

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, A Windows, R Evans, C Sandells and N Lewis

Clerk of the Meeting: Nicola Young

243.22 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Gregory, P Heywood, N Manning and S Davies. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that Apologies for Absence be approved.

244.22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. None.

245.22 Public Questions and Comments. No members of the public present.

246.22 Co-option of New Councillor. After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Sandells, it was **RESOLVED** that Amy Brookes be co-opted onto Pontesbury Parish Councillor.

247.22 Minutes of Council. The minutes were taken as read. After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Sandells, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the **Extraordinary Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council, held on 23rd March 2023** be approved and signed as a correct record.

248.22 Planning Committee

248.22.1 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update, stating that the last meeting was a busy one with 9 planning applications discussed. All but one application was supported, the proposed cladding of housing association properties in Linley Avenue was not support. The Committee had been informed that work had stopped on this project, in the meantime Shropshire Council have approved the application, whether the Housing Association goes ahead with the cladding remains to be seen.

The External Examiner is working his way through the Neighbourhood Plan and is awaiting comments from Shropshire Council, who have requested extra time to reply. Shropshire Council had refused a retrospective appeal on Quercus Domas and the application went to appeal, which was upheld.

An information site meeting took place at the Hare & Hounds; a fourth application is being submitted for market housing to pay for the changes.

248.22.2 After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Sandals, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6th Marsh 2023.

249.22 Statutory Business & Finance

249.22.1 Receipts totalling £4,830.55

249.22.2 Payments totalling £15,596.41

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Sandells, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the receipts and payments as listed in the attached papers.

249.22.3 Receipt of Pontesbury Parish Council precept of £207,780 was noted.

249.22.4 Receipt of Pontesbury Parish Council payment of £8,329.70 was noted.

250.22 Health & Safety Matters

None reported.

251.22 Pavilion Update

- Quotes are continuing to be sought for the conversion of the storage room into an office.
- A request for funding from FoPL gardeners had been received. The Pavilion Committee has asked the requesting group for further information on; whether FoPL can contribute some funds; to cost plants from a local shop; and to get compost from the Trading Post.
- Two water butts have been purchased, to be used to water the outdoor plants rather than use water which is paid for.

252.22 Environmental Maintenance Grant

Following a proposal from Cllr Sandells, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** that an application of £1000, would be made to Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant, including £500 match-funding from Pontesbury Parish Council.

253.22 Flowerbed Update

After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** to approve payment of £267 to SP Garden Services for watering & weeding from mid-May to mid-October 2023 and reseed after summer flowering this year.

It was also agreed to purchase daffodil bulbs from Pontesbury & District Gardening Association in the autumn to plant around noticeboards.

254.22 Public Open Space

After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and sign the Transfer of the public open space and the Contract and Transfer for the Attenuation Pond from Shropshire Homes.

A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Lewis for the exceptional amount of time they had put into the project over 4 years. A special thank you to the Clerk who worked tirelessly on this project and for the Deputy Clerk for working on the project in the last stages. Thanks also went to the Grounds Maintenance team, who are conscientious and are an excellent first class team.

The attenuation pond grills will be checked weekly, when the playground checks are made.

255.22 Clerk's Report

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

256.22 Play Area Inspections

After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED** to confirm renewal of playground inspections carried out fortnightly by Shropshire Council as below:

24 x Fortnightly Mechanical Play Area Inspections: £28 per Inspection + VAT

BMX Track/Skate Park Inspection Only: £25 per annum + VAT

Annual ROSPA inspection and report: £80 + VAT

257.22 Cyber Liability Insurance

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED** to confirm renewal of the Cyber Liability Insurance at a cost of £370.25 = £308.26+VAT.

258.22 Parish Business

- A report was received from Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett:
Local Bus Support. Shropshire Council is to extend its financial support for a number of under-threat bus services from 31st March. Routes include the 552.553 from Bishops Castle to Shrewsbury and the 745 A&B from Pontesbury to Bishops Castle, Clun and Ludlow. These services will be able to continue to run whilst the Council looks at options for the future.
School National Offer Day for secondary school places saw 93.7% students offered their first preference school. This will again see the Council placed as one of the top ranking authorities in the region.
Scrutiny Committees was debated at the last Full Council Meeting and a proposal to change the Committees from 5 to 4, with each group consisting of 11 members was passed. This change is expected to take effect after the next meeting.
Libraries. Shropshire Council has been awarded £236,950 Arts Council Funding, which will be used to install new equipment (such as moveable shelving), to make library spaces more accommodating and accessible to the wider community. The funding will be shared between the 6 main libraries in the county (it appears that the Library in Pontesbury is ahead of the game in this respect!).
Youth Association. Shropshire Council has welcomed £1,585,200 Government funding allocated to Shropshire Youth Association. The money will be used to transform youth facilities across Shrewsbury & Atcham, giving young people the opportunity to develop vital skills for life.
Shropshire Councillor Roger Evans reported that:
Customer Service Centres – there is a proposal by Shropshire Council to reduce the number of hours for these centres.
Shropshire Council Boundary Review report is due to be published.
Bus Support – Flocks Green & Bishops Castle routes will be subsidized until the end of July.
- Cllr Lewis - Many people are letting their dogs out of the car without a lead and these dogs are then defecating in the play area and the Council had also received reports that someone had smeared dog faeces over the children's slide. Dog mess is dangerous to children and there are three bins available to put bagged fecal matter in. Clerk to speak to Dog Warder regarding a sign.

- Cllr Sandells - A car door had been left in the bus stop in Cruckton. Cllr Trow offered to collect the door and take to a recycling depot.
- Cllr Sandals also wished to remind people about the Country Code, and to please be respectful when walking over other people's land, especially when crops have been sown.
- Cllr Evans - The Environment Agency had visited Cruckton rubbish yard, no report yet.
- Cllr Windows had received comments from people in Cruckton that they do not receive the newsletter. Cllr Hodges delivers newsletters in Cruckton, Therefore Cllr Windows will pass on information to Cllr Hodges.
- Cllr Windows - Hall Bank proposed alteration/road improvements at bottom and top of Hall Bank – when will this be carried out? WSP have carried out a further review at the top of Hall Bank and Shropshire Council are currently waiting for plans. Cllr Hignett will chase for dates.
- Cllr Hodges had read Great Hanwood news that the report requesting extension of the parish boundary to include Cruckton and requested that it goes on the next parish council agenda.
- Cllr Trow requested that information on the Country Code be placed in the May parish newsletter.
- Cllr Pritchard reported potholes, stating that central Government have given extra pothole funding to Shropshire Council. Cllr Pritchard will send information to the Clerk who will report via Fix My Street.
- Cllr Fletcher reported that he had received complaints of people parking in front of drop kerbs and speeding in the village. He request Shropshire Council Enforcement Officers look into the matter.

259.22 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 in the Pavilion starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2040

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: