**WESTON RHYN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Weston Rhyn Parish Council held on Monday, 1st December, 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Institute, Weston Rhyn.

**PRESENT: The Chairman (Councillor E.R.Cooper)**

**Councillors Mrs. A. Bright, Mrs. R. Ellis, Mrs. P.Evans, Mrs. S. Haskell, J.A. Hughes, M.J.Keay, D.Knowles, P.McGuinness, B.R. Oakley, Mrs. M. Rowlands C.Rowley.**

**Also in attendance: P.C. K.Le’Clere**

**Shropshire Councillor R.Macey and 3 members of the public.**

**89. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Members of the public were invited to question Councillors or raise any issues of concerns for a period of 15 minutes.

**RESOVLED** to note no issues were raised with the exception of:

* To note advice from residents of Chirk Bank that the telephone box located there is always being vandalised and had in the past been used for drug abuse. Mrs. Barnett offered to put a note inviting people to use her telephone in an emergency should the pay phone be removed.
* To note Mr. and Mrs. Barnett attended a bus users meeting last week and raised the issue of the 2 and 2A service. Arriva agreed to review in January and the Shropshire Bus Users Group will put forward our case.
* To note the light by the Old Post Office had at last been fixed following Mr. Barnett pressurising Ringway. In future any lights reported to include the light number and if known, postcode.
* To again report the light not working on Quinta Crossroads.

90. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. R. Law.

Also Shropshire Councillor D.Lloyd.

91. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests on any item

included in the agenda in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011.

**RESOLVED** to note no declarations of interest were declared with the exception of Councillors E.R. Cooper and B.R. Oakley declared personal interests in PA14/04927 their back gardens backing on to the new development.

92. **MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting held on 10th November, 2014 were confirmed and signed.

93. **REPORTS**

**RESOLVED** to note reports as presented by P.C. Le Clere, Councillor R. Macey, the Parish Hall Management Committee, Local Joint Committee and the Chairman.

Arising from the reports it was further **RESOLVED** the following;

* To note crime figures as circulated, kindly provided by the Police.
* To again report dog fouling in Brookfields and elsewhere in the Parish.
* To note the Police would report a HGV parking on the pavement in Chirk Bank and also report to Manweb one of their vans being parked on the footpath lower down the village.
* To note SAMDev had reached the stage where the Planning Inspectorate was considering the document. It was the intention for the final version to be formalised by the year end.
* To note Shropshire Councillor R.Macey would investigate how much pressure is being placed by MP’s to obtain funding from Government to fund A5 dualing there being no mention of it in recent press releases and following the Government pledge of a large capital sum towards countrywide road improvements.
* To note Shropshire Councillor R.Macey would investigate the receipt by the Council of £347 in respect of Community Infrastructure Levy to determine how this sum had been calculated.

94. **PLANNING**

1. Consideration of schedule of planning applications. (PA14/04419, 04927,01654).

**RESOLVED** no comment be made upon the applications received with the exception of:

PA14/04927 – Brookfield Close – to request retention of all hedgerow/trees bordering the development.

1. **Top House, Lodge Inn-** The Chairman drew members attention to the fact the Top House was to be converted into an indian restaurant. Views of members were sought as to whether any objection could be lodged. The Campaign for Real Ale Association had lodged an application to declare the Top House an Asset of Community Value however they advised;

*“I fear we may be too late but I have sent in the nomination anyway.*

*There is no means of objecting to a change of use if the new operation is in the same category as before. This means restaurants, cafes, takeaways, bookmakers, pawnbrokers, supermarkets etc. can all just move in without planning permission. That is why you haven’t seen an application.   It is a main thrust of CAMRAs key campaigns:*

[*http://www.camra.org.uk/protecting-and-saving-pubs*](http://www.camra.org.uk/protecting-and-saving-pubs)

*I draw you attention to Paragraph 7and Paragraph 13.3. (circulated) which throws light on the situation. As far as Shropshire Council are concerned, their pub protection policies are worse than the former Borough Council which did at least mention the importance of pubs.*

*The ACV Right to Bid application may well force Marston’s to sell quickly before it comes into force but the new owners would then have to deal with it if they wanted to re-develop the site for sale.*

*In the meantime I respectfully suggest that the Parish consider all the assets of value to the community in the area, be they play grounds, shops, pubs or village halls.  They should all be protected.   Manchester United Stadium has an ACV listing on it from their supporters association.  Do you have any sports grounds that need protection?”*

**RESOLVED** to record concern regarding the possible loss of another village amenity however to acknowledge further information was necessary to allow fully informed debate.

1. Quinta Christian Centre - A letter had been received seeking the Parish Councils support for a planning application to develop an area on the Quinta estate to provide sleeping accommodation for 49 visitors/residents.

**RESOLVED** to note the letter for the present time acknowledging the Parish Council would be consulted at planning stage however to record at this time concerns over further pressure being placed upon the village sewerage infrastructure.

It also being considered that it could be used to support our campaign to reclassify Station Road as a “B” Class road in terms of increased usage (together with the Aspen Grange development).

95. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

1. **Parish Problems**

Steve Oakley had responded to the Councils parish problems as reported at the last meeting;

*“The roundabout pot hole and Trap Bank salt bin were in hand, the gully by the Plough gets covered in leaves but will be cleared.”*

**RESOLVED** to note the update.

Further **RESOLVED** to report the pot hole had reappeared and also concerns regarding the brook in High Street flooding.

