

Wem Rural Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 May 2023, at Edstaston Village Hall starting at 7pm

Formal Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Huw Edwards (Chair), John Britton, Peter Broomhall, Julia Goode, Andrew Matthews, Denise Morgan, Will Minty, Len Staines and Liz Vernon

Shropshire Councillor: Edward Towers

Clerk: Carole Warner

Members of the Public: 1

46/23 To elect the Chair of the Council.

Cllr Edwards was unanimously elected as Chair.

47/23 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Edwards signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

48/23 To elect the Vice Chair of the Council.

Cllr Slack was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

49/23 Public Participation Period:

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the speeding, parking of vehicles, and poor signage in Newtown around the school. Visitors/parents to the school parked on the road, drivers drove too quickly past the school and the zig-zag lines required re-painting. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had been raising these matters with the Police and Shropshire Council for at least 10 years. Shropshire Council had identified Newtown under a previous road safety programme, but the scheme had been cancelled prior to implementation. The Clerk reminded all present that Cllr Goode had been lobbying about these matters prior to becoming a Councillor. The Clerk reminded all present that they had worked in partnership with Shropshire Council, the Police and NCRA to identify a solution to the parking and that was the extension to the car park. Various site meetings with Shropshire Council, the Police and representatives NCRA had been held over the years. The Clerk advised the member of the public to contact Shropshire Council, the Highways Authority, about the speeding and zig-zag lines as this would support the Parish Council's requests.

50/23 Apologies for absence:

Clerk: Carole Warner,
Orchard Cottage,
Rowe Lane,
Welshampton,
Ellesmere, SY12 0QB
Tel. 01948 710672 email: clerk@wemrural-pc.gov.uk
www.wemrural-pc.gov.uk



Cllrs Jordan Page and Peter Slack (accepted).
Deputy Clerk: Helen McCabe

51/23 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 4 April 2023 were approved and signed subject to the amendments to 34/23 to refer to Mrs Hilditch.

52/23 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 Broomhall advised he would leave the meeting for agenda item 14.d v (Financial Matters) due to the perception of bias and predetermination.
Cllr Liz Vernon advised she would leave the meeting for agenda item 14d i (Financial Matters) 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.***

53/23 Personnel Committee:

- a. *Review Terms of Reference***
The Terms of Reference were reviewed and adopted.
- b. *Receive nominations to the Committee***
Cllrs Goode, Morgan, Staines and Vernon were appointed to the Committee.
- c. *Appoint Chair of Committee***
Cllr Vernon was appointed Chair of the Committee.

54/23 Policy Review

It was resolved to re-adopt the following policies and procedures:

- a. *Standing Orders***
- b. *Financial Regulations***
- c. *Procedures for Dispensation in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests***
- d. *Health and Safety Policy***
- e. *Scheme of Delegation***

55/23 To appoint officers and representatives to the following outside bodies:

- a. *Shropshire Association of Local Councils***
It was resolved to appoint Cllrs Minty and Edwards.
- b. *Emergency Planning Officer / Snow Warden***
It was resolved to appoint Cllr Slack.
- c. *Helicopter Noise Liaison Group***
It was resolved to appoint Cllrs Goode and Edwards.
- d. *Wem Business Partnership Growth***
It was resolved to appoint Cllr Broomhall
- e. *Newtown Community and Recreation Association***

- It was resolved to appoint Cllr Goode.**
- f. Wem Area Climate Action Forum**
- It was resolved to appoint Cllr Staines.**

56/23 Development in the Parish

a. Decisions Received: noted

- i. 23/00569/FUL Lacon Farm Lacon Prees Shropshire
Farm diversification - change of use of agricultural land to caravan storage and siting of 5No storage containers (B8 Use) including 1.8m high fencing and formation of vehicular access with gates.
Decision: Granted
- ii. 23/00449/FUL Oakwood Grange Grange Farm Barns Northwood Wem Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 5N
Erection of single storey oak framed garden room extension to rear.
Decision: Withdrawn

b. Applications Received: to consider responses.

