

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm at Hadnall Village Hall

23/093 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs John Harrison (Chair), Sarah Parker (Vice Chair), Neil Duxbury, Andrew Marston, Andy Brisbane Nigel Clifford (attended until 19:54hrs) Laura Tarburton (coopted under item 23/095)

Apologies: Cllr Harmesh Jassel (accepted). Clerk Alison Utting

Also present: SC Cllr Simon Jones, 9 members of the public.

The chair opened the meeting by making reference to some recent social media posts and stated that this council, as a collective, was taking all action available to deal with that issue appropriately. He highlighted the final item on the agenda this evening, which under the Public Bodies Act 1960 and the Data Protection Act 1998 excluded the press and public.

He reiterated that outside of that agenda item there would be no discussion relating to confidential employee information or employees' contractual arrangements. He also referred to the expectation that all discussion and debate should be carried out in a civil and respectful manner without fear of bullying and intimidation.

23/094 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public raised concerns of what he had seen on social media and wanted to discuss contractual arrangements relating to the council's employee. The chair referred to the opening remarks and highlighted that this was an agenda item for discussion in closed session.

A member of the public thanked SC for the resurfacing work carried out on the A49 South of the village centre.

Concerns were raised by the VH committee that a vehicle and trailer had been left abandoned on the village hall carpark not taxed or insured. This was to be taken up in the first instance by the VHC with Sansaw.

Concerns were raised about the rest of the road surface throughout the village. SJ responded by saying that funding was an issue, but he would be following this up and asking the question about timescales.

A resident of Hall Drive referred to the recent approval of by planning for the construction of new properties and asked how she could go about ensuring that the new properties would take on joint responsibilities for the maintenance of the drive leading to those and existing properties. SP said she would explore and respond. SC explained that as the application had gone through on appeal, SC would have difficulty requesting additional conditions.

The issue of school traffic on Wedgefields in the afternoons was raised by residents who had particular concerns about access for emergency vehicles at those times. ND stated that the school had recently placed a notice in the school magazine for parents. It was noted that the arrangement for use of the pub carpark is still in place. SJ made reference to a traffic order which would come with restrictions for residents as well. It was noted that there was a school governors meeting on the next Thursday and the matter would be raised there.

A resident asked about the frequency of the road sweeper clearing up debris as it had not been seen for some time. Nobody in the room could answer the question but enquiries could be made.

Cllr Clifford asked to speak as a member of the public and attempted to raise concerns about previous minutes (as previously raised under agenda item 23/082 at Septembers meeting) and in addition contractual arrangements relating to the councils employee. The chair reminded the meeting that contractual arrangements were being discussed later in the meeting. A point of order was raised by SP that confidential contractual arrangements should no longer be discussed in an open forum and we move on to the next agenda item. This was seconded by AM. A vote took place 5 councillors were in favour and 1 against. Cllr Clifford requested that it be recorded in the minutes that he voted against that motion.

Cllr Clifford walked out of the meeting (the time recorded as 19:54hrs)

23/095 CO-OPTION – Laura Tarburton had approached the PC expressing an interest in becoming a Councillor. It was proposed by SP that Laura is duly coopted onto the council. This was seconded by ND. All councillors were in favour. Laura signed a declaration of acceptance of Office. The Chair and all councillors present welcomed Laura to the meeting.

23/096 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – JH declared an interest under item 23/100.

23/097 MINUTES

It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th September 2023 as a true and correct record. Proposed by ND Seconded AM All 5 councillors present at that meeting voted in favour.

23/098 PROGRESS REPORT

a) **New Picnic Benches**

These have been delivered and arrangements will be made to assemble them in the very near future.

b) **Fencing at the Ease**

Waiting for contractor to complete the work.

c) **Bowling Club Car park**

Dealt with. Sansaw have sprayed the site.

d) **Village Maintenance Working Party**

Thanks proposed to all those who attended the day which was considered a resounding success. A special thanks was offered to Neil Duxbury who over a prolonged period of time has dismantled, refurbished and reinstated the bench outside the church.

e) **Street Lights**

ND outlined that the blue street lights were due to 'delamination of the yellow phosphor' It is believed to be a fault with the manufacture of the LED bulbs. It was agreed that the clerk would be asked to explore with the suppliers if they can be replaced.

23/098 OTHER REPORTS

- a) **Shropshire Council** – Cllr Simon Jones highlighted that SC had signed an agreement with three other local councils which has seen some additional partnership funding from central government.

