

## PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



### **Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.30pm**

#### **PRESENT**

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

**Clerk of the Meeting:** Debbie Marais

**Public present:** None

#### **97.23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from C Sandells

#### **98.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None**

#### **99.23 Public Questions and Comments - None**

#### **100.23 Minutes of Council**

After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

#### **101.23 Police Matters-** Cllr Fletcher read out a report received from PC Richard Walters.

There had been some reports of anti-social behaviour in Wray Drive, Cricketer's Meadow. This was reported to the police and CCTV has been retrieved and some of the people involved, spoken to. PC Walters will post some ASB leaflets in the area and put up a poster in the play area to show that the police are about and how to contact them.

There have been some isolated incidents in School Green which have been actioned.

#### **102.23 Community Report –** Cllr Davies gave a verbal report including;

- The Community Good Neighbours Group will no longer have a phone for residents to contact them from the end of November. A report about this will go in the November newsletter.
- The Coffee Morning at The Plough had an average turn out
- The two small coffee and chat groups have taken place and both have waiting lists
- 4 volunteers are befriending vulnerable people
- Luncheon Club is starting up again for 6 months with food being prepared by Ali & Kim and over 40 tickets have already been sold.
- There will be a Christmas lunch at The Corbet Arms and 47 tickets have already been sold for this.

- The Group have come runners up in the Radio Shropshire Make a Difference Award

**103.23 Shropshire Council Member Report** Shropshire Councillor Roger Evans gave a verbal report including:

- FINANCES- The agreed budget includes £51m savings in this financial year, at present £17m have been identified. However, the Quarter 1 updated shows £20m additional costs identified for Adult and Social Care.
- REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE (RAAC)- Whitchurch Civic Centre- have had to take action as RACC identified.
- NORTH WEST RELIEF ROAD- A further £95m is needed taking the total cost to £175m. The Oxon Link Road may be progressed as a stand-alone scheme.
- RAT INFESTATIONS have been identified in Shrewsbury.
- COMMUNITY PROJECT FUND - £150k is available for match funding for community projects
- BOUNDARY REVIEW – the review has taken into consideration comments received from local communities. Some Town and Parish Councils may still appeal
- POLLING STATION REVIEW – is currently in progress
- STREETSCENE UPDATE – following a restructuring Streetscene are now catching up with mowing and then leaf cleaning around the county.

### 104.23 Planning

104.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

104.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 which was **NOTED**.

104.23.3 Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report on the issues raised by the Neighbourhood Plan consultations including:

- Polling station turnout was down as the polling cards referred to Pontesbury not Pontesbury parish. Cllr Hodges had spoken to various residents and some people did not know that they were in the parish of Pontesbury.
- There was an age imbalance with very few young people voting
- The precept is one of the highest in the county
- It was felt that it would be useful to have an article in the parish newsletter emphasising who lives in the parish
- A register of people who voted can be purchased and particular groups that didn't vote could be targeted ahead of future elections

### 105.23 Statutory Business/Finance

105.23.1 £4575.00 income was **NOTED**.

105.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE £18,902.22 expenditure as listed**.

105.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the transfer of £40,000 from CCLA to Unity account for ongoing expenditure**

105.23.4 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a donation of £250 to the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group for the purchase of hedging whips from the Shropshire Council Community Tree Scheme**. Clerk was asked to enquire if the price included the stakes and plastic covers.

**106.23 Community growing project.** Councillors received an update from a meeting of councillors and local residents interested in a community growing project. Councillors

wished to check if spaces identified as Green Open Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan could be used for community growing. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE support in principle for the project. A full report with detailed costings would be brought to the November full council meeting for consideration.**

**107.23 Recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.** After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

107.23.1 Payroll contract to be rolled over with DM Payroll Services for 2024-25 at same fee of £230

107.23.2 Retrospective approval of transfer of £125,000 from Unity account to CCLA to ensure maximum interest on monies held in accounts

107.23.3 Retrospective approval of utility (electricity) for Streetlights in School Green, public toilets and The Pavilion with British Gas Lite for 36 months. The current charges remain in place until 31 March 2024.

107.23.4 Updated Reserves Balance Report as prepared by Finance Officer

107.23.5 Unallocated CIL Neighbourhood Funds to be transferred to separate Earmarked Reserves as detailed in the Reserves Transfers report prepared by Finance Officer

107.23.6 Retention of CIL Earmarked Reserve for ANPR project of £1000 and transfer of £2000 to unallocated CIL Earmarked Reserve

107.23.7 Councillors received and **NOTED** External Audit report and the Assertion 2. That the Pavilion Lloyds account is not held in the name of Pontesbury Parish Council. It was approved that the Pavilion account should be renamed Pontesbury Parish Council Pavilion

107.23.8 Two pre-paid Equals Cards (debit cards) one for Finance Officer and one for Clerk, be set up

107.23.9 Expenditure limit for each debit card to be £500 agreed in conjunction with Clerk and Cllr Fletcher (Chair)

107.23.10 The following policies as updated by Clerk

- Electronic Banking policy
- Organisation/Financial Risk Assessments
- Business Continuity Plan

107.23.11 No further premium is required for Parish Council general insurance with Clear Councils for 2023-24

**108.23 EV charging points.** Cllr Hignett reported that there may be some funding available for EV charging points, more points would encourage drivers to feel more confident to switch to EVs. After a short discussion councillors were asked to think of possible locations in the parish. There would be further discussion at the November meeting.

**Cllr Gregory arrived at the meeting**

**109.23 Health & Safety matters – None**

**110.23 Pavilion Committee**

110.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

110.23.2 Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal update which was **Noted.**

**111.23 Summer planting for flower beds in Pontesbury** – After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a quote from Shrewsbury Town Council for the summer 2024 and spring 2025 planting with a maximum budget of £3000 to include the clearing and maintenance of the beds by a local contractor. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank the local contractor for maintaining the beds so well throughout the difficult hot summer in 2023.**

**112.23 Nature recovery conference for Town and Parish Councils.** After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the payment of £40 for Clerk and Cllr Jones to attend the conference.**

**113.23 Clerk’s Report**

A report from the Acting Parish Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting was received and **NOTED.**

**114.23 Parish Business** the following parish business was reported:

Cllrs Hignett, Gregory and Pritchard reported verges that need trimming and foliage along the alley from Linley Avenue down to Habberley Road – Cllr Fletcher to contact Housing Plus who maintain these areas

Cllr Manning verges along the cycleway not trimmed – Cllr Fletcher to contact SC  
Cllr Windows cleaning of the culverts and ditches in Pontesbury – who is responsible for them and reporting of potholes. Cllr Fletcher explained about Riparian ownership and about reporting potholes on SC Fixmystreet portal

Cllr Evans the gutters in Plealey have been partially cleared, to ensure the highways remain clear they need to be cleared again. Clerk was asked to write to SC

Cllr Jones Solar lighting pole 14 is leaning and Highway lights 65-67 are still out. Cllr Hignett would chase up the latter, Clerk to report solar lighting. Hall Bank overhanging vegetation. Cllr Jones would report on fixmystreet

**115.23 Exclusion of the Press & Public** After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, 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).

**116.23 Streetlight Working Group.** Cllrs considered update reports from the Streetlight Working Group concerning tenders for a contract for the conversion of the remaining Sox streetlights to LED lanterns and part-night lighting options.

116.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE company 1 be awarded the contract to convert the remaining Sox lights to LED lanterns.**

116.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the lighting remain dusk to dawn as it is currently.**

**117.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 6.30pm. Please note return to winter start time**

**The meeting closed at 7.53pm**

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council