1. **Traffic Calming Solar Sign by Primary School-**

Update emails were circulated on progress by Councillor P. McGuinness to have a solar powered speed warning sign located at the Primary School.

Councillor McGuinness had written to David Gradwell at Shropshire Council;

*“I have had some discussions with Richard Hines, Head Teacher at Weston Rhyn Primary school, and we both feel that if a Solar Powered Repeater sign for the 20 Mph limit was installed on the opposite side of the road (grassed area) to the school, it would be a significant step in making drivers more aware of the need to slow down when driving past the cars parked outside the School. It would also, due to its position, have the added benefit of alerting drivers emerging from the busy and equally dangerous junction with the Chirk Bank road, of the need to be very aware when they pull out. Richard tells me that there have been several near misses involving this activity.*

*Could you please have a look at the costs for installing this sign, and let me know what they are, and do you know if there is anyway that the School/Council can get grant aid etc to alleviate the cost.*

*We will, as a Parish Council, be informing Shropshire Council about this need in the February slot, which I believe Is the next time we can do this via the existing process.*

*However, in this instance there is compelling need to address the extremely dangerous situation that exists on the road outside the school which occurs several times per day, due to the varying activities taking place at differing times during term time, and would ask you to take whatever steps that you can to help us reduce the very high risk of accidents occurring in this area.”*

Mr Gradwell had replied;

*“You are probably looking at approximately £2,000 to install a solar powered school amber flashing unit on the opposite side of the road to the Primary School. At the present time it is unlikely that I will be able to fund the installation of such a unit this financial year, although sometimes monies become available towards the end of the year due to other schemes dropping out of the programme for various reasons. I have therefore included this request on the list for consideration should funding become available. I am sorry but I am not aware of any way that the School/Council can apply for grant aid.*

*If we cannot carry out this work this financial year, I will include it on the list for next year’s works programme which commences in April 2015.”*

Councillor McGuinness responded;

*“This issue of the traffic problems around the school, came up at our Parish Council meeting on Monday night, and our County Councillors David Lloyd and Rob Macey were in attendance. Councillor Lloyd advised us to carry on with this signage issue, but also to pursue further traffic calming measures, and outlined the current Council policy (that you had previously sent me) and the need to get our requests etc in to meet the February 2015 slot, which we will do.*

*Both County Councillors stated that they would support the need for traffic calming measures and the improved signage.*

*For my part I am keen that we do get the solar powered sign repeater on the opposite side of the road to the school as a first step to improving the traffic safety at our school.*

*Then I would suggest, as part of the preparation of a submission to be put to Shropshire Council for consideration in February, that we (Yourself, Head Teacher, PTA, Governors, Parish Council) discuss the various options for managing the traffic flow in the area of the school to minimise the risk accidents. I believe that the next stage with this should be a meeting with you, Richard Hines and myself in which you could outline possible traffic calming measures that could be taken.*

*Best regards and many thanks for your support with this.”*

**RESOLVED** to note the update with thanks to Councillor McGuinness on his efforts in this matter.

1. **Reclassification of Station Road as a “B” Class road.**

Circulated for information was a document which outlined definitions and principles of road classification as kindly provided by Shropshire Councillor David Lloyd.

**RESOLVED** the document be noted and included upon the next agenda to allow members time to absorb its contents.

96. **PAYPHONE REMOVAL**

Letter from Shropshire Council advising it was the intention of BT to remove payphones from within the Parish.

**RESOLVED** to request usage figures of all payphones to enable informed debate however to point out Rhoswiel and Chirk Bank payphones were a necessity due to their siting by the canal and poor mobile phone coverage in the area. The payphone in Weston Rhyn also to be retained again due to poor mobile phone reception.

97. **RHOSWIEL STREET LIGHT - INSURANCE CLAIM**

**RESOLVED** to note a letter from the Shropshire Council Solicitor denying any liability for the tree that fell demolishing a street light in March, 2013.

*“Shropshire Council has now completed all necessary enquiries an investigations and has found as follows;*

* *In this case Shropshire Council do not own the tree or land. This has been confirmed by both the Highways Team and the Arbocultural Team.*
* *Mr. Hall mentioned responsibility for the regular monitoring of trees overhanging the highway. The road itself is not routinely inspected by Arboricultural Officers as it is not a main road. We do not have a duty of care to inspect all trees adjacent to a highway as this would mean that we take responsibility for these, which is way beyond any legal duty of care. We operate a legally defensible proactive tree survey process in Shropshire and whilst this can reduce the risk of tree failures it does not eliminate them. Extreme weather events such as heavy snow could not be foreseeable in as much as it is not possible to make any informed judgements about the extent, severity or impact of them.*

*I realise that this letter does not address your principle complaint as it does not offer any financial compensation, but I hope it will at least help you to understand why this decision has been made. Clearly as we are responsible for public money, compensation payments can only be made where it is felt there is a legal liability to do so.”*

In view of the above it was further **RESOLVED** to again pursue reimbursement from Mr. Hall’s insurance company. It to be included upon the next agenda.

98. **PAYMENTS**

R.A.Dyke (Clerks Salary December, 2014) £295.62

Inland Revenue (PAYE December, 2014) £196.80

Village Institute (Room Hire) £35.00

R.A.Dyke (Clerks Telephone Rental) £74.07

Society of Local Council Clerks (Subscription) £103.00

99. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**RESOLVED** to note no items were requested for inclusion with the exception of;

* Reclassfying Station Road as a “B” Class Road,
* Rhoswiel street light insurance claim.

100**. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** the next meeting be held on Monday, 12th January, 2015 (Budget meeting).