

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 10th October 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr N Hignett, Cllr M Trow, Cllr R Evans, Cllr A Hodges, Cllr S Davies, Cllr P Heywood, Cllr C Sandells, Cllr A Windows, Cllr D Jones and Cllr N Lewis

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

In attendance: None

111.22 Election by co-option of a parish councillor for Pontesbury Ward – no candidates had come forward. Clerk would amend the poster to put up on parish council noticeboards.

112.22 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr D Gregory and Cllr J Pritchard. After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that Apologies for Absence be approved.**

113.22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. None.

114.22 Public Questions and Comments. None

115.22 Minutes of Council. The minutes were submitted and circulated as read. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council, held on 26th September 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

116.22 Police Matters

PC Simon Lewis had been unable to attend the meeting. Councillors were reminded about the meeting with PC Lewis on Friday 21st October at 2.30pm and the local Police Charter meeting on zoom on 13/10/22 which anyone can attend. Councillors discussed the policing priorities for the area and agreed on:

- Rural Crime
- Anti-social behaviour at the Pontesbury play area and outside the school
- Drugs
- Speeding

117.22 Shropshire Council Member report. Cllr Hignett gave a verbal report, including the following information, which was **NOTED.**

1. An independent review of Shropshire Council's financial approach has confirmed that changes it is making are taking the council in the right financial direction. During the summer, the council invited a Local Government Association peer challenge team in to review its approach to its budget. Following their visit to Shropshire, the peer team made 14 recommendations, many of which the council had already begun to implement as part of a new medium term financial strategy.

The review team said that the council's financial position, while precarious – facing a budget gap of up to £34 million, can be corrected with focused and quick action, and that the council has the capacity and tools to do so.

2. Shropshire Council has won £93,413 from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to help improve energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector across the county. The funding will be used help raise awareness of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) Regulations which require privately rented homes to meet the minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES). Anyone letting or looking to let a property must have an energy performance certificate (EPC) to show tenants how energy efficient the property is. Those who don't comply to the regulations can be fined up to £5,000.

3. The NHS autumn booster campaign in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin has got off to a great start, with over 60,000 vaccines delivered in just over three weeks of the programme and thousands already booked in for the weeks ahead. People aged 65 and over, the severely immunosuppressed and frontline health and care workers are being urged to get vaccinated without delay ahead of a potential 'twindemic' of COVID-19 and flu this winter.

4. New Roundabout on the A488, the wharf, Pontesbury. Following concerns raised about the design of the roundabout, Cllr Hignett visited the Site, talked to the Contractors, and confirmed that the works are as approved by Highways. Extra "Dragons-teeth" road markings-by the 30mph signs from Minsterley direction will help to warn motorists of the new junctions, slowing the traffic to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. 3 safe crossing points are incorporated into the design. Cllr Hignett had brought detailed designs of the roundabout that Cllrs looked at following the meeting.

118.22 Planning Committee.

- i. After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the planning meeting held on 5th September 2022.**
- ii. Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**. The Neighbourhood Plan has been sent to Shropshire Council. SC will undertake a further consultation then it will be sent to the Inspector. Once approved the plan will return to the parish for the referendum.

119.22 Statutory Business and Finance

i) After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a payment of £186 for SLCC membership for Deputy Clerk and £60 for SALC budgeting training for Clerk/Finance Officer**

ii) **NOTED:** Total Income to all accounts in October 2022 was £2481.14

vi) After a proposal by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE all payments on payments list for October 2022 (payments list attached to minutes).**

vii) After a proposal by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that the money previously donated to the Good Neighbours Scheme (£470) for a thank you party for volunteers, be used towards various GNS activities over the winter to support local people and families throughout the winter.** Cllr Fletcher stated that he was happy to attend neighbouring parish council meetings to ask for contributions to GNS as food parcels and events were benefitting members of the neighbouring parishes as well. Cllr Davies updated the council on all of the initiatives locally such as community lunches and foodboxes.

viii) The final report of the Platinum Jubilee event finances, prepared by Deputy Clerk, was received and **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher wished to record a thank you on behalf of the parish council to Cllr Davies and Deputy Clerk for all their hard work. Clerk was asked to write and thank Deputy Clerk.

