

**LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY  
11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 AT 7.30 p.m. IN THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE  
WENLOCK.**

- 11/13/01      Members Present:**  
Councillors Miss J. Esp (Vice Chairman), Mrs. J. Davidson Mr. S. Holding and Mr. A. Lees.  
In the absence of Cllr. S. Hutchison, Cllr. J. Esp took the Chair.
- In attendance:**  
Mr. J.F. Marcham – Clerk & RFO to Little Wenlock Parish Council.  
T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour.  
Sophie Madden, Shropshire Star.
- Members of the Public:**  
None
- 11/13/02      Apologies:**  
Apologies were received from Cllr. S. Hutchinson who was unwell, her apologies were accepted; also T&W Councillor Terry Kiernan.
- 11/13/03      Declarations of Interest:**  
None were declared.
- 11/13/04      Public Session:**  
No members of the public were present.
- 11/13/05      Minutes:**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were then **approved** and **signed** by the Chairman with one amendment that the February 2014 Parish Council meeting will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> February, not 19<sup>th</sup> as stated in the minutes.
- 11/13/06      Swan Farm:**
- a. It was reported that the fencing had not been repaired and was quite dangerous as there were loose strands of wire. It was **resolved** to write to Mr. Ed Roberts and ask him to repair the fence. If it cannot be replaced then to make it safe.
  - b. Cllr. A. Lees reported that he had not yet received the two quotations for work to upgrade the path and had therefore discussed the project with another contractor from whom he is hoping to receive a quotation.
  - c. A recent email from Andrew Careless (Senior Rights of Way Officer) had stated that the boardwalk structure will be removed and that it will be replaced in the new financial year.
- 11/13/07      Rights of Way Access at Steeraway:**  
Andrew Careless, in an email, stated that the diverted route should have been opened up as soon as the diversion order was confirmed but that this had not been done. He also stated that the owner of Short Woods reserves the right to undertake any and all works carried out on his property and that this includes the installation of any furniture at field boundaries. He agreed with the Parish Council that the matter needs to be resolved at the earliest opportunity and that Jacobs had been requested to furnish him with appropriate designs for the furniture to be installed at the field boundaries. There will also be a request to culvert or bridge the stream.

**11/13/08 Highways:**

- a. Cllr. A. Lees had contacted Steven Scanlon for his comments regarding the removal of the rumble strip at Malthouse Bank. He had been advised that the cost of removing the rumble strips would be £800. It was also pointed out that the removal of the original strips had damaged the road surface. After further discussion and advice from the Clerk it was **resolved** to take no further action concerning the rumble strips.
- b. No further updates were available regarding highway developments at the Forest Glen. It was hoped that a decision would have been reached by the next parish council meeting.
- c. Cllr. A. Lees said that a local resident had complained about mud on Coalbrookdale Road caused by agricultural working on the beet field. The concern had been expressed to the farmer who had agreed to scrape it clean and wash the road down. Recent heavy rain had helped.
- d. The Clerk reported that work had started on Wellington Road to create two areas of the verges for seeding with poppies as part of the commemorations to mark the start of WW1.
- e. The Clerk reported that a grit bin had now been placed in Crofters View at a cost to the Parish Council.

**11/13/09 New Works Lights update:**

Cllr. A. Lees reported that the order for the new lights had been placed with E.On. It was noted that the fittings of the old lights at New Works should be kept so that they could be used in future repairs to the lights in Little Wenlock.

**11/13/10 War Memorial.**

The Clerk reported that the War Memorial Trust had now agreed to make a grant towards the restoration of the War Memorial. The Clerk reported that there had been 37 donations totalling £880 from the recent appeal plus the donations and fund raising that had been previously received and that there was sufficient funding for the work to go ahead. It was therefore **resolved** to instruct Midland Masonry to do the work as listed in their estimate.

**11/13/11 Newsletter blanks:**

It was **resolved** to order 3000 newsletter blanks of the present style from Madeley Print Shop at a cost of £385 (+VAT).

**11/13/12 Openreach Superfast Broadband:**

The Clerk reported that there had been a good take up of the new superfast broadband and that Openreach would add another "card" to the cabinet to bring it up to full capacity of about 100 lines. He reported that Ian Binks had asked Openreach to investigate the copper re-arrangement for the outlying properties and those at Little Worth. A successful press release and photo-shoot had taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk reported that there had been many compliments and thanks to the parish council for carrying out the project successfully.

