

WESTON RHYN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Weston Rhyn Parish Council held on Monday 4th October 2021 at 7:00pm in The Village Institute, Weston Rhyn.

PRESENT: Cllr A Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr P Barnett, Cllr J Wallace, Cllr P Smith, Cllr P Manley, Cllr S Haskell, Cllr P Herbert, Cllr A Layland, Cllr S Barnett, Cllr J Mattocks, Cllr M Rowlands, Cllr A Bright (12)

Shropshire Councillors M Jones & R Macey

And 1 member of the public.

187/21 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

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

The Parish Council welcomed a gentleman from Brookfield. He informed the council that the hedges overlooking the playing fields were in need of maintenance. This could be a job for Star Housing. Cllr Mark Jones took contact details and promised to look into this.

188/21 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr L Syrett (college lecture).

189/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

To receive declarations of disclosable interests on any item included in the agenda in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011.

None disclosed.

190/21 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September, 2021 were confirmed and signed. **RESOLVED.**

191/21 **REPORTS**

RESOLVED to note reports as presented.

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

POLICE

- PCSO Peter Roberts was not present at the meeting but had sent in a brief report.
- Approximately 6 volunteers were needed to run the Speedwatch Scheme.
- The Clerk would write to the residents who had raised the speeding issue to ask if they could volunteer.
- The Clerk would also ask St Martins about their scheme.
- Cllr Layland would write about the need for volunteers in the Wren and speak to PCSO Pete Roberts.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS

- Cllr Mark Jones and Cllr Rob Macey were present and gave their reports.
- Cllr Rob Macey. Issues regarding potholes had been forwarded to Shropshire Council and he had requested a schedule of works. These were now in the system with one more pothole to be also added to the list.
- Cllr Macey had looked at the Old Chirk Rd/A5 junction and had raised this as an issue.
- Waste from Canal Boats. Cllr Macey had been in touch with the Wrexham Council officer in charge and it was on the agenda of the next stakeholder meeting. Cllr P Barnett thought the sign about the CCTV on the bin, next to the Poachers Pocket, was working.
- An enforcement was due to be taking place soon, but this was confidential and couldn't be mentioned in detail at the meeting.
- The Parish Council had been invited to express its opposition to Oswestry Ambulance Station closing. Cllr Mark Jones encouraged everyone to download the What3Words app, which was useful in medical emergencies away from usual addresses.
- Cllr Mark Jones. Regarding St Martin's Surgery, there had been a consultation then all went quiet. A decision was due last week but no news yet.
- Cllr Macey informed the meeting that there was talk to revive the LJC but there would be no secretarial help from Shropshire Council. Parish Councils will have to take this up.
- Star Housing would be buying some more housing stock to replace houses purchased by tenants. Hopefully these would have a better carbon footprint as at present, houses require £30,000 per house to get them up to standard.
- COVID – this was rising again in Shropshire and not only amongst the older members of society. For a Covid pass, download the app and dial 119 if any problems.
- 8-10 November, there would be roadworks at Pentre David.
- The SC depot at Craven Arms was closing but Whittington was remaining open.

GREEN SHOOTS

- Meeting was cancelled to make way for the Parish Council meeting, so there is still work to be done.
- Action plan was to be finalised.
- Some were doing carbon literacy training and some doing SALC training.
- Cycling grant not heard so far, but there were other potentials grants.

CHAIRMAN

- The Defib hadn't been checked this month, but it would be done next week.
- Cllr Macey and Jones were asked how often the grass verges were due to be cut. Cllr Herbert mentioned that a plan of the priorities would please councillors and residents very much. Unnecessary cutting of verges was hopefully to be avoided and then some were left too long. Some consultation of this issue would be useful. Cllr Macey mentioned that in the South of the County, wild flower planting was popular.

VILLAGE INSTITUTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Carl Rowley had sent apologies. Cllr A Bright said that most hirers were now back.

- It was discussed how cold the room was, as there was no heating on. The Clerk had requested for the heating to be on, as September's meeting had also been cold. Complaint to be sent to the Institute.