120.22. Freedom of Information Act publication scheme: After a proposal by Cllr Hignett and seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the amended FOI publication scheme as prepared by Clerk.**

121.22 Data Protection policies – Clerk is currently updating these and will bring amended policies to November meeting.

122.22 Parish Council insurance – After a proposal by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following recommendations from the working group reviewing the parish council insurance:**

i) that the council increase the fidelity cover to £750,000 at a cost of £104.37

ii) that the cover for the Trading Post and public toilet building cover is adequate at present. Council to have professional valuation of both properties in July 2023 for consideration as part of insurance review for 2023-24

iii) Cllrs Fletcher, Hodges and Clerk consult BHIB about cost of extending key person cover to include Building Assistant and Finance Officer and report back to council at November meeting

123.22 Update on ANPR project - Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal update on the project which was **NOTED**. The cameras in Hanwood and Pontesbury have been mended and are operational again. Cllr Fletcher thanked Cllr Trow for preparing the weekly reports to be sent to the police. Letters are being sent out to serial local offenders and after 3 letters PC Lewis will visit the driver in question. Information will be prepared explaining the process involved for the newsletter and social media giving a consistent message across the 3 parishes involved in Safer Speed Shropshire. A copy will also be sent to the PCC as the grant funding for the project had come from the PCC grant.

124.22.1 Hall Bank transfer of public open spaces - After a proposal by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour and **RESOLVED to APPROVE that the £8000 offered by Shropshire Homes to carry out the remedial work to the site, prior to transfer to the parish council, be accepted and Clerk to instruct contractor as per the quotes received.**

125.22 SALC AGM invitation – all councillors are invited to the SALC AGM, information previously circulated by Clerk

126.22 Littering – Cllr Hodges, Cllr Jones and Cllr Sandells reported problems of littering in verges particularly in the Cruckton area. Clerk asked to write to portfolio holder to highlight this issue and that of littering along the A5 and to budget skips about netting lorries carrying litter. Cllr Fletcher would investigate an annual litter pick with Minsterley and Hanwood. Cllr Fletcher would also contact the SC Streetscene Officer about monitoring litter and ask for a map of existing bin provision in the parish.

127.22 Cost of Living Increases – Council had received updates from the Good Neighbours Scheme initiatives. This agenda item will be included on every full council agenda throughout the winter, for updates.

128.22 NALC guidelines on spraying insecticides - this matter was deferred until Spring 2023 when spraying would resume

129.22 Health and Safety Matters.

i. After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the overarching Health & Safety Policy for council activities as amended by Clerk.**

130.22 Community gardening project – this was deferred indefinitely due to lack of staff capacity

131.22 Clerk’s report - Clerk gave a verbal update which was **NOTED.**

132.22 Parish Business – the following concerns were raised

- Cllr Jones asked for an update on the broken lights along the A488 between Minsterley and Pontesbury. Cllr Jones also mentioned the issue of speeding traffic in this area and asked for the ANPR camera to be positioned at this end of the village at some point.
- Cllr Fletcher mentioned that he was liaising with the contractor about the improvements to the solar lighting along the cycleway and thanked Cllr Jones for his help with this issue
- Cllr Hodges raised the issue of the broken warning lights on the grass at the junction with the Montgomery Road and asked for an update on the request for a replacement oak tree in Cruckton.
- Cllr Trow reported that the first aid session in Cruckton had been very useful and informative
- Cllr Windows raised the issue of increased traffic congestion in the village and concerns about this getting worse with the new shop opposite School Green opening and lorries not being able to get past the number of parked cars along Main Road
- Cllr Evans reported a request from Worthern Juniors for possible CIL monies towards the purchase of a field in Lea Cross that they currently use for over 16 girls/boys football teams. Clerk to add to November agenda
- Cllr Evans would follow up the reports of local business vehicles parking in the layby by Hanwood School
- Clerk to organize face to face Place Plan meeting with Mathew Mead. Several councillors expressed an interest in attending
- Clerk had been contacted by a local pupil about the possibility of fundraising to tarmac the BMX track. Clerk would write a response that there are remedial repairs planned for the track and the council had been given advice by a track builder that part aggregate/part tarmac was preferable
- Clerk had been approached by a resident on Station Rd about renting/buying a piece of land behind the Trading Post. Clerk to add to November agenda and ask resident for a plan

133.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Full Parish Council meeting will take place at The Pavilion on Monday 14th November 2022 at the winter time of 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: