

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins
Chairman: Cllr Tim Ryan

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on **Monday 7 October 2019** in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Lewis, (Vice Chair); Gouge; Clode; Whittall; Robinson; Howells and Jones;

Attending from 7:05pm Cllrs Wright; Parkhurst; Clarke; Ryan; and Underwood

In attendance:

Caroline Higgins, Clerk; Mr P Glossop;

At 7pm Cllr Mrs Lewis, (Vice chair) opened the meeting in the absence of the Chair. She reported that Cllr Ryan had resigned his position as Chair on the previous Friday. Due to the short notice she proposed to Chair the scheduled meeting in her capacity as Vice Chair and defer election of a new Chair to a later meeting.

74.19/20 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE –** Cllr Hudson's apologies were noted and accepted.

75.19/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** Cllr Whittall declared her interest in football pitches, which are hired by her son-in-law.

76.19/20 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS –** The Council noted the apologies sent by Mr Glossop who had intended to speak.

77.19/20 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –** In the absence of Cllr Clarke this item was deferred.

At 7:05pm Cllr Wright joined the meeting.

At 7:07pm Cllrs Clarke, Ryan, Parkhurst and Underwood joined the meeting

78.19/20 **MINUTES –** Cllr Whittall spoke to express concern that she did not receive minutes circulated electronically and proposed the draft minutes be discussed in an open meeting . Cllr Ryan proposed an amendment that glaring errors be reported to the Clerk upon receipt to ensure an accurate draft be considered at the meeting. The amended motion was seconded by Cllr Robinson and the motion was carried by 8 votes in favour to 1 against. There were 3 abstentions.

Cllr Parkhurst expressed concern that the minutes omitted discussion on attendance of the Market Towns Forum and considered that no permission had been granted for anybody to attend. Cllr Clarke proposed a correction be made to the minutes to show a discussion had been held about attendance at the Market Towns Forum, which was not supported*. The Council voted in favour of the correction with two abstentions.

**Post meeting note: Attendance at this meeting had been approved by the Council at the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May 2019 – minute 13.19/20 bullet 2 refers)*

The Vice Chair proposed that the revised draft minutes be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

The Vice Chair invited Cllr Clarke to present his deferred report

77.19/20

SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr Clarke spoke at length about ongoing budget restraints; he then reported

- The new school proposed at Bowbrook would be a ‘free school’.
- The Central Planning Committee has been dissolved and Shrewsbury planning applications will be decided by the North Shropshire Planning Committee
- Flooding at Pulley Lane was being addressed by Highways
- Various private matters brought to his monthly surgery were being addressed
- Plastic street signs have been installed to replace rotten wooden ones at various sites in the village

Cllr Parkhurst tabled a question about school IT software issues and was informed that electronic systems have been under review for some time.

79.19/20

CHAIR’S REPORT - *Cllr Parkhurst asked when the Chairman’s resignation would be discussed. The Vice chair reiterated her opening statement that she would chair the meeting as Vice Chair to enable election of a new Chair to be elected at a specially convened meeting; Cllr Parkhurst then proposed that Cllr Ryan be reinstated as Chair. Cllr Underwood seconded the motion. Cllr Ryan asked the Vice Chair to continue in the Chair whilst he considered the proposal.*

Cllr Ryan was invited to give his report from the body of the Council:

Community Speed Watch – Cllr Ryan reported that three residents had agreed to take part in a Community Speed Watch and had been introduced to each other. It was proposed by Cllr Parkhurst, seconded by Cllr Clarke and **resolved unanimously that the volunteers be supported by the Council and that they be invited to report back to the Council.**

Website Review – Cllr Ryan reported he had met with the website hosts WebOrchard and arranged for dedicated Council email addresses to be set up for all Council members. Log in details will be issued in due course.

Recording of Meetings – Cllr Ryan proposed that meetings be recorded in future to assist with resolution of disputes over the accuracy of minutes.

The Council discussed how these would be used and it was confirmed that written minutes of meetings would continue to be made and retained as the official record once approved for accuracy. Confidential discussions would not be recorded.

The Council discussed putting the recordings on the Council website but this was not proposed

Cllr Parkhurst commented that Charles Danscombe (Micro Video Shrewsbury Ltd), based in the Parish have technical expertise and can advise on technical requirements.

Cllr Clarke expressed his concern about recording meetings and suggested that the Council undertakes further research before reaching a decision.

Cllr Underwood proposed an amendment to Cllr Ryan’s proposal; that Charles Danscombe be invited to report on technical requirements and that Cllr Ryan seeks legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and develops a written policy for consideration by the Council.

80.19/20

CLERK’S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING – The Council noted the written report that had been distributed with the agenda and received the following update:

Street Lighting – A meeting had been held with Jason Hughes, Shropshire Council officer the previous week. He had expressed reluctance to adopt all of the parish lights due to the significant financial commitment, which would require approval by the relevant portfolio holder at Shropshire Council. He indicated that Shropshire Council would not adopt concrete columns or lights which may have asbestos seals. They may consider adopting some lights on a phased basis if they met with Shropshire Council’s adoptable standard.

After some discussion on the need to develop a strategic plan to deal with aging concrete lighting columns it was **resolved unanimously to request adoption of the street lights on Longmeadow, which had been recently upgraded.**

It was also agreed to get the columns electrically tested.

SmartWater – We Don't Buy Crime – Members of the Council were invited to sign up to cover the weekly SmartWater sessions in the library and the fireworks display session. A list of dates was circulated.

Community Led Planning Event – Noted

Bayston Hill / Lyth Hill 10K Run – The Clerk reported that a local organisation wished to hold a new competitive race starting from our pavilion at Lythwood and incorporating a part road / part off road route around the village and along Lyth Hill. The Council noted that permission would need to be given by Shropshire Council for road closures and the Lyth Hill section and that provision would be required to protect the Dexter cattle on the hill but agreed to the principle that the pavilion compound be made available for a negotiated fee, subject to satisfactory insurance arrangements and agreements that the route and compound be fully cleaned up and reinstated after the event.

Cross Country Run – Oakmeadow School – The Council agreed to a request by Oakmeadow Primary School to use Stanley Parker Playing Fields and the Sensory Garden for a school fun run on 7 November.

Geocache Trail – The Council supported the installation of a geocache trail on their land and throughout the village.

Tree Survey – The Council granted delegated authority to the Clerk and Chair to approve the costs of a tree survey when available.

Common Stones – The Clerk reported on a recent meeting with the quarry manager. **It was resolved unanimously that notice be given to residents prior to installing dragons teeth at the Common.**

81.19/20 **REMOVAL OF PAYPHONES** – The Council was deeply concerned that the proposed removals would leave no public phone in the village. It was noted that the village is relatively isolated with no public transport in the evenings or on Sundays. The payphone is located near to social housing and a public access defibrillator. The consistency and quality of mobile phone coverage in the village is poor and unreliable. **It was resolved unanimously to object to the removal of the remaining payphones.**

82.19/20 **YOUTH STRATEGY SURVEY** – The Council noted the launch of Shropshire Council's consultation and it was resolved that members send their responses to the open questions to the Clerk by the end of October to enable a draft response to be prepared for approval at the next meeting.

83.19/20 **PAVILION WORKING GROUP REPORT** – Cllr Lewis tabled an updated plan of the proposed pavilion developments, prepared by Dave Engler incorporating the discussions at the last working party meeting held on 3 October. Cllr Lewis briefly explained that the proposals were provisional ideas, broken down into four phases and were provided for the Council to

Signed:..... Date:.....

give their initial feedback. She requested that members' comments on the proposals be channelled back through her in the first instance.

Cllr Lewis observed that the Parish Council has no digital mapping license and suggested it considers taking a license from Parish Online. She has requested a quotation for the license. This software would enable the Council to record the locations of its assets; produce images for use on publicity materials and produce maps for a variety of projects. It was noted that Shropshire Council has a digital mapping service and agreed to initially investigate whether the Parish Council can make use of their system and whether it can be edited to meet the needs of the Parish.

It was noted that the developments proposed would require planning permission and it was proposed by Cllr Clarke that an application be made to Shropshire Council for Pre-application Advice.

Cllr Underwood proposed that a sports hall could be managed as a business concern to provide a profit. He had prepared a ball park illustration for discussion which was shared with the Council.

It was resolved that the plans presented be discussed at a special meeting. Cllr Jones requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr Engler for producing the drawings.

At 9:00pm Cllr Whittall proposed that the meeting be extended to enable the business on the agenda to be completed. This was resolved.

- 84.19/20 **COMMUNITY LED PLAN** – Cllr Underwood was thanked for collating the results of the Big Survey into a presentable format. This had been shared with the Steering Group with a request that it is published on their website. (It was noted that part of the results had already been published).
- 85.19/20 **AMENITIES** - Cllr Parkhurst proposed that the Amenities items be deferred to another meeting. This was resolved.
- 86.19/20 **AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS** – The Clerk tabled a list of payments becoming due. The Council unanimously approved the payments listed and authorised the Chair to confirm staff payroll and associated payments for October when available.
- 87.19/20 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** – It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public under LGA 1972 ss 100 (2), so as to discuss Confidential matters.
- 88.19/20 **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS** – *At 9:05pm the Clerk declared her interest and left the meeting, leaving Cllr Howells to record the minutes for the confidential discussion items.*

Signed:..... Date:.....

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