

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Vacant

Locum Clerk: Anne Cousins

Chairman: Cllr Fred Jones

26 January 2016

Minutes of a Full Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Monday 18 January 2016 in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Jones (Chairman), Breeze, Ms Candy, Clarke, Gordon, Gouge, Keel, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Whittall.

In attendance: Anne Cousins – Locum Clerk; Caroline Higgins, newly-appointed Clerk; and one member of the public.

FC1.16 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Parkhurst (work) and Cllr Mrs Trickett (another commitment).

FC2.16 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST** – There were no declarations beyond those recorded in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Cllr Clarke reiterated that his wife was the key-holder for the Long Meadow play park and that he was the Parish Council representative for Bayston Hill Crown Green Bowling Club. Mrs Whittall reiterated that her son-in-law rents the Lythwood Sports Facilities.

FC3.16 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – Mr Glossop, member of the public, referred to Local Joint Committee meeting which had taken place in November. He said the Full Council minutes of 30 November, which had discussed the Local Joint Committee, had not mentioned some significant points, such as the proposal to build a new vicarage on the Oakland/Glebeland site. A particular concern of his was whether or not Oakmeadow Primary School could cope with additional children as he had heard at the Local Joint Committee meeting that it was not possible to extend the school.

In response, Cllr Clarke confirmed there was space available at the school and the comment at the Local Joint Committee meeting had been inaccurate. Cllr Ms Candy added she had also attended the Local Joint Committee and remembered hearing that the school had sufficient capacity. She said the school admissions process was complex, but that Shropshire Council Admissions Team had been complimented at an independent tribunal on their analysis and accuracy.

Mr Glossop further asked why a Parish Council Planning Committee representative had joined the Oakland/Glebeland Steering Group. Cllr Mrs Lewis explained she had attended her first meeting last week and she did not feel it compromised her position as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

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FC4.16 **MINUTES** – It was **proposed** by Cllr Mrs Lewis, **seconded** by Cllr Breeze and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 30 November accepted as a true record.

FC5.16 **MATTERS ARISING –**

FC119.15 **NHS Future Fit** – Cllr Keel was disappointed the Locum Clerk had not been able to trace the letter to Shropshire Defend our NHS. He added there was now a threat to ShropDoc. The Locum Clerk said this would be discussed in her report later on the agenda.

FC6.16 **CHAIR'S REPORT** – The Chair welcomed Caroline Higgins to the meeting and said she would be taking up her post as Clerk on Monday 1 February. He thanked all councillors involved in the recruitment process. He went on to thank Emma Kay for her input over the past three years and thanked Anne Cousins for all her work since November. He said the Parish Council would help Mrs Higgins as much as possible and welcomed her to the team. He then reminded councillors that the play park at Long Meadow was due to be refurbished in the next couple of weeks and he welcomed the long-awaited pedestrian crossing on the A49.

FC7.16 **CLERK'S REPORT** – The Locum Clerk's report covered the following points:

Honours Board, Plaques and Chairman's Chain – These were all on display at the meeting. The former Clerk, Emma Kay, had arranged for these to be done. The honours board listed the Parish Council Chairmen; the Chairman's chain had been extended by several links; and the plaques were to be put in place on the Parade, the Common and by the eagle sculpture.

Shrop.Net – The Locum Clerk informed Council that shrop.net, which operated the Parish Council website, was being de-commissioned in June and that Shropshire Council would no longer provide support from March. As the new Clerk was about to take up her post, this item was for information only, but she suggested putting this matter on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting in February. **Action – Clerk.**

ShropDoc - The Locum Clerk had circulated information to councillors concerning a possible change in out of hours medical arrangements. The Shropshire Defend our NHS Group had informed Town and Parish Councils that the out of hours service was being re-tendered and ShropDoc could potentially be replaced by a regional service based on the NHS 111 phone line. Cllr Keel **proposed** and Cllr Mrs Whittall **seconded** that the Parish Council write in support of ShropDoc. Cllr Keel further added that the letter about Future Fit (paraFC5.16 above refers) should also be sent. **Action – Locum Clerk.**

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FC8.16

REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE – Cllr Clarke reported on the following:

Change of Leadership at Shropshire Council – Cllr Keith Barrow had resigned as Leader of the Council and as a councillor in December. The new leader was Cllr Malcolm Pate. Cllr Clarke said this change in leadership had also brought in a change in philosophy, which he welcomed. The new Leader had already confirmed Shirehall would not be sold off; instead, more services would be moved into the building. Other changes were a willingness to lobby central government about the demise of the rate support grant and a review of the Council-owned company, ip&e.