Cllr Jones confirms Planning has been approved for Northwest Relief Road and so that now goes forward for the preparation of a business case. If that business case was agreed Central Government are now saying they would fully fund the project.

Cllr Jones also outlined 'Crowd fund Shropshire' which is a potential avenue for organisations and groups to access funding. SC have put in £150k for match funded grants that can be applied for. There is support available to applicants in putting together applicants.

- b) **Village Hall** – It was noted that the PC representative on the Village Hall Committee (VHC) has not attended meetings this year. The chair of the VHC highlighted that bookings are up. Some of the building work on the site next door to the Hall has potentially caused water damage to the VH building. This has hopefully been dealt with. Call was put out for more support to help the VHC.
- c) **Police** – Not in attendance
- d) **Community Led Plan** – The chair updated the PC by stating that progress with the consultation phase of the CLP had stalled. An offer to run the consultation had not been forthcoming and so no progress has been made.

23/100 Planning

JH left the room for this item due to a declared interest in an item on the agenda.

- a) 23/04386/FUL *The Hayloft*, Hadnall SY4 4BJ

No objections Proposed AB Seconded ND All in favour.

JH was invited to return to the room.

- b) 23/04754/PA3MA Office 2 First Floor Infil House

PC have looked at plans on portal. No comment it was felt that change of use is for SC to consider.

- a) No further **planning applications** were received in advance of this meeting.
- b) The following **planning decisions** were published by Shropshire Council:
 23/03537/FUL 1 Pool Road, Hadnall. SY4 4BG. Erection of a single storey extension as a self contained annex. SC decision: Refuse.

23/101 FINANCE

- a) Council approved the payments and noted receipts for October and November. Proposed SP seconded AM All in favour.

Amount	Details	Power to spend
18.00	Unity Banking Charges	LGA 1972 s112
300.00	Salary (September)	LGA 1972 s112
1684.80	Earth Anchors Picnic Tables	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
168.99	WME Streetlighting	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
300.00	Clerk's salary (October)	LGA 1972 s112
36.00	Clerk's refundable expenses	LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
150.00	PAYE (months 6 and 7)	LGA 1972 s112
156.00	SLCC Membership (23/059)	LGA 1972 s142
550.00	K&S Landscapes (mowing etc.) 3 rd quarter	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
120.30	Streetlight repairs	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
168.00	Back pay 1 st April 2023	LGA 1972 s112
24.57	Floodlighting	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
52.23	Materials for working party	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301

Council noted the following **receipts**:

Amount	Details	Power to accept
165.24	Interest CCLA	LGA 1972 s112

- b) It was noted by the PC that in the absence of the clerk no accounts and bank reconciliation were available to the meeting.

- c) It was proposed by AB and seconded by SP to set up a DD mandate to West Mercia Energy (WME). All in favour. The chair signed a copy of the Direct Debit Instruction to be posted out to WME following the meeting.
- d) All present noted the November NJC/ALC Salary increase backdated to 1st April 2023.

23/102 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair highlighted that a number of Parishioners had contacted the PC to complain. As these were complaints, about the behaviour of an individual councillor the only course of action under the PC's own complaints procedure is to refer the complainant direct to SC.

23/103 Provision of Shelter for children waiting for the school bus.

ND proposed that the PC explore the provision of a bus shelter outside of school for use by schoolchildren travelling from the village to Thomas Adams Wem. It was estimated that costs would be in the region of £4k. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the PC were broadly in support. ND would explore the option further and report back to a future meeting.

22/104 Minor amendment to village maintenance contract

AM outlined the problem with dog excrement along the path to the fields off Church Lane. The contractors are proposing to spray this area rather than trim to control weeds. There would be no additional charge. The change to the contract was agreed and AM would liaise with K&S.

23/105 Training

A list of training dates would be circulated to all councillors early in the New Year.

23/106 Exclusion of Press and Public

The chair thanked members of the public for their attendance.

23/107 Staffing Committee

The PC received feedback from the Staffing Committee meeting held on 23rd October 2023.

23/108

An agenda item put forward by Cllr Clifford was considered by the PC. There was no support for that proposal.

The decision relating to arrangements put in place correspondence with the Clerk was reviewed and all present agreed to this remaining in place and reviewed again in December.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Next meeting – Monday 11th March.

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