

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of The Culmington Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024

Attendance: Cllrs Mr Andrew Pike (Vice Chair), Mr Ian Alderson, Mrs Carol Byng, Mrs Mary Holland, Mrs Jo Mear, Mr Matthew Seabrook, Mr Ian Steele and Mr John Turley. One member of the public. Heather Coonick (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer).

- 1.0 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr J Watts and Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council)
- 2.0 **Notice Convening the Meeting:** In accordance with statute, the notice convening this meeting has been duly published on the Council's Notice Boards and website.
- 3.0 **Annual Report of the Parish Council and other groups/committees for the year 2023-24**
 - a) Cllr Pike (Vice Chair), Annual Report 2023-24: Firstly, thanks to Cllrs Mear and Byng for representing the Council on the Village Hall Committee and Flood Action Group, and to all the councillors. Also, to Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council) who manages to attend all our meetings. Dave Lewis (Environmental Maintenance), Jeff Williams (Footpath Group), Hugh Disley (Flood Action Group) and Jayne Disley for doing the audit and two volunteers who are updating the website and Heather Coonick, the Clerk. Since May 2023 there has been a rotating chair, thanks to all those councillors. Several planning applications have been scrutinised and an application in contravention of Culmington's 'Open Countryside' designation was successfully challenged. The Boundary Review is still ongoing with discussions with Diddlebury Parish Council. Seifton Brook was not desilted last year, but it is planned for this June. The Environmental Maintenance Grant will be used to fund this alongside the regular work of the contractor, Dave Lewis. The Parish Council made donations to the Village Hall Committee (for the maintenance of the defibrillator), Ludlow Hospital League of Friends, Dial a Ride, Ripples and Midlands Air Ambulance. This is the final year of the present council, with elections due in May 2025.
 - b) Cllr Cecilia Motley, Shropshire Council had sent apologies.
 - c) Cllr Jo Mear, Village Hall Committee: The hall is now operating again after flood damage and the refurbishment of the kitchen. The closure resulted in the loss of regular bookings, but these are picking up again now with a specific group working on this. They are reviewing the governing documents. All the health and safety and electrical checks have been completed and recommendations acted upon. There have been lots of events over the year and lots of future ones planned, with good networking with other halls to prevent clashes. The hall now has Wi-Fi after a lot of effort by Avril Lines. The battery for the defibrillator has been replaced, thanks to the grant from the Parish Council, and there has been further training in its use. Jeff Williams has handing over bookings to Avril Lines. The plan for the coming year will be to push forward with obtaining grants for the extension. The committee is a strong team keen to improve the facilities of the hall.
 - d) Cllr Carol Byng, Flood Action Group (FAG): Cllr Byng reported on a meeting on the 4th of April with Shropshire Council, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the National Flood Forum. The Environment Agency had sent a

letter saying they do not support a plan to desilt the stream below the bridge by Culmington House. FAG will challenge their letter and invite them to the next meeting to discuss the issue. Shropshire Council will also write to them. There was a lengthy discussion about possible grants and assistance for farmers regarding measure they could take to reduce flooding. It is hoped that the information will be made available at the Tractor Run. Andy Keyland (Shropshire Council) is still dealing with problems with water welling up in an area of the village and on the B4365.

- e) Mr Jeff Williams, Culmington P3 Footpath Group 2023-24, had sent a report: 4 Projects in March and April at Stanton Lacy, Mulberry Lane and Barracks Farm with the latter being 5 stiles, some with Dog Gates and a Bridge. Opened up footpath through Laundry Cottages works replacing footbeds and adding signs. Repaired Bridge rail on footbridge between Laundry Cottages and the end of Seifton Lane. Repaired footbridge across the Ford on Seifton Lane. Replaced edging and gravel on Church Walk with the help of Ludlow Scouts. 3 deliveries of Gravel and the wood all via a grant. Long standing work to do: - Culmington to Burley Farm footpath stiles. Medley Park to Road, North, stiles. Realignment of Footpath out of Culmington to Footbridge, (Officially a Bridleway), after Council directions. Help Stanton Lacy P3 group get started with install of a stile. Thanks to Andrew, Peter(s) and others for support. Kit held at Seifton Court, tools, (2 sets), Stile Kits.

4.0 Consider Expenditure of the Neighbourhood Fund: Culmington Parish Council has received £3,234.22 from the Neighbourhood Fund (Community Infrastructure Levy). This is to help communities accommodate the impact of new development. There is no urgency to decide on this expenditure. One suggestion was that it should be used to assist the Village Hall with the cost of the extension. The Clerk will place a note in Ripples asking parishioners for other suggestions.

5.0 Consider Infrastructure Projects for Inclusion in the Place Plan: The items already in the Place Plan are a. Extension to the speed limit to beyond the entrance to Clay Lane. b. Rights of Way improvements c. e. extension of the village hall to provide a bar d. a defibrillator for Seifton.

No further projects were identified for consideration for inclusion in the place plan.

6.0 Consider Grants and Donations for 2024-2025: The following will be considered by the Parish Council later in the year: Ludlow Hospital League of Friends, Ripples, Midlands Air Ambulance and First Responders.

7.0 Open Forum: a. Mr John Cain, wished to inform the Parish Council of his plans to make changes to the entrance to his field next to Seifton Brook Cottage to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting. The Council had no issues with the plan but advised Mr Cain to discuss the matter with Shropshire Council Highways.

Signed by the Chair:

Date

Heather Coonick, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
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