

LITTLE NESS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.30pm Tuesday 24 May 2016

Little Ness Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Parish Council Clerk Anne Chalkley. Parish Councillors Mike Arthur, Tom Evans. David Nunn (arrived late). Public: Monica Nunn, Jan Wakefield, Mike and Zia Robins.

Parish Council Vice Chairman, Mike Arthur took the chair in the absence of Chairman David Nunn.

Welcome and Opening Comments – Cllr Arthur welcomed all present to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Gilbert, Bustard. Cllr Nunn arrived late. Shropshire Cllr David Roberts. Chris Wright, Simon Russel, Christina Russel and Liz Smith.
2. **To approve the minutes of previous meeting dated 7 July 2015. It was AGREED** to approve and sign the minutes dated 7 July 2015 as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising** – Zia Robins reported that costings had been received by Shropshire Council for the repair of Adcote Bridge and arrangements for a meeting to take place with all concerned soon. The Heritage Project needs more funding to continue the project. There was now a Dog bin in the country park.
4. **Parish Council Report** (by Chairman of Parish Council) In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Arthur read out the Chairman's report as follows:

Planning - From April 2015 to March 2016 the Parish Council had reviewed and made decisions on 34 new planning applications compared to 56 the previous year. It was reported that at a meeting, Cllr Mal Pryce and Andi Mortimer gave an update on Shropshire's SAMDev which was adopted in December 2015 with no legal challenge and so was now in force. Appeals were being fought successfully on policy with only 3 lost mainly around speculative development in the countryside. An early review for 2026 to 2036 had already started and options on housing and economic growth would be prepared for consultation later in the year. The Exec sought assurance that parish councils would be consulted on the review process.

The Parish Council have also pursued the change from 'Clusters' to 'Open Countryside' and we have been informed that Shropshire Council propose to conduct a 'partial review' of the Local Plan (including elements of both the Core Strategy and SAMDev) which is due to start this year and will provide an opportunity to review the status of the cluster during the new Plan period from 2016 – 2036.

Co-option - On the 2 June 2015 Sue Peters was co-opted onto the Parish Council and she has been and continues to be a valid addition to the Parish Council.

Youth Club - As you are all well aware, Shropshire Council has had to make many cuts to their budget and the Shropshire Youth Service was one of them. This meant that there was a risk of the Nesscliffe Youth Club closing, but Shropshire Youth Association came to our rescue and the Parish Council in partnership with this organisation have worked together to ensure that this very successful Youth Club stays open. The Parish Council took the decision, due to the cuts by Shropshire Council, to help the Youth Club to stay open by paying for a Qualified Youth Worker. This has been achieved by increasing our Precept. Over this year, Cllr Eleanor Gilbert who is also a voluntary worker at the Youth Club has reported on the success of this club and the many fund raising events they have undertaken. We would like to thank not only Eleanor, but Mathew Mead for all their hard work in keeping the Youth Club running.

Collapse of Adcote Bridge - The Parish Council has been in dialogue with Richard Knight the head of the P3 Team at Shropshire Council and we have at last received confirmation that costings have been obtained and negotiations will be taking place with land owners and all concerned shortly. We are all looking forward to this project coming to a conclusion very soon.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) - As you all know we had Andy Davies to the Parish Council meeting with reference to the AED and training. We have many residents who are very interested in this training, but for one reason or other the Parish Council has found it difficult to arrange training. We have in the village a new resident who has agreed to help with the AED training and we will be hearing from him very soon.

New Website and Transparency Code - The Clerk explained a while ago now that Shropshire Council 'ShropNet' free website that the Parish Council was using was coming to an end as it was not fit for purpose and due to the cuts, was going to be discontinued at the end of March this year.

The Clerk attending website training and has developed for the Parish Council a new website provided by Hugo Fox which is also free and user friendly.

Also the Government has brought out the Transparency Code Act and all Parish and Town Councils have to publish certain documents on their website to show they are open and transparent. The government also provided funding to the smaller Parish Council, such as Great Ness and Little Ness, to provide training, website development and equipment such as a new laptop and scanner to ensure the Transparency Code was being carried out.

Police - We have not seen a lot of police participation at the Parish Council meeting during 2015-2016 due to the cuts they have also sustained, but Local Police Officer, Jonathan Summerfield has regularly updated us with his Police Report that is also published on the website. We do thank Jonathan for these valid reports.

Conclusion - Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Parish Councillors and residents not only for their public participation but for their support during my year as Chairman.

5. **Finance Report** – The 2015-2016 accounts had been circulated with the agenda and 2015 draft minutes. There were no queries or questions received from members present.
6. **Other Reports**
 - a. **Police Report** – No police present at the meeting. The Clerk reported that the Police Report is published on the Parish Council's website.
 - b. **Shropshire Council** – Cllr David Roberts sent his apologies
 - c. **Little Ness Church Report** – Mrs Monica Nunn secretary to Little Ness PCC reported that St Martin's Church, Little Ness with Great Ness and Ruyton X1 Towns make up the Benefice, newly named "Church around the Cliffe."

Revd Lucinda Burns has been in post as our Priest in Charge for over 12 months and works tirelessly with the support of the Ministry Team within the three churches and four schools.

A new service rotation has been put in place which includes a regular Communion Service at Little Ness on the fourth Sunday in the month at 10.30am. More people from the other parishes now attend as of part of "Travelling Church"

CSAW (Cake and Sunday Afternoon Worship) held on the second Sunday afternoon in Little Ness Village Hall at 4.30pm has been well supported by families.

The church fabric is in good repair and work is about to commence on remedial work on two stained glass windows.

Fundraising events are regularly staged and Little Ness Parochial Church Council would like to thank all those who continue to support the life and upkeep of the Church in Little Ness.

- d. **Little Ness Village Hall Report** – Jan Wakefield reported that the Little Ness Village Hall is now a charity and their Annual General Meeting will be in a few weeks' time. We have £4,407.63 in the Reserve Account and £1,120.00 in the Current Account to date. We have regular events during the year and they also need more help with organising and running events over the year. If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee, please can they let her know. The second Sunday of each month Rev Lucinda Burns holds a free community event, 'Cake Sunday Afternoon' worship in the Village Hall. The Village Hall is let out to private functions but free for community events. Roy, one of our Committee members, was going to put solar panels on the roof and fund this work himself, but after inspection it now appears that the kitchen roof is not safe. We have removed the wall and resurfaced the car park and are hoping to receive a donation from the Parish Council once they receive their CIL money from Shropshire Council towards the car park.

Zia Robins would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

e. To receive any other reports relating to the Parish not listed – None received.

7. **Open forum where members of the public may raise any subject for the exchange of information and general discussion.**

Jan Wakefield informed the members present that Shropshire Radio had reported that Clerks of Town and Parish Council had to take responsibilities for their amenities such as libraries and swimming pools. The Clerk, Anne Chalkley, reported that meetings were taking place with Town and Parish Council with Shropshire Council to discuss these problems due to cuts to Shropshire Council's budget. There was a meeting in June that both Cllr Tom Evans and the Clerk were going to attend and they will report back to the Parish Council meeting.

Mike Robins asked if the Parish Council could write to Shropshire Council to say how they value their Mobile Library service and want it to remain.

Mike Robins – He was concerned that the land that one of the planning applications granted permission had now been sold.

Mike Robins – Showed an article in the Shropshire Star highlighting that Telford and Wrekin Council were exercising their powers under Quiet Lanes and Home Zones (England) Regulations 2006 intend to develop proposals for the designation of a Quiet Lane at Spout Lane, Little Wenlock. He asked why Shropshire Council could not do the same to the lanes in the Parish. The Clerk said that she would ask Shropshire Council this question.

Mike Robins – Asked what was happening with the Little Ness War Memorial. The Clerk reported that the wall was being repaired and as the Trustees did not want the War Memorial to be moved, she would not be looking for funding to move it to a more suitable place. The members present asked who the Trustees were. The Trustees are Mike Robins, Guy Davies and Mike Arthur.

Zia Robins – Reported that the resurfacing work just round the bend of the road by War Memorial has been raised making the verges drop down. The Clerk will report this problem and Cllr Nunn offered to will Highways where the place is.

Zia Robins – Little Ness to Milford passing places by the Chicken Farm the laybys are collapsing.

Zia Robins – She asked if there were any progress on the repair of Milford Bridge – Clerk reported that this work was on the on their list to be repaired.

Zia Robins – Reported that signage was being covered by a tree. After discussion it was agreed to ask a resident to cut it back.

Mrs Monica Nunn – The Notice Board in Little Ness, the catch has broken and needs repairing. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk ask Phil Evan to repair the catch and put two door handles on the notice board.

Zia Robins – Asked if there was any developments on changing the Clusters to Countryside. The Clerk reported not at the moment.

Zia Robins – Reported that Adcote School had been sold.

Jan Wakefield – Reported that Shropshire Council was spending £11million on updating their computer system.

Monica Nunn thanked Cllr Mike Arthur for taking the Chair and the Clerk, Anne Chalkley, for answering the questions calmly and helpfully.

Meeting Closed 9.10pm

Signature:..... Date:.....