public to consider confidential staff matters.
19. Staff Matters: The Council considered the recommendation of the Staffing Committee on the appointment of a Clerk and approved an offer to the preferred candidate.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm