

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MORVILLE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023

1 WELCOME

Mr S McDermott, Chairman of the Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2023.

2 PRESENT

Mr S McDermott (Chair), Locum Clerk C Maclean, PCSO M Goddard from the Police and 14 Parishioners.

3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs C Bullock, Mr J Cantrill, Mr J Davey and Shropshire Councillor Mr R Tindall.

4 MINUTES

It was proposed by Dr P Yuille, and seconded by Mr G Wilkes that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2022 were approved. It was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr S McDermott, Parish Council Chairman, highlighted some key events from the previous year.

5.1 Council Membership

It was noted that in the past year Mrs C Bullock had joined the Council. There remained one vacancy covering the Morville ward.

5.2 Full Fibre Broadband

Efforts continued to promote and extend the full fibre broadband offering across the parish.

5.3 Lengthsman

It was noted that the Lengthsman had left his position with the Council. With no current replacement, there was a reliance on volunteers to undertake some tasks across the parish, including litter picking.

5.4 Defibrillator

It was noted that the telephone kiosk housing the defibrillator at Monkhopton had been refurbished and appreciation was given to Mrs L Moxon-Jones and Mr D Gibson for their efforts in undertaking this work.

Mr S McDermott noted that the defibrillator in Morville had been stolen but the Village Hall Committee had worked to replace this.

5.5 Traffic Calming in Parish

Efforts continue to implement a 40mph speed restriction at Weston. It was also noted there was a desire for a crossing, or traffic-calming measures by the school at Morville, on the A458 running through the village.

5.6 **School Playing Fields Licence**

It was noted that a new Licence had been completed in relation to the school playing fields. Responsibility for the maintenance of the area lies with the school. It was also noted that the old play equipment had been removed.

Mrs L Moxon-Jones enquired about access to the area during the daytime and it was noted that this was restricted during school hours.

5.7 **Acton Arms, Morville**

It was noted that the refurbishment of the premises was ongoing. Preparatory work was also being undertaken in relation to the small housing development at the rear of the site. Dr P Yuille expressed concern that the beer garden and play area behind the premises may be lost to the new houses. The matter would be raised with Shropshire Council R Tindall.

5.8 **Draft Local Plan**

It was noted that following the consultation period, the draft plan had been submitted by Shropshire Council to the Planning Inspectorate, to be scrutinised for 'soundness'.

In light of the proposals impacting the Bridgnorth area, Tasley Parish Council had sought support to enable the drafting and implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was also noted that the proposed poultry unit would no longer proceed.

5.9 **Clerk Cover**

The Council had continued to rely upon locum support over the past year. However, in light of the appointment of a permanent Clerk, this would now cease.

Appreciation was given to the locum for the service in the intervening period.

5.10 **Website**

Appreciation was given to Mr I Hesson for his support in maintaining the website.

6 SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Shropshire Cllr R Tindall, due to health issues, no report was provided.

7 PARISHIONERS' BUSINESS / QUESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

7.1 Police

PCSO M Goddard advised residents of the current challenges facing the local force. Lack of resources meant considerable strain in serving the community and there is a reliance on members from outside the area to come in and support.

Residents expressed concern that PCSO Goddard was being required to shoulder sole responsibility with inadequate support and it was agreed that a letter be sent to senior Police authorities registering these concerns.

It was noted that attempts were being made to recruit and train new resources but this would take time. The earliest that trained recruits would be in place is expected to be in August 2023.

In terms of crime there were reports of 8 burglaries on farms/rural buildings. There were no reported burglaries in residential properties.

PCSO Goddard confirmed that he covered the full area representing the Morville wards.

It was noted that there had been instances of suspicious looking vans appearing in the parish and residents were encouraged to report these as checks could be undertaken to follow these up.

Concern was shared that in some instances the suspects were known locally but PCSO Goddard advised that the Police had to operate on evidence.

It was noted that a rural business crimes team was being considered to work with farms and businesses to assist in crime prevention measures.

PCSO Goddard was asked what advice should be given to parishioners. He advised that reporting incidents was important for the Police to build up a picture. The link to reporting online would be shared.

It was noted that the Council's Facebook linked to the Much Wenlock crime page. It was suggested that details also be put on the Council website and this would be looked into. It was noted that two rural crime officers are keen to be covering incidents such as hare coursing. Some success in this area was being achieved.

Residents thanked PCSO Goddard for his time and contribution and he left the meeting at 8:28pm.

7.2 **Strategic Plan**

It was noted that attempts had been made to obtain parishioners views on what should be in the strategic plan but none were received. This left the Parish Councillors considering what could be done for the parish. This covered topics such as improving the Parish Council, enhancing biodiversity in the local environment, identifying ward coverage.

7.3 **Environmental Matters**

The question of roadside verge maintenance was considered and whether these should only be cut back as necessary.

It was noted that Janet Cobb of Edgton Parish Council was knowledgeable on the topic and it was agreed that she be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

7.4 **Events**

A resident enquired whether the Parish Council would fund and put on events within the parish. Mr McDermott advised that the Parish Council could, where appropriate, contribute to events organised by other groups.

7.5 **Traffic Calming**

It was noted that there is an initiative involving a number of Councils where the A458 passes through their parishes to identify possible improvements in safety and driver behaviour. The initiative is similar to that being led by Munslow Parish Council and the B4368.

Two residents expressed their thanks and left the meeting at 8:45pm.

7.6 **Defibrillator Training**

Discussion was held on the merits of training being offered on the use of defibrillators. The discussion extended to the merits of CPR training being offered.

Concern was shared on how to locate the appropriate training resources and encourage residents to attend.

It was agreed that enquiries be undertaken to identify experience elsewhere.

7.7 **Countryside Code**

Instances of sheep being worried by dogs was considered, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would promote the Countryside Code, on the website and Facebook page.

A resident expressed thanks for the work undertaken by the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9:06pm.

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Chairman

20th May 2024