

WESTON RHYN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Weston Rhyn Parish Council held on Tuesday, 15th December, 2020 at 7.00pm in St. Johns Parish Church, Weston Rhyn.

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

Councillors Mrs. S. Haskell, Mrs. R. Law, B.R. Oakley,
J. Wallace.

5 members of the public

Attending by Zoom: Councillor Mrs. A. Bright, Mrs. J. Bavin, Mrs. M. Rowlands, Mrs. P. Smith, Shropshire Councillor M. Jones.

35. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

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

RESOLVED to note no issues were raised with the exception of:

- A request as to who holds the key to the new Chirk Bank noticeboard, it being Councillor Mrs A Bright and Rob Morris.
- Pot holes on Trap Bank, Shropshire Councillor M. Jones to chase up with Steve Davenport, a road closure apparently being required to undertake a thorough job.
- Concerns as to proposed new developments around the Parish in particular off Aspen Grange, High Street and the school playing field. Clarification was given that full consultation will take place as part of the planning process – this being only the first stage.
- Concerns that the public were not aware of the meeting this evening, it being explained the date was changed due to closure of the Village Institute and the church being booked Monday evening however the meeting was advertised in the newsagents, parish noticeboard, website plus agenda sent to local press.

36. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from

Councillors J.A.Hughes – Work commitments

Absent – Councillors C. Bowers, M.Keay

37. **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.

38. **MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 9th September, 2020 were confirmed and signed.

39. **REPORTS**

RESOLVED to note a report as presented by Shropshire Councillor M. Jones.

Arising from the report it was further **RESOLVED** the following:

Shropshire Councillor M. Jones to chase up with Robert Macey the position regarding potential flooding issues following installation of new drainage by Greenfields Lodge. Shropshire Councillor Jones to liaise with Steve Davenport.

- Acknowledgement of the poor standard of pothole repairs.
- Shropshire Councillor M. Jones to enquire as to the existence of a new flooding officer post at the county.
- The day burning light on the entrance to Aspen Grange being in the ownership of Shropshire Council if any reports are received.
- 3 lights off Gledrid roundabout still not working despite being reported several times.
- Light in the alleyway between The Meads and Old Chirk Road faulty.

40. **PLANNING**

a. **STAR HOUSING: Proposed Development Land off Aspen Grange**

Proposals as provided by Shropshire Council were circulated.

RESOLVED a steering group comprising Councillors Mrs. M. Rowlands, J. Wallace plus any interested parishioners be appointed to take the project forward.

b. Consideration of schedule of planning applications.

RESOLVED to note no applications had been received.

41. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

a. Wern Turn – Consideration of a letter from Shropshire Council in response to representations made.

RESOLVED not to accept the reply. To point out the hedgerow was removed 25/30 years ago on road safety grounds at the same time the bends were altered and a serious traffic hazard had been created.

Further **RESOLVED** to again request a new Albert Square name sign for the square.

42. **NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2019/20**

The Council was informed that the 2019/20 External Audit had been completed satisfactorily and on the basis of PKF Littlejohn review, in their opinion the information in the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Return was circulated.

RESOLVED to note the conclusion of audit with congratulations expressed to the Clerk on another successful audit.

43. **BUDGET 2021/22**

The Council was invited to set the Budget and Precept for 2021/22, the Budget was brought forward to the December meeting in anticipation of a further lockdown in January.

To assist discussion an estimated income and expenditure analysis for 2020/21 and 2021/22 was circulated as prepared by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

Also circulated were applications for financial assistance from Village Institute Management Committee, Friends of Chirk Bank Play Area and TNS Youth Services.

Following due debate it was **RESOLVED** to levy a Precept of £34,000 for 2021/22 as overleaf;