STREET LIGHTING **QUINTA LIGHT**

- Updates had been added to the Progress Report.
- Highline had been asked to replace the light at the Quinta, paid for by Scottish Power.
- There was no more news about Phase 4.
- Cllr M Jones had received a complaint that there were no lights down Trap Bank, but this had always been the case. It was explained that this was not in the budget for this year. Councillors asked who had requested this. Cllr Luke Syrett had passed it over to Cllr M Jones. The Clerk would ask Cllr Syrett.

192/21

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **21/02243/REM, Sawmills application.** An update was provided. Welsh Water had added a diagram to show where the surface drainage pipes were. This was possibly because of the letter from the Parish Council. It was noted that there were no street lights on the planning application, perhaps because of the bats. A reply from Welsh Water is still awaited.
- **21/03218/VAR, Quinta Development, Quinta Road.** An email had been sent regarding this application. Thanks to Cllr J Mattocks for writing the email. The Parish Council had asked to be kept informed. Cllr M Jones made a note of this issue.
 - Cllr A Bright asked the Shropshire Councillors if capacity had been considered for further development; GPs, schools, amenities. Cllr Macey explained that consultations are carried out.
- **21/04216/FUL Moreton Hall School, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry,** Shropshire, SY11 3EW. Conversion and change of use of redundant agricultural buildings into staff residential accommodation following the demolition of the redundant steel frame building.
Some years ago there had been an issue with the sewerage. They must consult with Welsh Water about their present system and it should be drawn to their attention. Cllr P Smith would help to write an email.
- **21/04265/FUL 4 West Lea, Rhoswiol, Weston Rhyn.** Erection of flat roof first floor extension to side.
NOTED.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

193/21

JUBILEE BEACON

- Gobowen Parish Council was thinking of purchasing a Beacon. These are apparently ca £425.
- After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that a Beacon would not be purchased but alternatives would be investigated. Clerk to notify Gobowen Parish Council.

194/21 **GREEN SHOOTS GROUP**

- The Parish Council considered making Green Shoots a committee/working group of the council and this was discussed. However, it was **RESOLVED** that the group was better remaining outside of the Parish Council but working closely with it.
- Green Shoots would request support from the Parish Council for venue hire costs for meetings. The group could also request support from Chirk Bank Community Group.

195/21 **GREEN SHOOTS GROUP AND P3**

- The Parish Council discussed combining Green Shoots and P3 to make one Environmental Group but it was **RESOLVED** that this would not be feasible as P3 does not yet exist.

196/21 **UPDATE ON LITTER BINS**

- The Council was pleased to hear that the bin at Rhoswiol had been successfully moved, as requested.

197/21 **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)**

- Cllr P Smith updated the council; a poster had been produced advertising the public meeting to be held on 15th November.
- Councillors suggested that Cllr Smith chair the meeting.
- The Clerk would advertise this on Facebook and Cllr Manley would advertise on the noticeboards and in the shop.
- Cllr Layland had incurred expenses with printing ink and could put in a claim to the Clerk.

198/21 **3 PARISHES BIG LOCAL**

- Cllr Rowlands updated the council; the money was running out and the grants would stop at the end of 2022.
- In future groups might be requesting money from Parish Council instead.
- Expert speakers would be brought along too, such as Healthy Eating, Wellness, and OsNosh. Working alongside Shropshire Rural Communities Charity.
- Hi-Vis Jackets and litter pickers have arrived.
- Cllr Bright mentioned that the footballers clear the Rec after their matches.

199/21 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- Cllr Mattocks explained that this was a very big issue, which needed serious thought on future agendas.
- This would involve consultation, separate meetings, presentations, an environmental group, a steering group and public meetings. Underneath that there would be various committees and working groups.
- The first stage would be that the Parish Council takes the decision to do this and to become a Neighbourhood Area.
- Cllr Hughes mentioned that the drone footage shows where planning is taking place and the village is not compact.

- This would be revisited at a later date.
- The Clerk would check with SALC if there was Neighbourhood Plan training available.

200/21 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

- It was **RESOLVED** that councillor surgeries would not be helpful.
- Notices would be displayed explaining that residents were welcome to come to the Parish Council meetings to address the council. Those not wanting to do that, could write to or phone the clerk or any councillor with an issue for the agenda.
- This would be advertised by the clerk on boards, Facebook and the Wren.