Big Conversation – Shropshire Council was giving residents the chance to share their views on how the Council should deal with the funding cuts it faced. These views would be taken into account when the Council set its budget for the next financial year.

Broadband – The take-up of superfast fibre optic broadband in Bayston Hill was currently 22%.

Highways England – At a recent meeting, Cllr Clarke had heard that Highways England was considering a grade-separated junction at Dobbies island by 2024/25.

Cllr Mrs Lewis reminded everyone that the Public Inquiry into the Gorse Lane planning application was due to take place from 26-30 January and she encouraged everyone to attend.

There was a short discussion about Shirehall, with questions being asked about maintenance costs and which services were likely to be moved back there.

FC9.16

TO APPROVE AND SIGN ALL PAYMENTS – Cllr Keel requested that water and waste collection costs at the Pavilion be put on the agenda for the next Amenities Committee meeting. **Action – Locum Clerk.**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Mrs Whittall, **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Lewis and **RESOLVED** to authorise the Parish Council to pay the invoices presented to the meeting.

F10.16

PRECEPT 2016/17 – The Chairman introduced the report and invited questions. Cllr Mrs Lewis asked the cost per household if the precept were to be increased. The Locum Clerk replied that a Band D equivalent household would pay £71.95 next year, compared to the £68.50 paid in the current financial year.

Cllr Keel **proposed**, Cllr Gordon **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** to increase the precept for 2016/17 by £6000 to £125,000 due to increased staff costs.

FC11.16

COMMUNITY-LED PLAN – There was no progress to report.

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FC12.16 **OAKLAND/GLEBEFIELD DEVELOPMENT BRIEF** – The Chairman had reported vandalism at the site of the former Oakland school to the police. Cllr Clarke reported that there had been no progress on the development brief since the Local Joint Committee meeting in November.

FC13.16 **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES** – The Locum Clerk presented an updated list of committee membership and outside body representation. The following changes were agreed:

Committee Membership

Finance Committee – Cllr Ms Candy to join.

Parish Council Representatives

Area Local Committee – Cllr Breeze to replace Cllr Mrs Lewis.

Thomas Bowdler Educational Charity – Cllr Ms Candy.

SC Emergency Planning – Cllr Keel

Memorial Hall – Cllr Clarke

Allotment Association – Cllr Clarke

CPRE – Cllr Ms Candy

The only vacancy remaining was for the Patient Participation Group at the Beeches Medical Practice. The representative had to be a patient at the practice.

FC14.16 **MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2015/16** – The Locum Clerk drew attention to two additional meetings, an Amenities Review on 25 April and a joint Amenities/Finance meeting on 14 November. Cllr Mrs Lewis said the Planning Committee had agreed to meet at 7.30 pm when they had stand-alone meetings and requested the footnote on the schedule be changed to reflect this. **Action – Locum Clerk.**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Keel and **seconded** by Cllr Breeze and **RESOLVED** to accept the schedule.

FC15.16 **LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME** – The Locum Clerk was pleased to report that, following a meeting of the SALC Accreditation Panel on 18 December 2015, the Parish Council had attained the Foundation Award in the Local Council Award Scheme, subject to the completion of some minor changes to the website. A further meeting of the Panel on 22 January 2016 would check the website before confirming the award.

The Chairman referred to point 6 in the letter, with regard to training for the new Clerk, and reiterated that the Parish Council fully supported the need for training. He congratulated all involved in the achievement of the award.

FC16.16 **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES** – Cllr Mrs Whittall **proposed**, Cllr Breeze **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and recommendations of the Finance Committee meeting held on 26 October 2015 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 30 November 2016 be adopted.

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FC17.16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** - It was **proposed** by Cllr Mrs Whittall, **seconded** by Cllr Mrs Lewis and **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public under LGA 1972 ss 100 (2), so as to discuss Confidential matters.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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