

# WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7:30pm Visitor Centre, Wroxeter Vineyard

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**Present:** Councillor B Nelson (Chairman), Councillor V Amos, Councillor J Davies (from 8.16pm), Councillor P Davies (from 8.16pm), Councillor M Millington, Councillor K Rowlands, Councillor I Sherwood

**In attendance:** Five members of the public, PCSO Baldwin (West Mercia Police), Councillor C Wild (Shropshire Council), Mrs S Morris (Clerk)

### 1. PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public spoke in relation to the following items.

#### Road safety and speed

The Chairman outlined the concerns that had been discussed by the Parish Council over a number of years, including speeding, dangerous overtaking, reckless driving and vehicles leaving the highway into a field or hedge, particularly along the B4380 and the B5061. Given recent concerns reported by residents, the Parish Council now sought to secure an effective resolution in liaison with both Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police.

Two representatives of Leighton and Eaton Constantine Parish Council were present and referred to information they had gathered as part of their own parishes concerns about the speed of traffic on the B4380. According to information on the government website regarding rural speed limits, it appeared that the road met the criteria for a reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 50mph. Traffic monitoring was required to establish a mean speed as part of the process to reduce the speed limit. In addition to a reduction in speed limit, LEC Parish Council was in favour of mitigations such as improved road markings and signage along the whole of the B4380.

CSO Baldwin stated that traffic monitoring had taken place within the last 6 months at Leighton and on the A5 by the antique centre, and excessive speeds had been recorded. The local Police Constable could put in a bid for speed awareness and enforcement in a particular area. CSO Baldwin agreed to pass on to PC Howell the request of the Parish Council to put in a bid for the B4380 through Wroxeter and Leighton, and for the old A5. CSO Baldwin explained that in order to reduce a speed limit, there should usually be evidence of a certain number of accidents or near misses. These incidents must have been reported to the Police, not just witnessed by residents. It was therefore crucial that residents report any incidents that they witnesses which would then be logged and allow the local policing team to build up a picture of what was happening in the area.

Councillor Wild explained that there was a larger group of parishes who were looking at the routes to and from the proposed development at Ironbridge Power Station to identify required mitigations, and there was funding attached as part of that development. This group included the relevant Shropshire Council officers and an invitation could be extended to Police representatives. Councillor Wild suggested that the discussion of long term solutions, such as reduction in speed limit, could be included as part of the work of this group.

The Chairman requested that an additional meeting should also be held specifically for Wroxeter & Uppington Parish Council to look at the areas of concern that had been highlighted and any solutions which could be put in more quickly to alleviate the safety concerns. In particular, he highlighted the concerns about overtaking at the school bus drop off point which might be helped with some road markings but required input of Council officers to advise on what would be practical and effective. Councillors highlighted that a number of road signs on the B4380 were still obscured or requiring repair despite having been reported

months ago which increased the risk on the road as drivers would be unaware of approaching turnings and crossroads.

#### HGV traffic on B4380

A Leighton and Eaton Constantine Parish Councillor asked if JPE quarry lorries were travelling through Wroxeter and Councillors confirmed that they were. There was some concern that this would increase with the proposed development at the power station site. Councillor Wild highlighted that vehicles from the existing quarry adjacent to the Harworth site were able to use the B4380 as this quarry had been operating for so long that the same kind of routing agreement was not in place, and it was likely to be these vehicles that Councillors had noted travelling through the parish. A routing agreement was in place for the vehicles from the power station site and number plate recognition would be used to enforce this.

A member of the public queried if the rail link for removal of materials from the site would go ahead, as he believed it had been replaced with a very light rail link, and was concerned that if the railway bridge was not upgraded, it would not be able to cope with removing the sand and gravel as stated in the planning application. Councillor Wild explained that the light railway was a separate application for a small section of track to be used as a trial for marketing very light rail. Councillor Wild believed that the upgrade to the bridge had been secured and the planning conditions had set a limit on the amount of sand and gravel that could be removed by road.

#### Farm thefts

CSO Baldwin provided a warning that farm thefts were usually rife at this time of year and encouraged residents to make sure that their valuable items were locked up, marked, and appropriate safety measures such as lights and cameras were being used.

*CSO Baldwin and two members of the public left the meeting.*

#### Confirmation of Local Connection

A member of the public who was applying to the Shropshire Council Build Your Own Affordable Home scheme had requested a letter of confirmation of local connection from the Parish Council and spoke in support of her application. She outlined the work she had been carrying out in the parish for 22 years, rehabilitating injured horses, and stated that she would be better able to care for the health of the horses and prevent thefts by living on site. Councillors asked what infrastructure was present on the site. There were brick built stables, a barn, and electricity and water. Councillors thanked the member of the public for attending and noted that the request for a letter of confirmation of local connection would be discussed at the end of the formal meeting as a confidential discussion.

*Two members of the public left the meeting.*

#### Local Plan additional development

A member of the public highlighted the information that he had sent to the Clerk which had been circulated to Councillors clarifying the proposals for housing numbers included in the Local Plan. He reiterated his concerns about the contribution that excess housing would make to carbon emissions at a time when a climate emergency had been declared. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council had historically not discussed wider issues such as these, but had focused on parish matters and wider issues which had a direct impact on residents of the Parish. Councillor Sherwood requested an agenda item for the next meeting regarding extending the scope of issues that the Parish Council considers.

#### Cycling link

A member of the public informed the Council of a group promoting a cycle link from Weeping Cross to Ironbridge which it was hoped would reduce the traffic along these roads, particularly in light of the approval of the power station development at Buildwas which would bring an additional 1,000 homes and 150 houses for older people, and would increase the traffic on

the B4380. The cycle link was currently at feasibility stage and contributions from Parish Councils would be sought in the near future.