- i. 23/01478/FUL Grange Farm Northwood Wem SY4 5NP
Ground floor side extension with porch to rear.
It was resolved there were no objections to the application.
- ii. 23/01651/FUL Oakwood Grange Grange Farm Barns Northwood SY4 5NP
Erection of a single storey oak framed garden room extension to rear
It was resolved there were no objections to the application.

57/23 Parish Clerk's Report:

a. Complaints – annual report

The Clerk confirmed there had been no complaints.

b. H&S – annual report

The Clerk confirmed there had been no issues raised.

c. Consultation for over 60s

d. Business Networking Meeting

In the absence of the Deputy Clerk, it was agreed to defer these items to the next meeting.

58/23 Financial Matters:

a. Balances for information

The Clerk advised these would be advised at the next meeting.

b. Outstanding accounts

The Clerk advised there were no accounts to pay other than staff payroll.

c. Reserves Policy

It was resolved to re-adopt the policy.

d. Community Grants

The Clerk advised an application had been received from Newtown Church and this would be considered at the next meeting. It should be taken into account during discussions.

She recommended the applications should be reviewed for the purpose of the grant, whether the same grant amount should be given to each applicant.

It was resolved that the purpose of the applications met the criteria.

However, it was unclear that the application made by NCRA in November

2022 for fencing was still required as this contradicted the email to the Parish Council dated 20 April. It was agreed not to consider the application at this stage.

Cllr Vernon left the meeting.

i. Edstaston Village Hall

It was resolved to grant a total of £5,213 split between CIL Neighbourhood Funds, Community Grant Funds and the budget allocated to Edstaston Village Hall.

Cllr Vernon re-joined the meeting.

Cllr Broomhall left the meeting.

ii. Friends Of Whitchurch Road Cemetery, Wem

iii. North Salop Wheelers Community Bus

iv. Wem Christmas Lights & Festival

It was resolved to grant £500 to each of the applications listed above and to invite North Salop Wheelers to a future meeting.

Cllr Broomhall re-joined the meeting.

59/23 Business Plan 2021/2025

a. Review

b. Action Plan 2023/24

In the absence of the Deputy Clerk, it was agreed to defer these items to the next meeting.

60/23 Councillor Reports:

a. Parish Councillors

Cllr Staines reported on the Wem Area Climate Action Forum. He requested examples of bio-diversity projects in the parish which Councillors provided. Cllr Staines suggested re-wilding of suitable verges which gained support providing visibility along the lanes was not compromised. He also reported the Forum had taken on responsibility for the Incredible Edibles project in Wem.

Cllr Britton reported on the disturbance of the cPAD at Northwood and agreed to provide details to the Deputy Clerk of any further issues.

The recent organised Litter Pick was reported as a success.

Cllr Goode reported she had received an invitation to attend a 'garden walk' of NCRA land on 18 April to take place on 19 April. She had ensured she attended.

Approximately 20 people were there.

Cllr Goode advised she had still not received minutes of the NCRA which took place in January. She had been advised they were awaiting checking.

b. Shropshire Councillors:

Cllrs Broomhall and Towers had submitted a written report.

61/23 Parish Matters

a. NCRA email 20 April

The email was noted and that the next meeting was to be held later in May. The Clerk advised she had met with Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership (SIP) who were able to give free advice on charity governance. She recalled NCRA were looking to update their charity's governance documents.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact NCRA and offer the support of the Parish Council and SIP to update their governance documents.

b. Defibrillator at Robinson and Youngs

It was agreed Cllr Staines and the Clerk would seek assistance through First Responders to ensure the defibrillator was fully functional and available.

c. Cllr Staines meeting with a resident.

The Clerk advised the matters raised would be followed up with Shropshire Council. She confirmed that properties in Round Meadow had not changed their tenure.

62/23 Highways

Councillors agreed to report the damage to the highway between The Lowe and Horton. Councillors agreed the quality of highway repairs was still inconsistent and could be very poor.

63/23 Date of future meeting and to consider agenda items:

Tuesday 6 June 2023

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

Signed.....

Date.....