201/21 **PLACE PLAN REVIEW GROUP**

- Cllr M Rowlands updated the Council; the last list for Weston Rhyn was written in 2019 and this has developed across the villages over the years.
- The Place Plan requires reviewing and Cllrs Layland and Mattocks agreed to help Cllr Rowlands with this.

202/21 **DEFIB**

- Awaiting reply from Lois Dale re transfer of telephone box at Chirk Bank.
- First Responder, Effie Cadwallader had been contacted.
- Application to 3 Parishes Big Local was required. The British Heart Foundation no longer accepted applications.
- Sources such as Moreton Hall and Chirk Bank Community Group were mentioned.
- It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to ask for a Big Local application form and to send a letter to Chirk Bank Community Group asking for a donation.

HIGHWAYS

203/21 **WERN TURN**

- Photos had been viewed from Streetview as well as current photos.
- Laurel hedges have been planted, which would grow quickly.
- Shropshire Council had said that the matter was closed but it can't be closed as visibility is poor.
- Cllr Mattocks would be interested to know what the Shropshire Council statutory duty was with regard to road visibility.
- The council could potentially ask for 'Blind Junction' signs or a mirror to be placed.
- After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to Highways requesting urgent action on this matter, enclosing Cllr Smith's photos.

204/21 **DIVERSIONS VIA OAKLANDS ROAD**

- Cllr P Barnett updated the council. This was not the first time that diversions had been sent down Oaklands Road. There was a 2 ton weight limit on the canal bridge and there was a bad pinch-point on this road.
- Lorries get stuck and residents have to come into the road to help them.
- Trehowell Lane was another part of the diversion, also inappropriate.

- Cllr Mattocks said there needed to be local knowledge in the planning.
- It was **RESOLVED** that a complaint was needed from the Parish Council to Shropshire Council.
- Cllrs Barnett and Mattocks would help put a complaint together.
- A map could be sent with roads marked 'Unsuitable'.

205/21 **FLASHING SPEED SIGN**

- Consultation was needed with the village.
- Possibility of 8 needed at £2500 each.
- **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to other local councils to find out numbers, costs, funding and consultation issues.
- Clerk to ask Highways for their opinion on these signs.

206/21 **ARRIVA BUS DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS**

- Cllr Layland updated the Council. There was a shortage of drivers, causing delays and cancellations.
- Some found the app troublesome.
- Timetables are out of date and placed wrongly.
- It was **RESOLVED** to write to Arriva about this.
- Cllr Mattocks wanted Bus Stops and Sunday services to go on the November agenda.
- *Cllr Mattocks left the meeting at 21:19.*

207/21 **SPEEDING MOTORISTS**

- A resident had written to the Council. The Clerk would invite him to future meetings.

208/21 **TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS**

On which at least 48 hours' notice has been given, no discussion to take place thereon.

None to answer.

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

209/21 **STANDING ORDERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

- Councillors were requested to read the Standing Orders before the next meeting and come back with suggestions and notes.

210/21 **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

- The report had been received from PKF Littlejohn and noted. The Council had received an unqualified (clean) audit report with one minor mention for future accounts reporting.
- Past Clerk, Roger Dyke, was thanked for his work on this audit before he retired.

211/21 **PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED to confirm payment of;

	To authorise the payments as per the schedule below			
	2241	Clerk	639.17	Clerk's Salary September 2021
	2242	HMRC	168.66	Tax and NIC Period 7
	2243	EE - Ruabon CC	17.10	Clerk's Mobile September
	2244	Village Institute	24.00	Room hire for September meeting
	2245	Highline	187.80	July repairs
	2246	PKF Littlejohn	360.00	External Audit
			1396.73	TOTAL

212/21 **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

The main items of correspondence had been shared with the council with 2 important items added to the agenda.

- It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter regarding the closure of the Oswestry Ambulance Base.
- It was **RESOLVED** to write to Shropshire Council about the reduction of the Place Overview Planning Committee.

213/21 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

RESOLVED to note;

Cllr Barnett wanted clarification about CIL money/Neighbourhood Fund and Section 106 money.

214/21 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED the next meeting to be held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7pm in the Institute.

Date for the P3 Public Meeting - 15th November at the Institute at 7pm.

MEETING CLOSED at 9.33pm.