**11/13/13 Letter to Borough Councillor Tracey Hope.**

The Clerk reported that he had written to Borough Councillor Tracey Hope on the 15<sup>th</sup> October asking her whether or not she was involved with the five anonymous emails resulting in the suspension of the payment of the UK Coal Fund grants to LWPC and other recipients. As no response had been received he had sent a further letter to her home address.

- 11/13/14 Projects suggested by the electorate:**  
No projects had been put forward following the article in the Community Newsletter.
- 11/13/15 Projects for the next financial year:**  
A discussion took place concerning the upgrading of some of the footpaths at Swan Farm to make them suitable for wheelchair use.  
Option 1: Seek funding for the complete project.  
Option 2: Seek funding for partial completion of the project.  
For both options LWPC to consider part funding from additional sources including £666 T&W BC Award Allocation which needs to be applied for before January 2014, and £1000 from monies set aside by LWPC for the boardwalk repair.
- 11/13/16 Complaint sent to T&W by a local resident about LWPC.**  
The Clerk reported that a 15 page complaint, plus appendices, had been sent to T&W about the actions of three parish councillors, the Clerk and another person regarding the Wrekin Trundle Project. The matter had been looked into by T&W Legal Services Manager and an independent person. The complaints were dismissed by T&W and no action taken by T&W regarding the complaints.
- 11/13/17 Jan Snell Award:**  
The Clerk had submitted the Openreach Superfast Broadband Project for the award which is given by the Shropshire Association of Local Councils to a Parish Council who has achieved something special for their community. At the SALC AGM and conference on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November Cllr. J. Davidson received the award on behalf of LWPC.
- 11/13/18 Clerk's Report:**
- Local Council Explained – NALC Publication: A copy had now been received and was in the circulation pack.
  - Electronic Newsletter: The Clerk had offered to send an electronic copy of the Community Newsletter to those who do not receive a delivered paper copy. There had only been one response. A discussion took place to consider using this facility to keep the cost of printing down.
  - Parish Environmental Schemes (PETS): It was **resolved** that Councillors J. Davidson and S. Holding would attend the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November at Waters Upton Village Hall at 7.00pm.
  - Clifton Community Arts Project: It was **resolved** not to invite them to a LWPC meeting to outline the project.
- 11/13/19 Clerk's Annual Appraisal:**  
It was **resolved** that the panel would be Councillors Hutchison, Esp and Holding and that it would take place in Cllr. S Holding's office before the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk would furnish the panel with his completed section of the appraisal document.
- 11/13/20 Planning Applications:**  
None had been received.
- 11/13/21 Borough Liaison:**  
Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour reported that there was no more news about the ward boundaries.  
A discussion then followed in relation to the Health and Well Being Board and the issues relating to health, social care and mental health arrangement and costs within the borough.

**11/13/22 Individual Reports and updates:**

- a. Village Hall meeting. Cllr. S. Holding was not present to give a report.
- b. SALC AGM & Conference: Cllr. J. Davidson gave a comprehensive report which was placed in the circulation pack and which will be appended to these minutes. However one important issue was raised concerning Planning & Neighbourhood Plans (PNH); it was reported that SCC has agreed to accept the planning sections of Parish Plans as their PNH. Cllr. J. Davidson asked Borough Councillor Arthur England if T&W would accept the same for T&W parish Councils. After some consultation with colleagues he agreed that T&W would. We would have to voice our opinions regarding planning and express clearly the kind of development that we would want within the parish.

**11/13/23 Finance:**

- a. The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet entitled "Spending in the present financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> October plus initial budget figures for precept setting". He pointed out that there were rumours that the Government may cap the level of the precept increase. He recommended a 3.5% increase for 2014/15 which was about £450 to meet additional energy costs, salary increase, increased grounds maintenance and highway costs.
- b. Financial balances:  
**Statement of Accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013:**

Income	£74,946.14	As listed in the account book
Expenditure	£9,486.38	As listed in the account book
Balance	<b>£65,459.76</b>	

  

Balance in Community Fund	£48,359.54	Barclays Bank Statement 31 <sup>st</sup> October.
Balance in Base Rate Account	£17,100.22	Barclays Bank statement 18 <sup>th</sup> October.
Balance	<b>£65,459.76</b>	
- c. Quarterly Audit: It was resolved that Cllr. A. Lees would carry out the quarterly audit of the accounts.
- d. It was **resolved** to pay the following accounts:

SALC	Local Councils Explained	£49.99
Madeley Print	Newsletter	£30.00
J. Marcham	salary	£254.47
HMRC	PAYE	£63.62

**11/13/24 Date of the next meeting:**  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.