

Wem Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 September 2019, in the Roden Suite, Edinburgh House, Wem starting at 7pm

Formal Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Liz Vernon (Chair), Peter Broomhall, Huw Edwards, Julia Goode, Peter Marsh,
Jon Murgatroyd, Len Staines, Stella Whyte and Tim Wilton-Morgan.

Shropshire Councillor Chris Mellings

Clerk: Carole Warner

Members of the Public: One

121/19 Public Participation Period:

None.

As Shropshire Council Officers had not arrived, it was agreed to proceed with the agenda

122/19 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Peter Slack and Ruth Williams (accepted)

Shropshire Councillor Pauline Dee and Chris Mellings

123/19 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 6 August 2019 were approved and signed.

124/19 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

a. Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Cllr Peter Marsh advised he would leave the meeting for agenda item 6biv (Planning) due to the perception of bias and predetermination.

Cllr Liz Vernon advised she would leave the meeting for agenda item 6biii (Planning) due to the perception of bias and predetermination.

b. To consider any requests for Dispensation

None

c. Members were reminded that they are required to declare any acceptance of gifts and hospitality.

125/19 Shropshire Council Highways Dept – update from Andy Wilde and Alun Morgan

Alun Morgan and Andy Wilde introduced themselves and their roles of Interim Highways Manager and Highways Operations Manager respectively.

They explained that since Mr Morgan had been in the post, 6 months, they had introduced 3 priorities: embedding of the new staffing structure, implementing a centralised team to

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manage maintenance (potholes, drainage issues) on a planned basis rather than re-active and the early intervention to manage assets (eg surface dressing).

Mr Morgan apologised that over the last 18 months certain services had been poorly delivered. He had had robust conversations with the main contractors, Kier, and he was confident that this together with the new management structures would produce improvements. He advised Councillors that the financial position of Kier was not an issue. He also confirmed that he and Mr Wilde had met with smaller sub-contractors to explain the position.

Councillors questioned Mr Morgan and Mr Wilde on local issues and Highways staffing. The Chair thanked for Mr Morgan and Mr Wilde their open and informative update.

126/19 Planning

a. Decisions Received - noted

- i. 19/01720/FUL Land Adjoining The Croft, 2 Abbeygreen, SY13 2PT
Change of use of land from agricultural to tourism use for the siting of two geodomes for holiday accommodation and the including access and parking
Decision: Grant Permission

b. Applications Received

- i. 19/02814/FUL Merryfields, Foxholes, SY4 5UJ
Formation of larger riding arena; erection of a field shelter to act as horse wash-box/solarium and hay store; formation of parking area and retrospective planning permission for a lean to off the Dutch Barn and formation of muck heap
- ii. 19/03071/VAR Merryfields, Foxholes, SY4 5UJ
Removal of condition no.4 (usage restriction) attached to planning permission reference NS/07/0215/FUL dated 27/12/2007

Councillors considered both applications at the same time. It was noted that since the last meeting the Design and Access Statement and more explanatory information had been made available. The Council noted the Conservation comments with reservation.

It was resolved to support the applications subject to the agreement of Highways and Ecology Depts.

Cllr Vernon left the meeting

Cllr Wilton-Morgan chaired the meeting for the following item.

- iii. 19/03429/FUL Yew Tree Cottage, 6 Coton, Whitchurch, SY13 3LQ
Erection of domestic garage, store and first floor storage space alongside alterations to existing driveway to include change of use of land to domestic curtilage
It was resolved to support the application.

Cllr Vernon re-joined the meeting

Cllr Marsh left the meeting

- iv. 19/03647/FUL Tilley Park Farm, Shrewsbury Road, Wem, SY4 5PW
Erection of cattle housing shed
It was resolved to support the application.

Cllr Marsh re-joined the meeting

- v. 19/03704/FUL Brook House, Wem Lane, Soulton, Wem, SY4 5RT
Alterations to existing side access to rear of property to allow erection of double garage and workshop including change of use of land
It was resolved to support the application subject to the agreement of Highways Dept.

c. Non-designated heritage properties

It was noted a meeting with Dr A Wigley, Shropshire Council's Natural and Historic Environment Manager, had been arranged for 9 September.