*Councillors J Davies and P Davies joined the meeting.*

**2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

**3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None, all members were present.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & DISPENSATION REQUESTS**

None.

**5. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

The following matters arising from the previous meeting were discussed:-

**a) Confluence Cottage**

It was noted that, after some delay and further liaison with Shropshire Council, the bollards had now been installed. The signage was due to be installed later in the month. The resident remained concerned about speeding on the road, and these concerns would be included in the wider discussions around road speed and safety.

The Chairman added that he had visited another resident who had reported ongoing issues with speeding at Norton Crossroads. Overgrown hedges significantly reduced the visibility for this resident entering the road from their property. It was understood that the hedges at this location were within the National Trust estate, and it was agreed to report the issue to the National Trust in the first instance.

**b) Noticeboard repairs**

The Wroxeter noticeboard had been repaired by a resident at the cost of materials only. It was noted that the cost had been higher than initially anticipated as the posts had rotted through and had been replaced along with the other repair work.

**c) Missing/faded signage**

The Clerk had followed up again on the request to replace the missing signage and make visible those which were faded or obscured. Shropshire Council had confirmed that the job orders had been raised and that the work would take place in the coming weeks. It was agreed that Councillor Amos would survey the signage along the B4380 and take photographs where necessary to pass on to Councillor Wild and the Shropshire Council team to ensure that they were aware of all of the signs of concern.

**7. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Wild had nothing further to report than had already been noted at earlier points on the agenda.

*Councillor Wild left the meeting.*

**8. ROAD SAFETY AND SPEED**

This agenda item had been discussed as part of the public session to allow those members of the public present to participate.

**9. SAFER WEST MERCIA PLAN**

The Clerk had circulated the plan which was currently open for consultation. The Parish Council had no comments in the interests of the parish to submit to the consultation.

## 10. ARCHIVING OF MINUTE BOOK

The Clerk proposed that the original Parish Council minute book be submitted to the Shropshire Archives. The Clerk confirmed that the minute book would still be available for the Parish Council or members of the public to view as a public record, within the Shropshire Archive opening hours, and that there would be no charge for the storage. It was **RESOLVED** that the minute book be submitted to the Shropshire Archives.

## 11. PLANNING MATTERS

None.

## 12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### a) To approve payments made between meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payment made between meetings:

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P12-2021/22	S Morris	Salary – August	£208.56

### b) To approve invoices for payment by online banking

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

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
P13-2021/22	S Morris	Expenses – August/September	£28.10
P14-2021/22	S Morris	Salary - September	£208.56
P15-2021/22	P Warren	Noticeboard repair - materials	£111.50

### c) To note income received

Payment	Payee	Description	£ Amount
R2-2021/22	Shropshire Council	Environmental Maintenance Grant	£135.00*
R3-2021/22	HMRC	VAT reclaim 2020/21	£34.57

It was noted that the Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2021/22 had been adjusted to account for the underspend in 2020/21, as had been accounted for in the 2021/22 budget.

## 13. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 14. PARISH MATTERS

### Noise disturbance from Wroxeter Hotel

At the end of the July Parish Council meeting, music and commentary from the Wroxeter Hotel had been audible at the Vineyard and throughout the village. Councillors also noted that they had occasionally heard similar noise from as far as the Horseshoes pub and some distance away from the hotel on the Ironbridge Road. The Chairman had been contacted by numerous residents in the days following the meeting and had contacted the hotel to discuss the complaints. The hotel staff had listened to the complaints and put in systems to put matters right. Neighbours of the site had been given a contact number for the duty manager to use when there was noise disturbance. Councillor Nelson had cause to use this phone number on one occasion and the extra noise had ended within around five minutes of having reported it. There had also been an agreement that amplified music and speech would not be allowed in the tipis, which appeared to be the main cause of the noise disturbance, as previous improvements had been made to the function room to reduce noise following earlier dialogue. It was agreed that the Chairman would continue to liaise with the hotel on behalf of the Parish Council should there be further complaints.

Uppington Playground.

It was noted that there was some damage to the bottom of the posts of the play equipment, believed to be caused by grass strimming too close to the equipment. Councillor Amos would discuss this with those responsible for the grass cutting.

The Clerk highlighted that a small element of the Neighbourhood Fund, which was to be used towards the new item of play equipment, must be spent by the end of March 2022 or must be repaid to Shropshire Council. Councillor Amos would liaise with the residents' group to discuss which item of equipment was preferred and to update on the fundraising efforts.

Disturbance from cycle events.

Councillors expressed frustration with the disturbance caused on the parish roads by cycling events and asked if the Parish Council could request notice of events so that residents could be forewarned. However, it was noted that since the Parish Council did not know which club or organisation was running the events, a request for such notice could not be made.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was agreed that this meeting would be held in the indoor meeting room.

*It was resolved to exclude the press and public for the discussion of item 16 due to the confidentiality of some aspects of the item.*

**16. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF CONFIRMATION OF LOCAL CONNECTION**

The Parish Council considered the request for confirmation of local connection for a member of the public as part of their Build Your Own Affordable Home application, having reviewed the evidence that the applicant had submitted prior to the meeting. It was noted that in order to confirm a local connection, the Parish Council must determine that the applicant meets at least two of the nine criteria listed in section 5(2) of the Shropshire Council Build Your Own Affordable Home Policy. The Parish Council considered each of the criteria in turn and concluded that the applicant did not meet the minimum criteria listed in the Shropshire Council Policy and therefore the Parish Council could not confirm that the applicant has a strong local connection. The Clerk would write to the applicant to inform them of this decision.

The meeting was declared closed at 9:07pm.

Signed (Chairman):.....

Date:.....