

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7.00pm at Culmington Village Hall

Attendance: Councillors Mr I Steele (Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr I Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Mrs M Holland, Mr M Seabrook and Ms J Watts.

- 1.0 **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J Mear and J Turley.
- 2.0 **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None
- 3.0 **Public Involvement Session:** No members of the public were in attendance.
- 4.0 **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2022:**
Resolved: Approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.
- 5.0 **Matters Arising:** None
- 6.0 **Community Governance and Boundary Review:** The Clerk has not heard from Diddlebury Parish Council regarding Seifton. A letter had been sent to Stanton Lacy Parish Council regarding Vernolds Common who will discuss it at their next Parish Council meeting on the 19th January.
- 7.0 **Update on Site Meeting with Shropshire Council Highways Engineer:** Nick Newton from Shropshire Council met with Cllr Steele and the Clerk to look at the site of a second Vehicle Activated Sign at the north-eastern entrance to the village (which he supports) and the parking at the Laundry Works. The Clerk will contact him before the next meeting to have an update on his plans.
- 8.0 **Update of Application for Funding for 2nd Vehicle Activated Sign and Powers to Purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign:** An application was made to the Police and Crime Commissioner but there is not sufficient funding in the pot. It will be resubmitted in April.
- 9.0 **Review of Overflow Pipe Report on Seifton Lane and Communications with Shropshire Council Flood Manager.** The Clerk reported that she had informed John Bellis that the Parish Council support the installation of an overflow pipe on land on Seifton Lane, however he has responded that they will only look at delivering this if there are additional upstream measure to mitigate downstream impacts.
- 10.0 **Neighbour Policing Team Report on Children Crossing the B4368:** The Clerk reported that a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team had visited the centre and discussed road safety with the manager.
Resolved: The Clerk will write to the centre to advise that the Parish Council is very much in support of any road safety measures that they may propose.
- 11.0 **Correspondence:**
 - 11.1 Black Poplar near Development Site adjacent to Culminton Farm:
Resolved: The clerk will contact the Arborealist on Shropshire Council planning team to look at the effects of the drainage on this tree.
 - 11.2 Environment Agency and Fire Service visit to the Laundry Works – The clerk reported that Sebastian Littlefair from the Environment Agency and a representative from the Fire and Rescue Service will be visiting the site to look at pollution and fire risks. It is hoped that a report will be available for the next parish council meeting.
- 12.0 **Reports from Members**
 - 12.1 Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the government appear to be beginning to understand the pressures on Social Care. The hospitals have declared a ‘Critical Incident’ and the Social Care teams were deployed to the hospital to assist with discharge. She thanked the parishes who had put on ‘Warm Hubs’ and the Shropshire Council website has lots of information to support those struggling financially. Shropshire Council still has to make £50 million of cuts but they have a plan of action.

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- 12.2** Village Hall – Cllr Mear sent a report: The village hall had a leak which has damaged the ceiling in the kitchen and it is closed to most meetings as they await the insurance claim to be settled and repairs to be completed.
- 12.3** Flood Committee – Cllr Byng had tabled a report. The National Flood Forum are meeting with the Environment Agency to consider the bridge and need for de-silting. John Bellis has confirmed there is still money to be spent on future schemes, possibly a continuation of the ‘Slow the Flow’ project. There are ring-fenced monies for Culmington. Recent modelling work has suggested that the leaky dams could be 40% more effective than expected over large-scale flood events as well as smaller events. Andy Keyland had been to Westhope to look at the problems in that area and is applying for funding for road resurfacing. Drain clearing on the B4369 near the Pottery is still outstanding as is the repairs to the drains and pipes. Please report issues on Fix My Street. There has also been a meeting between Andy Keyland and John Bellis to consider the Barn Development adjacent to Culmington Farm.
The Clerk was asked to report a blocked drain and ditch on Castle Barn Bank.
- 13.0 Finance:**
- 13.1** Review the Finance Report, Bank Reconciliation and Budget: As of the 31/11/2022 there was £9,118.62 in the cash book which reconciled with the bank account and there is so far an underspend on the budget for this financial year.
Resolved: To accept the finance report, bank reconciliation and expenditure against budget.
- 13.2** Decide whether to increase the Environmental Maintenance Budget from Parish Council Funds as there was no further funding available from Shropshire Council.
Resolved: To increase the Environmental Maintenance Budget by £200 for this financial year.
- 13.3** Adopt the Budget and set the Precept for 2023-2024: the budget includes an expected grant of £4344 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to be spent on the 2nd Vehicle Activated Sign and the purchase of a new laptop for the Clerk.
Resolved: To accept the budget of £10,954 and set the precept at £4864.96 which is a charge of £28.23 for a band D council taxpayer approximately 44p less than last year.
- 13.4** Note the NJC Pay Award for 2022-2023 backdated to 1/4/22 and Increase in Annual Leave from April 2023 for the Clerk: Noted.
- 13.5** Note the appointed auditor will be PKF Littlejohn LLP for 2022-23 to 2026-2027. Noted.
- 13.6** Authorise Payments to: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Invoice 262 £51, Village Hall Hire Fee £150
Resolved: Payments to D Lewis and the Village Hall were approved.
- 14.0 Review the Donations Awarding Policy, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme and Record Management Policy.**
Resolved: To adopt the policies and scheme.
- 15.0 Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 7th February 2023:** a. Flooding on the B4368 b. Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2023-24.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: