

## **MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL**

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Present: Councillors: Dr Alan MacWhannell (Chairman); Mr Nicholas Edwards (Vice Chairman); Ms Sarah Barratt; Mr Stewart Edmondson; Mr Gordon Tonkinson.

In attendance Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jennifer Neal, Mr V Pallet, Mr D Dovaston, Mr R Llewellyn, Mr M Reid.

1/20. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Mr John Horne, Mr Neil Pulker and Mr Kevin Turley.

2/20. Public Participation – a maximum of 15 minutes for members of the public to address the Council

For note: The public participation is for the public to address the Parish Council on matters that they wish to raise. The Parish Council cannot comment or resolve action on any points raised at this time. If the item requires information being sent from the Council, the Clerk will do this following the meeting. If it is a matter for further discussion it may be added to a future agenda.

Standing Orders were raised for members of the public to speak.

Mr V Pallet addressed the Council on behalf of his concerns (and Mr Llewellyn) relating to the Countess Arms Public House, since the building had been badly damaged by fire, it has become a magnet for being broken into and stripped of its assets. Mr Pallet adjoins this property and he has caught people breaking in. He has concerns over them returning to continue to steal the contents.

In addition there is on a regular basis Hare coursing taking place. The incidents are reported to the police and there is a total lack of response.

Mr Dusty Dovaston addressed the Council and confirmed within his role with Rural Crime watch, he has documented the problems in the area, recorded vehicles that have been seen with regard to illegal coursing, and he is not having a response from the Police. He has submitted a formal complaint to the Police and the Police Crime Commissioner relating to the lack of action to the issues he raises.

He stated that any crime in progress should be reported and a reference number obtained to ensure that it is reported as a formal crime.

The footpath from the A41 passing the Countess Arms, needs to have a sign on both ends stating it is closed or it should be reopened to enable walkers to use the path once the area is made safe.

There is also a problem with dog fouling in the fields which affects the collection of the crops that needs to be addressed with improved signage as a minimum.

Mr Reid asked if there were plans for developing, the field off Marsh Lane. The Chairman explained that the land owner had prepared some plans to develop the area, but at this time no formal planning application had been received for the Parish or public to comment on. There are also 2 other areas of potential development sites in the Parish that could come forward in the future.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

3/20. Declaration of Councillors' Pecuniary Interests.

None were declared.

4/20. To receive for confirmation, adoption, and agree the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019, having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

5/20. Report of the Clerk

The following was noted: -

Complaint re lack of response from Shropshire Council has been escalated to Level 2. If there is not a satisfactory outcome from following Shropshire Council's complaint process the complaint will be taken to the Ombudsman.

Communication has been received to say works are due to start on the Evergreens on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Cost to re-gild war memorial £1707.50 grant submitted for works to be completed.

Action – If grant is agreed Clerk to undertake to check the names are correct on the memorial.

Next councillor training session, is on the 12<sup>th</sup> March which clashes with the next Council meeting, there is a session pencilled in for June with the location to be confirmed in Telford and the Clerk has asked that the location of the venue could be Sheriffhales.

The S137 limit for 2020/21 is £8.12 per elector in the parish.

Notification of Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood plan.

Insurance renewal due on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 cost £411.00.

Awaiting response from Shropshire Council Estates office for the procedure / cost of purchasing the land by the Church. Last year it was agreed that the works were viable for the pathway to be reinstated, however a tree survey was awaited on the route to make sure that no trees would be damaged. This has never been request by Highways to this department, therefore the Clerk has requested directly that this survey is undertaken, to try to get the project moving forward. In addition a request for a survey of all the trees in the Conservation area under the ownership of Shropshire Council is taken ASAP to ensure that the area is safe.

**Action** – Clerk to progress

Lightsource – There are no conditions in place for time limits of spending funds held.

Bus Service Consultation update – Sheriffhales comments for extending the service have been added to the tender documents. The results of the tender are due mid-January.

Back Lane Culvert – Feasibility Study Report received, but a date for repair works to take place has not been set.

Reported the Old Blacksmiths for Environmental related problems. It was agreed to report further to the Planning Enforcement the unsightly view of the property and it now needs to have a “Tidy up order” placed on it.

**Action** – Clerk to report new complaint and progress issues with Blacksmiths building

The flooding on Kettlemore Lane and Burlington has been reported, and the response from the Officer was reported to the meeting.

Wrote seeking copy of constitution for SACREC – not received to date.

Update on A5 junction, proposed traffic light scheme circulated to members, it was noted that a request for Enforcement cameras is added to the lights.

To adopt NALCS Clerk / Councillor Protocol It was proposed by Councillor S Edmondson and seconded by Councillor N Edwards to adopt the Clerks/Councillors Protocol document prepared by NALC and distributed with the Agenda papers. On a vote this motion was carried.

To adopt NALCS Grievance and Disciplinary policies. It was proposed by Councillor N Edwards and seconded by Councillor S Edmondson to adopt the Grievance and Disciplinary policies as distributed with the agenda papers. On a vote this was carried.

6/20. Appeals, Planning applications and decisions

19/04698/FUL Redhill Stud Farm. Crackley Bank  
Extension to concrete wall and steel stanchions and erection of box profile steel roof over muck store – Approved

Update requested on Enforcement relating to Burlington House, re felling of trees and vehicular access. The Clerk to progress this further.

19/04986/FUL Hunger Hill Farm, residential development – Comments sent from the Parish Council.

19/05066/FUL Sutherland House, the Rock – tree works

7/20. To discuss the increasing problem of fly tipping and agree relevant actions

A local resident has reported that there are increasing problems with fly tipping in the Parish in particular the Lilleshall Road.

Councillor N Edwards moved the proposal that a formal request is put into Shropshire Highways to mound the 2 informal lay-bys to deter fly-tipping. On a vote this was carried with 4 votes for and 1 against.

**Action** – Clerk to request lay-bys are closed, and ask for confirmation of the grass cutting contract for the verges with Kier and Shropshire Highways relating to whether they are to be litter picked prior to be cut, and what schedules are in place for litter picking the verges. Investigate if there are any community based initiatives available for clearing the litter.

8/20. Update on Playing field access and development.

The contract has been signed to prepare the development plans for the playing fields, letter has been sent to bungalow following the last meeting, and also letter has been sent from Shropshire Council Legal Department on our behalf, relating to the revised boundary.

There has been an issue which needs to be clarified relating to an overage clause that was put on the sale of the land, the Trustees of the land have engaged in email correspondence stating that the Overage clause needs to be added to the giving of the land to the property at the bottom of the playing fields. This in turn will generate a further cost of circa £495, advice needs to be taken as to who should pay this cost.

**Action** – Clerk to ensure advice is taken from Clarkes Solicitors / the Parish Council Association.

The Clerk has returned the signed contract papers for the consultant to prepare a plan of possibilities for the Play Area, this hopefully will be available for a work shop meeting in February and members agreed in principal to have the orchard on the playing fields, the location etc. to be discussed at the workshop meeting in February.

**Action** – Clerk to organise workshop for February.

9/20. Update on Environmental Maintenance Grant

The grant has been submitted to Shropshire Council for the total sum of £1602, which includes :-

Weed Spraying of path to Heath Hill footpath

Removal of hedge by the Woodcote Quarry (Shropshire Council Land) in conjunction with local farmer to improve visibility

Strimming Heath Hill corner verges and the Monument verge areas twice a month from April – October

Clearing verges round the outside of the Church along the road towards the village hall area and removing leaves.

Clearing ditches along Marsh Lane and Kettlemore Lane

**Action** – Clerk to progress

10/20. To nominate lead Councillors for specific roles of responsibility within the Parish roles

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**Action** – Agenda item for the next meeting

11/20. To ratify and agree accounts for Payment.

The accounts for payment as set out as appendix f to the agenda papers were agreed.

12/20. To note and agree accounts up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The accounts up to 30<sup>th</sup> November as set out as appendix g to the agenda papers, were proposed for acceptance by Councillor A MacWhannell and seconded by Councillor S Edmondson. On a vote this was carried.

**Action** - The Clerk will circulate the updated figures to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 including the budget comparison.

13/20. To discuss and approve 3 year projections to comply with the financial regulations

The 3 year projections as set out as appendix h to the agenda papers, were proposed for acceptance by Councillor N Edwards and seconded by Councillor S Edmondson. On a vote this was carried with 3 votes for and 1 against.

**Action** – Next year when the figures are reviewed annually at the November budget meeting and included in the next figures produced will be inflationary figures for additional expenditure items, such as playing fields and service items (Clerk).

14/20. Update on Casual Vacancy

The deadline for calling an election was the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, as an election had not been called notification was displayed on the noticeboard for anyone wishing to join the Council to submit their interest by the 10<sup>th</sup> January, one person put their name forward before Christmas.

Mr Alan Edwards, from Church Lane has put his name forward to become a member of the Council. The Chairman has asked for him to prepare a resume for the Council members and this will be circulated when it has been received.

**Action** - This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

15/20. Items for future Meetings

To agree war memorial policy; To discuss the General Power of Competence; Casual Vacancy; Replacement of the Parish Noticeboard; Lead Councillors; update on fly-tipping; update on Environmental Maintenance Grant; Playing field boundary.

16/20. To agree dates of future meetings –

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020     | TBC APM                        |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 AGM   | 9 <sup>TH</sup> July 2020      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 | 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 |

**Action** – Chairman to confirm the date of the APM.