

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Morville Village Hall on 24th January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Grant Brown (GB), Rebecca-Lucy Brown (RLB), John Cantrill (JC), Alison Nichol Smith (ANS), Steve McDermott (SM), Anthony Pitchers (AP), Pam Yuille (PY), Chris MacLean (Locum Parish Clerk)

Apologies:

Robert Tindall (Shropshire Councillor)

Members of the Public:

Seven members of the public attended the meeting

1. Introduction.

a. The Locum Parish Clerk:

The Locum Parish Clerk, Chris MacLean, opened the meeting. He introduced himself and explained that originally Gillian Bailey was due to take over as the Locum but, due to personal circumstances, was unable to do so. As a consequence he did not takeover the duties of Parish Clerk until the beginning of January 2022. It was noted that he had received a very limited number of documents from the previous Parish Clerk and that this had made it very difficult to piece together the Parish Council's current position.

b. New Councillors:

The Locum Parish Clerk reminded the meeting that a by-election had been called for the 17th February for the following wards:

Morville – two vacancies
Acton Round – one vacancy
Aston Eyre – one vacancy

However, as there were only two nominations for Morville, Steve McDermott and Anthony Pitchers, there would not be an election and the candidates had been duly elected to the Parish Council.

It was noted that the Locum Parish Clerk had received completed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests from both members.

No candidates had stood for election in Acton Eyre or Aston Round, so the notice of vacancies would be renewed by Shropshire Council.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:

There were no declarations.

3. Appointment of Chairman:

a. The Locum Parish Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman for the meeting.

b. The appointment of SM was proposed by PY and seconded by ANS. There were no other nominations and SM was appointed unanimously.

4. Open Session For Questions From Parishioners.

No questions from the public had been received by the Locum Parish Clerk and no questions were raised at the meeting.

5. Resignation of Councillors:

- a. It was noted that the following councillors had resigned on 21st November 2021 with immediate effect:
Christopher Caine (Aston Eyre)
David Digwood (Acton Round)
Robin Melley (Monkhopton)
Judith Miles (Morville)
Robert Pugh (Upton Cressett)
Luke Greenwood (Monkhopton)
Alan Spafford (Morville)
- b. It was also noted that the previous Parish Clerk, Mrs Eileen Reynolds, had resigned at the same time but had worked her notice period which had finished on 12th December 2021.

6. Co-option of Councillors:

The Chairman informed the meeting that due to the confidential nature of the interview process this item has been moved to the end of the agenda and that the Parish Council would be asked to vote to exclude the public and press at this stage of the meeting.

7. Minutes:

- a. **Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on 8th November 2021:**
Resolution: To approve and adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th November 2021.
JC informed the meeting that, as he was not present at the meeting, he was unable to comment on the Minutes.
It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the minutes.
- b. **Meeting of the Parish Council Held on 8th November 2021:**
Resolution: To approve and adopt the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021.
JC informed the meeting that, as he was not present at the meeting, he was unable to comment on the Minutes.
It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the minutes.
- c. **Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Held on 3rd December 2021:**
Resolution: To approve and adopt the minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2021.
ANS informed the meeting that, as she was not present at the meeting, she was unable to comment on the Minutes.
It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the minutes.

8. Reports:

- a. **Shropshire Councillor's Report:**
In Robert Tindall's absence the Chairman read out his report, a copy of which is Appendix A to these Minutes.
- b. **Locum Parish Clerk's Report :**
 - i. **Income and Expenditure Account as at 31 December 2021:**
 - (1) The Locum Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he was unable to give a full comment on the current financial situation until the end of January 2022 when the bank statements would have been received.
 - (2) However, based on the information available, he believed that there would be in the region of £9,000 left in the current account at the end of the financial year.

ii. 2022/23 Budget:

- (1) The Locum Parish Clerk distributed a spreadsheet outlining the proposed budget for FY 2022/23 based on the projected expenditure for 2021/22.
- (2) It was noted that, apart from small increases to cover inflation, the major difference was a projected figure of £9,000 for costs relating to the May 2021 and February 2022 elections. As a result of these increases the Locum Parish Clerk proposed a budget for 2022/23 of £22,000.
- (3) He also recommended that a complete review of all expenditure be carried out as soon as possible.

iii. 2022/23 Precept:

- (1) The Locum Parish Clerk reminded the meeting that the Precept for the current FY had been set at £6,000. However, even assuming that the projection of £9,000 in the current account at the end of the FY was correct, it would be necessary to increase the Precept for 2022/23.
 - (2) As explained in item 8.b.i above it was not possible to provide a detailed budget of known and forecast expenditure at the moment. The Budget decision should take into account the anticipated cash balance as at 1st April, the predicted expenditure in the year (1st April to 31st March), the income it anticipates from the Precept and any other grant sources that might be available. The combination of these factors will generate a predicted cash balance at the end of the financial year which should be sufficient and adequate to cover anticipated and planned administrative costs AND provide a sufficient reserve to cover any reasonably anticipated one-off items of expenditure.
 - (3) Bearing in mind the proposed budget of £22,000 the Locum Parish Clerk recommended that a precept of £18,000 be set for the FY 2022/23.
 - (4) The Locum Parish Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council should have general reserves sufficient to cover 50-75% of the precept in addition to any earmarked and ring fenced reserves. Therefore, if the election expenses are less than predicted, any surplus could form part of the Reserves.
- iv.** ANS informed the meeting that she had been unaware of the cost of the election process and that, whilst elections were the best form of democracy, such costs would make individuals and organisations wary of calling an election. Members agreed with her comments.

Resolution:

To approve the Budget and Precept for 2022/23.

Proposer: AP

Seconder: ANS

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

v. Signatories for Banking:

The following were nominated to be bank signatories:

RLB, JC AP

This was agreed unanimously.

9. Standing Orders:

- a. The Chairman informed the meeting that currently the Parish Council's Standing Orders were dated 2010. The latest version, as written by NALC, is dated 2018 and revised in 2020 and Councillors have been sent this version for consideration.
- b. It is proposed that the Standing Orders 2018 (Revised 2020) be adopted immediately.

Proposer: PY
Secunder: GB

The Resolution was passed unanimously.

10. Planning Applications:

- a. **Application 21/05563/FUL** - Wedding Venue.
Parish Councillors were unanimously opposed to this application. The Parish Council was supported by Shropshire Councillor, Robert Tindall, on the grounds that the venue was too remote for this kind of activity. He has requested that the application be referred to the Shropshire Council planning committee.
Action: Application not supported.
- b. **Application 21/05416/LBC and 21/05806/FUL** - Barn Conversions.
It was noted that JC and PY had contacted the only near neighbours who had no objections to the application.
Action: No further action be taken.
- c. **Application 21/04414/FUL** - Affordable home for a local resident north east of Little Hollicut, Ludlow Road, Harpswood.
It was noted that the 31 day time limit for Parish Council support to be posted on the planning portal had passed. Shropshire Councillor, Robert Tindall, had emailed the Case Officer on 27th December 2021 asking him to accept the belated submission and adding that he also supported the application.
Action: No further action to be taken.

10. Co-Option of Councillors:

- a. As set out in Item 6 above the Chairman, following a unanimous vote, asked the public to leave the meeting.
- b. The Chairman informed the meeting that three applicants had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor for the ward of Monkhopton but only two applications had been received.
- c. The Chairman asked the two candidates, David Gibson and Lesley Moxon-Jones, to introduce themselves to the Parish Councillors, give information on their background and experience and explain why they wished to become a member of the Parish Council.
- d. Following the two presentations and questions posed by members, the Locum Parish Clerk informed the meeting that each candidate was eligible to be a Parish Councillor.
- e. The Chairman asked members of the Parish Council to vote on the acceptability of each candidate for co-option on to the Parish Council.
It was unanimously agreed that David Gibson and Lesley Moxon-Jones should be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

- f. The Locum Parish Clerk asked the newly elected Parish Councillors to complete their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and return them to him.

11. Date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 14th February 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.

Once the meeting had closed members of the Parish Council remained to meet the new Parish Councillors and for informal discussions.

Appendix A to the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 24th January 2022

Shropshire Councillor's report for Monday evening's PC meeting on 24 January 2022:

1. Planning

- 21/05563/FUL Wedding Venue

I have written, as the local ward member, to oppose this application on the basis, and I have to give a valid planning reason, that the site is too remote for this kind of activity. The Parish Council will have received the same automated message and has 31 days in which to respond (I have 21 days).

- 21/04414/FUL Affordable Dwelling

I missed my deadline of 21 days but nevertheless I have asked the Case Officer to accept my submission of support.

- 21/02135/EIA Poultry Unit

I understand from the Case Officer that the applicant for the Intensive Poultry Unit at Upper Netchwood has still not furnished the Case Officer, Grahame French, with the necessary information for him to complete his report. Tracy Darke, who is the (comparatively) new Assistant Director is becoming tougher with applicants who do not send in the information in a timely fashion and they risk having their applications refused.

2. Flooding

- On Wednesday the 12th January I attended a meeting at the Lye regarding the flooding problems which I will be reporting using the Council's link. I have also agreed to look at the blocked gullies with John Cantrill.

3. Speeding through Weston

- I attach the latest update from Nick Newton on the measures needed to reduce speed through Weston.

Please do let me know if there any matters you would like to draw my attention to.

Best wishes

Robert Tindall

Shropshire Councillor for the Brown Clee Electoral Division
Vice Chairman Southern Planning Committee

Email: robert.tindall@shropshire.gov.uk

RE: B4368 - Weston - TF13 6QT

<Nick.Newton@shropshire.gov.uk>

18/01/2022 11:01

To: Richard and Jackie Dorrell; Lesley Vandyke; Robert Tindall; nickmartin84@hotmail.co.uk;
pamela.yuille@doctors.org.uk

Hi Jackie

Good to hear from you.

The current situation is that I am still progressing this scheme but its taking some time which I understand is frustrating for you.

After securing some funding We have devised 4 work packages which are to be drafted up by our term consultants. The proposed speed limit for Weston will be included in package 2

Once the drawings have been produced we will then be in a position to go out to consultation, then hopefully implement the scheme. I am hopeful that we can undertake the consultation stage in February this year

I am hopeful of getting this scheme committed this financial year which is a tight deadline but if I can get the money carried over by having the scheme committed now it will help

In addition I have also just finalised a design brief for a route study to be undertaken to review the B4368 and B4378 which will hopefully unlock additional funding next year

Regards

Nick Newton C Eng, FIHE, FCIHT, FSoRSA
Traffic Engineer (South)