127/19 Parish Clerk's Report:

a. Fire Authority Governance – to consider decision of Judicial Review

The Council considered the decision of Judicial Review regarding West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner's plan to assume control over the Shropshire Fire Service.

It was resolved that the Council could not support the PCC's course of action and considered the Fire Service was best suited to continue in its current form.

The Parish Council respectfully requested the PCC ceased his course of action.

b. Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold

The Clerk advised the Award was due to be presented to the Chair and Clerk on 9 September.

c. SALC AGM and 70th Anniversary

a. Attendees

b. Jan Snell Award

c. Honorary Officers Nominations

It was agreed that representatives should attend the AGM, make an application for the Jan Snell Award and support the nominations.

d. Wem Town Mayor Civic Service

The Chair and Cllrs Broomhall and Wilton-Morgan agreed to represent the Parish Council.

e. Newsletter

The Clerk confirmed the latest edition had been published.

f. VE Day 2020 – joint celebrations with Wem Town Council

It was agreed to assist with the organisation of the celebrations. Cllr Wilton-Morgan would represent the Council on the organisation committee.

128/19 Financial Matters:

a. Balances for information

Noted

b. Outstanding accounts

The following payments were approved:

C Warner	761.57
HMRC	55.59
PKF Littlejohn LLP	240.00
SLCC	87.50
Playsafety Ltd	82.20
The Right Sort Mailing Co Ltd	631.08

c. Bank reconciliation

Cllr Wilton-Morgan reported he had agreed and signed the bank reconciliation.

d. Bank Mandate

It was agreed to replace Cllr Murgatroyd with Cllr Vernon.

e. External Audit

The External Auditor's Report for the year ending March 2018 was noted. The Clerk confirmed she had publicised the conclusion of the Audit as instructed by the Auditors.

f. Play Equipment Annual Inspection

The annual inspection report was noted. The Clerk confirmed she was arranging the repairs of the equipment and would forward a copy onto Severnside Housing for their actions regarding the grounds and gate.

g. CIL Local Application

The Clerk advised Shropshire Council was seeking alternative funds for this project and similar. No further action would take place until a decision on alternative funding had been made.

h. Community Grants

It was agreed to invite grant applications through the newsletter.

i. Community Infrastructure Levy/Neighbourhood Funds Annual Return

The Monitoring report was approved and signed

- j. Community Led Housing Grant Annual Return – to agree**
The Monitoring report was approved and signed

129/19 Parish Council's Action Plan

a. Community Plan refresh

The Clerk advised that the final layout of the Plan was being carried out.

b. We Don't Buy Crime/Smartwater

The Clerk reminded Councillors the launch would take place on Saturday 21 September.

c. Northwood Village Enhancements

i. Village calming gates

It was agreed to place an order in accordance with JACS (UK) Ltd quote.

ii. Road signs survey

Councillors thanked Northwood residents to producing the survey.

It was agreed to forward the survey to Mr Wilde, Shropshire Council's Highways Operation Manager.

d. Community Speed Watch

The Clerk advised a minimum number of 6 volunteers must come forward to progress this initiative.

e. Defibrillators

The Clerk advised the National Lottery had approved the grant application. Confirmation of the proposed locations would be sought prior to placing the managing agreement with Community Heartbeat Trust.

130/19 Councillor Reports:

a. Parish Councillors

The Chair and Cllr Whyte reported on a successful village fundraising event in Northwood

b. Shropshire Councillors:

Cllr Mellings had submitted a written report by email.

131/19 Parish Matters

a. Improvements to Prees Railway Station car parking

It was agreed to follow up with Network Rail and others, the provision of car parking at the station.

132/19 Highways

a. Traffic disturbance at Horton (B5063)

The Council sympathised with residents and noted this was not the first time disturbance by feed lorries has been raised. The Clerk was requested to liaise with the businesses concerned.

133/19 Date of future meeting and to consider agenda items:

1 September 2019

Agenda Item: Helicopter flights in the parish

The Chair, Cllr Vernon, declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....