

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, D Jones, P Heywood, A Windows and A Hodges

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais (via Zoom)

Public present: None

In Attendance: Mathew Mead Place Plan Officer, Shropshire Council (via Zoom)

108.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Gregory, R Evans, T Mackenzie-Slight, J Pritchard, N Lewis, M Trow, and Cllr S Davies

109.24 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

110.24 Public Questions and Comments - None

111.24 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th October 2024.

112.24 Place Plan for Minsterley and Pontesbury

Cllrs received a verbal update giving the background of the Place Plan from Mathew Mead (MM) and how it is used to provide the infrastructure necessary for the development included in the Shropshire Council Development Plan and local improvement projects wanted by the community. Projects in Band A and B are driven by Shropshire Council or partners such as Severn Trent/National Rail, Education and Health partners and projects in Band C are the local projects led by Town and Parish Councils and funded by CIL Neighbourhood fund. Firstly councillors considered the projects included in the existing Place Plan which was ratified by SC Cabinet in May. The meeting today is to prioritise these projects in the context of a difficult financial climate to maximise and best use the funds available.

Cllr Fletcher raised 2 projects which are on the existing list. The bus Park at Mary Webb School and the junction improvements at the bottom of Hall Bank.

MM explained that with the **bus park** a highly engineered project was drawn up in 2020 which would cost £750k. It had been decided that this level of engineering was not needed and SC would look at a lower cost project to address the still problematic issue of parking and buses around the school. MM suggested that the new Sustainable Travel Officers be engaged to use their expert knowledge of similar projects in Shropshire and further afield. It was agreed to keep this project in the PP and take it forward. It is a Band B project so SC

would take the lead. Other partners such as the Mary Webb Academy and Sport England would need to be involved.

Improvements at the bottom of Hall Bank MM explained that the degree of local opposition to the plans put forward by SC meant that SC Officers had had to move on to other projects. However, the widening of the footpath at the bottom of Hall Bank had already been allocated funding and is subject to a S.106 agreement with Shropshire Homes, therefore this project would go ahead. MM would check the date that S.106 funds had to be spent by.

Cllr Hignett asked if the part of the improvements planned that concerned raising the road level could be included as they represent a relatively low-cost solution to the flooding issues in this area.

Traffic calming projects in the PP: MM explained that any projects around the county regarding introducing speed limits, that are being taken forward are prioritised based on accident data and involve Department of Transport criteria concerning streetlighting, straight road sections etc. The programme of these works has been drawn up and are funded through the Highway Safety Budget. Any requests from Town and Parish Councils are not a priority currently for SC as there are no funds allocated for such projects. If T&PCs want to take these forward they would need to use CIL Neighbourhood Funds or external grants. Often these projects are requested based on perception rather than reality and SC are looking at technology that can be used to gain accurate data about speeding and the types of traffic using the area. SC is open to exploring with T&PCs where this equipment could be used to help explore local solutions.

Cllr Hodges asked if the increased percentage of CIL NF had increased this year in line with the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. MM said that his interpretation was that any application after the adoption of the NP would attract the higher percentage of CIL funds, but would check this.

The group then went on to look at any additional community projects to be added to the PP. MM said that SC were hoping to secure additional funding for Active Travel projects and that any Quiet Lane projects could be looked at as part of these projects as the existing Quiet Lane policies were not very clear about practical implementation of such projects. Cllr Hignett gave an update on the Access for All grant that was funding upgrading of the Old Railway cycling/walking route between the Station Rd play area and Pontesford. It was hoped to secure further funding to upgrade from Pontesford to the tunnel under the A488 and to engage Spring Lea fisheries who now own a further stretch of the Old Railway Line up to Halston Cottages. It was agreed in light of this positive activity to keep the **walking/cycle route from Pontesbury to Shrewsbury** on the project list.

Junction with Malehurst Industrial estate. Highways need more information about the traffic/speeding issues along this route. Any additional information from residents should be sent to MM.

Cllr Hodges raised the signage from the Montgomery Road and from the A488 into Cruckton and that it needs to be moved to the main roads, not alert HGV vehicles after they have turned into the narrow roads around Cruckton, when remedial action is difficult. MM felt that this may be a good area to try the data capturing cameras to monitor HGV use along these roads. It was generally felt that moving the signage was a relatively cheap option and less complicated than going down the speed limit avenue.

Clerk asked about adding the solar panels on the Pavilion roof and will submit a nomination form to be added to the PP. MM felt that this would also be useful evidence if additional grants were being sought.

Cllr Fletcher asked how much of the £900k currently in the CIL Local Fund pot had been allocated. MM replied that an estimated £200k was allocated for the extension of the footpath in Minsterley.

MM said it would be helpful if priorities for this fund were submitted in the next few months and explained that it was essential that any applications to this fund should be able to demonstrate a direct link between recent development and the need for the infrastructure in the immediate area. Projects around flooding and speeding are more difficult to link as those issues existed prior to the development.

It was agreed that the priorities for projects in the PP were as follows:

1. Footpath widening at the bottom of Hall Bank which were linked to the PC support for the development and addressed local resident's concerns
2. Public toilets refurbishment. MM felt that it was likely to be viewed by SC CIL team, that this should be funded using CIL NF/external grant streams with possibly some top-up from CIL Local as it served a wider area. The next feasible round of CIL Local applications would be in February 2025. MM offered help and support for an application.
3. Play Area – MM explained that CIL Local is not usually allocated to projects where there is a like for like replacement. An enhanced offer such as adult fitness equipment and potentially combining it with a parking area for the village (project 1084 on the PP), would be more favourably viewed, but again it would be expected that a large proportion of the funds would come from CIL NF/external grants scheme with a possible contribution from CIL Local.
4. Councillors would also like the safer crossing points at the top of Hall Bank included
5. MM suggested that if any residents report mobile/Broadband coverage issues these should be reported to him.

A pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Bogey Lane/Castle St was mentioned but MM felt that this could be looked at as part of the bus/parking solution around the School. A pedestrian crossing from Pound Lane to Hanwood School was brought up and MM felt that this could be considered as part of the wider LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plans)

113.24 CIL Neighbourhood Fund. There was a discussion about the £43,104.20 unallocated CIL NF. After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that £30k be allocated for the public toilet refurbishment and £13k allocated for the play area upgrade.**

114.24 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th November 2024 at The Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 19.52pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council