

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 8th January 2024 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, J Pritchard, A Brookes, R Evans, N Lewis, D Gregory, D Jones, P Heywood and A Windows

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: Two residents

164.23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received Cllrs S Davies and C Sandells

165.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

166.23 Public Questions and Comments – A resident present at the meeting wished to report the sewerage on the road at the bottom of Brook Rise. Cllr Hignett will investigate this matter

167.23 Minutes of Council

Cllr Hodges wished to note that the minutes referred to Natural Landscapes but it should be National Landscapes. After a proposal from Cllr Hodges with the amendments mentioned, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023.

168.23 Statutory Business and Finance

168.23.1 Income of -£6870.95. This was because the receipt of £10,250 for the Thriving Families grant had been paid straight out to St George's Church youth project.

168.23.2 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve payments of £14,912.59 as attached list.

168.23.3 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £20,000 from CCLA reserves to Unity current account to cover payments from earmarked reserves to Pontesbury Sports Association and Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group and for general January/February payments

168.23.4 Budget for 2024-25. After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget of £251,413 offset by using £11,000 from Earmarked reserves.

168.23.5 Precept request for 2024-25. After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the precept request of £240,413 which is a 37p/week increase on a Band D property.

Clerk to put an explanatory note about the budget into the newsletter.

Caroline Higgins (Finance Officer) left the meeting.
Cllr Nick Hignett joined the meeting

169.23 Police Matters- Cllr Pritchard wished Clerk to write to John Campion, Police & Crime Commissioner to request using volunteers to combat rural crime (as in Wiltshire force) or returning to the use of Ringmaster scheme.

170.23 Community Report – Deferred to February meeting. Cllrs Lewis/Fletcher wished to thank Cllr Davies and all of the volunteers involved. Cllr Lewis had attended the Christmas lunch which had been a great occasion and very well organised.

171.23 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett gave a verbal report including:

BUDGET CONSULTATION—Shropshire Council, like many other County Councils up and down the Country, is facing ongoing financial pressures, mainly from Adult and Childrens Social Care Services, which already accounts for almost 80% of the budget. The budget consultation for the 2024/2025 financial year ends on 28th January, and is seeking the Public’s views on plans to make around £50m of spending reductions. It is clear that difficult decisions will need to be made, some services will need to be delivered differently, other services may need to stop altogether. The online survey is available at www.shropshire.gov.uk/budget24 or copies are available in main libraries, including Pontesbury.

SHREWSBURY PANTOMIME—Ticket sales for this winter’s pantomime season at Theatre Severn have smashed box office records, setting a new attendance figure. The show opened on 29th November 2023 and closed on Sunday 7th January 2024, after 71 performances. 95% of tickets were sold, with more than 43,000 people attending. It is officially the Theatre’s most successful Pantomime since the venue opened in 2009.

PONTESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN—Shropshire Council, at their December meeting, voted unanimously to formally adopt the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan, after statements by Myself and Councillor Evans. This is the final step for the Plan to now be used for future planning in the area, with immediate effect.

RIVERSIDE AND SMITHFIELD AREA—The Council has now issued a Tender for a contract-worth up to £315,000-for the Ground Investigation Work needed before any physical work taking place. The specification involves drilling a number of boreholes to allow Engineers to assess the conditions below the surface. The intention, subject to planning permission being granted, is to demolish the Riverside Shopping Centre, as well as walkways and bridges between the buildings and the Raven Meadows multi-storey car park and the Darwin Centre.

FINALLY—We all know many of the leisure and visitor attractions in our area, but Shropshire has been named as one of the World’s Top 10 Tourist Destinations to watch, by renowned travel experts ABTA-The Travel Association.

The report says “ This idyllic English County on the Welsh Border has some of the Country’s most beautiful Landscapes, Towns and Villages. Shropshire is not only a Rural Gem, it was also the Birthplace of the Industrial Revolution”

Cllr Fletcher reiterated that individual councillors can complete the consultation on the proposed SC 2024-25 budget

Cllr Pritchard asked who is responsible for allocating homes for example on the new Mount Close Housing Association development. Cllr Fletcher would contact Housing Plus to find out what the allocation procedure is

Cllr Pritchard raised the issue of whether future housing provision in Shropshire is adequate. Cllr Evans responded that the SC Local Plan has been further delayed as the Planning Inspector has raised a number of issues around the planned housing provision in the proposed Local Plan.

Cllr Pritchard asked if SC were in danger of going into 'Special Measures'. Cllr Hignett explained that many councils around the country are facing the threat of 'Special Measures'. SC have saved 80% of the savings which need to be made by the 31 March 2024.

172.23 Planning

172.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th December 2023.

172.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 2nd January 2024 which was **NOTED**.

172.23.3 **PLANNING REFERENCE: 23/05179/FUL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Erection of calf housing. LOCATION: Newnham Hall, Yockleton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 9PX. Comment to be submitted:**

Council support this application as the proposed building is a much needed updated structure and is located in a position that will not have a negative impact on the surrounding landscape or adjacent listed building

172.23.4 **PLANNING REFERENCE - 23/05280/FUL. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Erection of a detached open market dwelling and garage. LOCATION: - Proposed Dwelling Plot 3 To The South Of Breidden Cottage, Shrewsbury Road, Pontesbury, Comment to be submitted:**

The Parish Council opposes this application. Whilst within the development boundary and in a sustainable position it is contrary to both the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan CS11. In recent years a preponderance of large four bed houses has been approved/ built on Shrewsbury Road leading to an imbalance in the size and type of housing provided contrary to CS11.