Weston Rhyn Parish Council
ESTIMATED OUTLINE BUDGET 2021/22

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Estimated</u> 2020/21		<u>Probable</u> 2020/21		<u>Estimated</u> 2021/22		<u>Income</u>		<u>Estimated</u> 2020/21		<u>Probable</u> 2020/21		<u>Estimated</u> 2021/22	
Administration								Administration							
Clerks Salary/Telephone/PAYE	£ 11,000.00	£ 11,000.00	£ 11,000.00	£ 11,500.00	£ 11,500.00			Precept	£ 38,500.00	£ 38,500.00	£ 38,500.00	£ 34,000.00			
Secretarial Assistance	£ 975.00	£ 975.00	£ 975.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00			Neighbourhood Fund (CIL)	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 6,000.00	£ 12,666.00			
Stationery/Postages/Computer	£ 289.00	£ 289.00	£ 289.00	£ 300.00	£ 300.00			Bank Interest	£ 40.00	£ 45.00	£ 45.00	£ 40.00			
Room Hire	£ 340.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	£ 340.00	£ 340.00			VAT Refund	£ 4,500.00	£ 4,853.00	£ 4,853.00	£ 3,500.00			
Insurance	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,187.00	£ 1,187.00	£ 1,222.00	£ 1,222.00			Insurance Claim (Noticeboard)		£ 748.00					
Audit Fees	£ 453.00	£ 556.00	£ 556.00	£ 575.00	£ 575.00										
Green Shoots	£ 50.00	-													
Defibrillator Materials	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00			Total Precept/Grant= £20,122 (13/14)							
Expenses/Training Fees	£ 100.00	-		£ 100.00	£ 100.00			Total Precept/Grant= £20,840 (14/15)							
Sundries/Election Costs				£ 100.00	£ 100.00			Total Precept/Grant= £20,000 (15/16)							
								Total Precept= £21,500 (2016/17)							
Street Lighting								Total Precept = £21,500 (2017/18)							
Lighting Energy	£ 4,500.00	£ 3,319.00	£ 3,319.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00			Total Precept = £31,000 (2018/19)							
Repairs	£ 1,750.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 250.00	£ 250.00			Total Precept =£36,000 (2019/20)							
LED Upgrade/New Columns	£ 14,400.00	£ 15,306.00	£ 15,306.00	£ 17,500.00	£ 17,500.00			Total Precept= £38,500 (2020/21)							
Churchyards & Open Spaces								Churchyards & Open Spaces							
Grass Cutting	£ 3,600.00	£ 3,600.00	£ 3,600.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,000.00			Donations							
Donations															
Miscellaneous Contributions	£ 450.00	£ 450.00	£ 450.00	£ 450.00	£ 450.00										
Friends of Chirk Bank Play Area				£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00										
Miscellaneous								Miscellaneous							
GDPR	£ 492.00	-													
Weston Rhyn Trust	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00										
TNS Youth Services				£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00										
War Memorial Repairs				£ 500.00	£ 500.00										
Village Institute	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,500.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 3,000.00			Coronavirus Grant		£ 500.00					
Subscriptions	£ 1,154.00	£ 1,154.00	£ 1,154.00	£ 1,154.00	£ 1,154.00										
Noticeboard Replacement		£ 867.00	£ 867.00												
Net income over Expenditure	£ 4,437.00	£ 5,793.00	£ 5,793.00	£ 165.00	£ 165.00			Net Expenditure over Income							
	£ 49,040.00	£ 50,646.00	£ 50,646.00	£ 50,206.00	£ 50,206.00					£ 49,040.00	£ 50,646.00	£ 50,646.00	£ 50,206.00		

Arising from the budget;

- £2,000 be reserved for Friends of Chirk Bank Play Area from the Neighbourhood Fund.
- £2,000 be provisionally reserved for TNS Youth Services to continue in the Parish, subject to the Clerk/Councillor Mrs. P. Smith liaising with Gill Jones over specific funding requirements/shortfall. If made, it to be from the Neighbourhood Fund.
- Acknowledging retirement of the Clerk to acknowledge reserves were sufficient to fund training requirements/CILCA qualification etc. for the new Clerk.
- £3,000 to be ringfenced for the Village Institute, not £5,000 as requested, it being thought any improvements to the bowling green to be funded by user contributions not from the Parish as a whole via precept increase. The £3,000 to be released in stages for specific projects supported by evidence, not paid over in one payment as previous.
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44. **COUNCIL VACANCY CO-OPTION**

The vacancy had now been advertised in the prescribed manner and the Council was invited to co-opt a new member. Applications had been received from:

Mr. J. Mattocks – Bronygarth Road

Mr. P. Ryan, Brookfield Close

Mr. L. Syrett – Birchwood Court

RESOLVED Mr. Luke Syrett be co-opted on to the Council.

45. **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk advised no report was applicable this month.

RESOLVED to note the report.

46. **PAYMENTS**

R.A. Dyke (Clerks Salary: October, 2020 and backdated	
	April-September) £571.88
Inland Revenue (PAYE: October, 2020)	£458.00
Highline Electrical Ltd (Service Transfer: Oaklands Road)	£1,139.39
St. Johns PCC (Room Hire)	£16.00

Scottish Power (Street Lighting: Energy)	£244.75
Highline Electrical (Street lighting – Repairs)	£1581.90
Scottish Power (Street Lighting: Energy)	£236.92
R.A.Dyke (Clerks Salary: November, 2020)	£511.96
Inland Revenue (Paye: November, 2020)	£376.00
RBL Poppy Appeal (Remembrance Sunday Wreath)	£20.00
SALC (Subscription)	£1019.73
Scottish Power (Street Lighting: Energy)	£244.75
PKF Littlejohn (Audit Fee 2019/20)	£360.00
Highline Electrical (Street Lighting: Repairs)	£1225.82
R.A.Dyke (Clerks Salary: December 2020)	£511.96
Inland Revenue (PAYE: December, 2020)	£376.00
R.A. Dyke (Telephone Rental)	£75.00

47. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

RESOLVED to note no items were requested for inclusion.

48. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting to be confirmed by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman subject to business to be transacted and pandemic situation.

49. **CLERKS PAY AWARD**

Notification had been received from National Joint Committee for Local Government Services that a 2.75% increase had been agreed for Council employees from 1st April, 2020.

The Clerks salary therefore increased from 1st April, 2020 to 624 hours at £16.71 per hour. £868.92 per month (Spinal Column point 28) backdated to April (£123.80 for April to September).

RESOLVED to note and confirm the pay award and increase.

50. **CLERKS RETIREMENT**

Advance notice was given of the desire of the Clerk to retire after the April 2021 meeting prior to 2021 elections. 3 months notice was required. Members were reminded a £5,000 gratuity was agreed in 2002.

The Clerk suggested that a small group of members be appointed to begin seeking a successor in consultation with SALC.

RESOLVED the group to consist of Councillor Mrs. P. Smith, L.Syrett, S.Haskell and, subject to agreement J.A. Hughes. The Group to be tasked with advertising, short-listing and recommending to full Council new Clerk appointment, salary scale and hand-over.

Members placed on record their sincere thanks to the Clerk for 32 years service and dedication acknowledging satisfactory audits had been received throughout the Clerks career.