Policy HOU2 of the Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan states that infill housing will be supported where one or more properties provides for the needs of older or younger generations subject to clear evidence of such needs which has been clearly demonstrated in the 2 recent housing surveys which underpin this Neighbourhood Plan policy.

The Parish Council would look more favourably on a dwelling on this plot which is in line with Neighbourhood Plan policy.

172.23.6 **PLANNING REFERENCE - 23/05229/LBC. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Revision to approved application 22/01320/LBC to facilitate the erection of two single storey extensions to rear and side elevations with internal alterations. LOCATION: - Sibberscote Manor, Shorthill, Lea Cross, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Comment to be submitted:**

The parish council is happy to support this small extension to a previously approved application. The scale and proposed materials are such that there will be no negative impact on the listed building. The window changes proposed are in keeping with the existing window design.

172.23.7 **PLANNING REFERENCE - 23/05369/FUL. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Revised Kitchen Alterations. LOCATION: - Sibberscote Manor, Shorthill, Lea Cross, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Comment to be submitted.**

The parish council is happy to support this small extension to a previously approved application. The scale and proposed materials are such that there will be no negative impact on the listed building. The window changes proposed are in keeping with the existing window design

173.23 Health & Safety matters – None

174.23 Pavilion Committee

155.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 27th November 2023**

155.23.2 There wasn't a Pavilion Committee meeting in December so nothing to report.

175.23 Personnel Committee

Cllr Pritchard wishes to remain a member of the Personnel Committee

176.23 Lea Cross junction

After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders so that a resident of Lea Cross could explain their request to put in place speed restrictions around the Lea Cross junction which is a dangerous junction particularly for cyclists using the National Cycling Network route. The speed restrictions requested were from the Tandoori restaurant through to the junction with Spring Lea fisheries/Halston Cottages.**

Cllr Gregory raised the issue that evidence/accident data will be needed to back up the request.

After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.**

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to add the request for speeding restrictions between the Tandoori restaurant and the junction with Spring Lea fisheries/Halston Cottages, to the Minsterley and Pontesbury Place Plan. Clerk to email Mathew Mead, SC Place Plan Officer**

177.23 Clerk's Report

A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. Clerk reported that the public meeting about the Hall Bank junction improvements had been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Clerk also reported that the streetlight contractor will start the LED conversion work in February to be completed by 31 March 2024.

178.23 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

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| Cllr Hignett | A resident had requested a bus shelter for the stop at School Green. This would be added to the February agenda |
| Cllr Windows | The clearing of drains had been reported on FixMyStreet but nothing seemed to have been done. Cllr Hignett would chase this up. Councillors were asked to check that issues that they have reported are still on FixMyStreet and are accurate. Some reports are coming back completed when in fact this isn't the case. Cllr Evans said that the reporting service was under review |
| Cllr Trow | There is significant flooding in a number of places around Cruckton due to a failure of drains maintenance. This has been reported but no action yet taken. |
| Cllr Gregory | Had added issues with the footpath from Hinton Cottages to Lea Cross to FixMyStreet |

- Cllr Pritchard The hedge between the Plough and Linley Avenue needs cutting – this had been reported to Housing Plus. Cllr Fletcher would chase this
- Potholes on the road between Pontesbury and Habberley have been filled but the drains not cleared so there is a risk of the infill being eroded by flooding
- Cllr Jones Solar light no. 12 on the cycleway still not working. Clerk had reported this. A burst water main on Malehurst had resulted in debris being washed into the gullies. Cllr Jones has reported this to Severn Trent Water.
- Cllr Heywood Roads in Plealey need sweeping as mud and leaves collecting. Potholes have been repaired but are now breaking up again. Cllrs Evans/Hignett would report the damage to pothole repairs
- Cllr Lewis Main road between the one stop shop and Bennet’s Business Centre is a mess, particularly where cars are constantly parking. Any work would need cones put out to stop parking so a proper clean can take place
- Cllr Hodges A Road Closed sign has been left in the verge by Cruckmeole bus shelter. The failure to comply with planning conditions regarding the garden of Quercus Dominus needs to be reported to the Planning Enforcement Officer
- Cllr Fletcher A group of young people had been very polite and helpful to Cllr Fletcher when he was doing the play area checks

Cllr Pritchard left the meeting

179.23 Exclusion of the Public. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** that exclusion of the Press & Public be made on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information (s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960).

180.23 HR and Health and Safety Support for parish Council
 Councillors considered 3 quotes received for the provision of HR and H&S support for the council. The Personnel Committee had scrutinised the quotes and met with the various providers. After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE company 2 to provide both services for £2500 in year 1 and £3250 years 3 to 5 with an option to opt out after year 3.**

181.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th February 2024 in the Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 6.30pm. Please note winter start time

The meeting closed at 19.55pm

Signed:
 Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: