

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, R Evans, A Windows, C Sandells, S Davies, N Lewis, J Pritchard, and P Heywood

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: 1 member of the public and PC Richard Walters/PCSO Sarah Edwards

67.23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Jones, D Gregory, A Brookes

68.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

68.23.1 Cllr Davies reported an ordinary interest in relation to Agenda Item 12, Pontesbury Sports Association, being Secretary of Pontesbury Sports Association.

69.23 Public Questions and Comments

Member of Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group and also resident of Hall Bank wished to inform the council about the support and interest across Cricketer's Meadow for a community growing project. Residents would like to be involved and feel it would be a unifying project and a possible template for other areas in the village.

70.23 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 Parish Council Meeting held on 10th July 2023.

71.23 Police Matters PC Richard Walters gave an update on recent incidents.

School Green - A meeting had taken part on site with residents and housing agency rep, which Cllr Hignett had attended. The evidence needed for prosecution was discussed and the complex needs of some residents when looking at housing problems. A Problem Solving Plan is in the place, working with the new Housing Officer and warden for the site. There have been no further incidents to date.

Speeding – the visits to repeat offenders picked up by the ANPR cameras are helping and the police motorcycle has been used in Minsterley

Operation Headlights – this has been used to combat rural crime where a number of officers patrol at 2-3am covering many parishes to raise visibility of the policing team. There have been a number of plant thefts locally so important for local farmers/businesses to be aware of security. There will be a couple of other Operation Headlights operations before the end of September.

PC Walters asked again for residents/councillors to report all incidents. Cllr Trow asked if the visits relate to the ANPR data sent in by the parish council. This is the case and all visits are recorded by the police. Cllr Fletcher raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at the Station Road play area over the summer and asked if patrols could cover this area during the summer months. Cllr Hignett asked if staffing levels and being called away to cover other areas is impacting on the local team. PC Walters confirmed that officers are called away regularly and having to pick up central incident inbox reports and deal with them is very time consuming. Cllr Evans asked if it is Shrewsbury area that officers are called away to and PC Walters confirmed that this is the case. Cllr Fletcher thanked the police team for all their hard work in the area

72.23 Community Report Cllr Sharon Davies reported on behalf of Rea Valley & Pontesbury Community Good Neighbours Scheme:

GN are continuing to support people in the community but are finding it increasing difficult with hardly any volunteers anymore.

A meeting is to be held on the 20th September to discuss where the group go from here and how the role of the group has changed, the committee feel that they are a 24hr Service to provide support which volunteers are quite often not equipped to give.

During August the group did:

- 21 prescriptions in the area and delivery as far as Halfway house. Also supported Shrop Doc on a late night urgent delivery.
- 4 Transport requests and support given through GN funding.
- 3 sign posts for mental health.
- 3 food parcels given out and 6 referrals to the food bank service.
- One hardship funding request GN supported.
- Coffee and chat and gentleman's clubs have taken place in August which are still well supported.
- Coffee Morning at the Plough starts again in September (none held in August)
- Community lunches are starting from October a lot of thought and preparation has been discussed this month ready to run smoothly.
- The carers meeting in August was supported by 2 GNS volunteers.
- There are still six clients in our community being supported with GNS befriending volunteers.

The group have been nominated for a community award through Radio Shropshire and six GNS volunteers are attending an afternoon tea at the Anstice in Telford where they will find out if they have been successful or not – the group have reached the last four.

73.23 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett reported:

- FINANCES- James Walton, Director of Finance, has confirmed that Shropshire Council is two thirds of the way towards its target of saving £51.4m this financial year. By the end of the first quarter of 2023/24 savings of £34.3m had either been made or were on track to be made. Further work is needed to achieve the remaining £17.1m, of which £11.9m planned savings should be achieved by the end of the year. The reductions achieved to date are those which are comparatively easier, meaning that some difficult decisions will need to be made, especially as spending on the Social Care budget has increased.
- REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE (RAAC)- This type of concrete was potentially used in buildings between 1930 and 1990. In Shropshire. A very small number of schools have been identified as requiring a survey for RAAC. The majority of schools were either not built during this period or have confirmed that RAAC is not present. Academy Trusts are responsible for checking their buildings, supported by Shropshire Council. At this

stage, I understand that NO schools in Shropshire are affected, although other buildings- notably Whitchurch Civic Centre-have had to take action.

- **CROSS BORDER SHARING**-Shropshire Council is set to confirm a ground-breaking agreement with other English and Welsh Local Authorities. A proposed “Marches Forward Partnership” would see Shropshire Council work with Herefordshire Council, Monmouthshire and Powys County Councils. They would join forces to apply for funding from Government on major projects that will benefit the Marches Region, which covers 80% of the English/Welsh borderland. Each Council would retain their own identity and independence, whilst possibly unlocking millions of pounds for identified initiatives that support the Marches rural economy and green growth. Cross-Border shared interests are likely to include transport, skills and housing, energy, climate change and digital connectivity.
- **NORTH WEST RELIEF ROAD**- The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has asked Shropshire Council to provide updated evidence, by the end of October, that the Oxon Link Road is still necessary as part of the NWRR scheme. £4.2m was awarded in 2015, and the LEP’s board will meet in November to re-consider the grant. It is expected that the planning application for the North West Relief Road will have been decided by then. It is possible that the Oxon Link Road could be progressed as a stand-alone scheme.
- **COVID 19 BA.2.86**- This years’ autumn Flu and Covid-19 vaccine programmes will start earlier than planned in England. This is a precautionary measure, following the identification of a new Covid variant. The variant BA.2.86 was first detected in the U.K. on Friday 18th August and has a high number of mutations. Members of the public at highest risk are urged to get their vaccinations as soon as possible, helping to reduce the risk of severe illness, and subsequent potential impact on the NHS.

74.23 Planning

74.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3rd July and 7th August 2023.

74.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 7th August 2023 which was **NOTED**.

74.23.3 Cllr Hodges reported that on 7th September 2023 85% of the 491 voters voted for the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan which means it is now operational. Cllr Hodges thanked all of those involved. Cllr Fletcher thanked Cllr Hodges and Trow and all the members of the Steering Group for all their hard work in bringing the project to fruition. There were a number of issues raised during the NP process which Cllr Hodges wished to raise at the October Full Parish Council meeting. The Shropshire Council Officers staffing the Referendum vote said how nice it was to be in a hall with air conditioning. Cllr Fletcher thanked the Public Hall for hosting and said what a real asset the Public Hall was for the parish.

74.23.4 Permitted Development Rights Consultation – a small working group of Cllrs Hodges, Fletcher, Sandells, Heywood and Pritchard would meet and complete the consultation questionnaire.

75.23 Statutory Business/Finance

75.23.1 £3820.29 income was noted.

75.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that £35,830.17 expenditure for August and September 2023 be approved as listed.

75.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that approval be given for the following payments:

- £20 reimbursement to Elizabeth Knowles (Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group) for Marches Meadow Subscription for 2023-24
- £143.88 reimbursement to Cllr Fletcher for the zoom licence for 2023-24

- Transfer of £1000 Environmental Maintenance Grant from Pavilion Lloyds account to Unity account

75.23.4 Qtr I 2023-24 bank reconciliation for all parish council accounts was **Noted**.

75.23.5 Qtr 1 2023-24 budget monitoring report was **Noted**.

75.23.6 Cllr Trow reported that there were no issues for concern raised following the Qtr 1 2023-24 internal checks

75.23.7 A working group of Finance Officer, Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Cllrs Fletcher, Trow, Hignett and Evans would look at the utility contract quotes for The Pavilion, School Green streetlights and Public toilets and report back to the October meeting

75.23.8 The date of the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 5th October 2023 was **Noted**.

76.23 Parish Council Boundary Working Group. After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hignett (Cllr Sandells voted against and Cllr Evans abstained), it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following recommendations to Shropshire Council concerning the Community Governance review:**

- Parish Boundaries remain as they are currently
- Reduction of number of councillors for Cruckton Ward from 4 to 3 and increase of Pontesbury Ward councillors from 7 to 8 to reflect significant development in the Pontesbury Ward area

77.23 Place Plan. The current list of Neighbourhood projects was considered. Clerk stated that the inclusion of a pedestrian crossing outside Hanwood School was being looked at by Mathew Mead, as to whether it needed to be included in the Pontesbury and Minsterley Place Plan as well as the Place Plan concerning Hanwood. The list was **Noted**.

78.23 Pontesbury Sports Association. The report was considered and:

78.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Windows (Cllrs Davies and Evans abstained) it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a payment of £1000 from Community Grants budget and that the council would look favourably on a further grant when requests for funds from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund had been considered by council.**

78.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that Pontesbury Sports Association would be requested to supply the parish council with copies of any planning permissions/building regulation approvals required for any internal works carried out.**

78.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that a letter be sent to Pontesbury Sports Association to state that no further work be done until the issue with the underlease is resolved and that the building should be adequately insured for reinstatement purposes.**

Cllrs Fletcher, Hignett and Clerk would continue to work with Shropshire Council Officers to resolve the issue with the underlease and would meet with Pontesbury Sports Association.

79.23 Remembrance Sunday. After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a donation payment of £50 to the Royal British Legion for a wreath and that Cllr Fletcher will lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council.**

80.23 Asset Register. After a proposal by Cllr Sandells, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Asset Register as prepared by Clerk.**

81.23 School Green Noticboard. Councillors considered the issue of businesses using the community noticeboard. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that the noticeboard be for community events and information only, not for business use.** Businesses can advertise through the parish newsletter and on the plasma screen in The Pavilion.

82.23 Tree Inspection quotes. Councillors considered three quotes to carry out the 2023 tree inspection for trees on parish council land and discussed the fact that the small woodland alongside the sports fields off Bogey Land, which is also leased by the parish council is being regularly used by sports players and dog walkers. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that Shropshire Council undertake the tree inspection and that an additional maximum budget of £500 be used to also inspect the small woodland alongside the sports field.**

83.23 Community Garden project. Cllrs heard that there is local support for a community garden and two sites on the open spaces within the Hall Bank development were considered. There is community support for some raised beds to be built on the land between the Ark nursey and the Village Green. Cllr Hodges raised the issue that this area was considered a local green space within the Neighbourhood Plan. A working group of Cllrs Fletcher, Lewis, Windows, Hodges and Clerk was set up to liaise with the community group looking at the community garden and to report back to a future council meeting.

Cllr Davies left the meeting

84.23 Safer Speed Shropshire. After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, (Cllr Evans abstained), it was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Hanwood Parish Clerk (Rebecca Turner) become Lead Administrator for the cameras in order to prepare quarterly reports and liaise with the consultant who supports the project.

85.23 Cruckton Village Hall Refurbishment. A report was received from the Cruckton Village Hall Committee about the refurbishment works carried out in the village hall and the costs incurred. After a proposal by Cllr Heywood, seconded by Cllr Windows it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE reimbursement of the Village Hall Committee of £4300 from CIL Neighbourhood Fund monies, as previously agreed by full council to be used for this purpose.**

86.23 Parish Council Insurance.

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

86.23.1 Payment of £1638.76 for general parish council insurance renewal for 2023-24 and delegated authority to Cllrs Fletcher, Trow, Hodges and Clerk/Finance Officer to review policy documents and report back to the October meeting any changes needed to cover and associated increases in premium.

86.23.2 BHIB insurance have been renamed as Clear Councils insurance and will be updated on our suppliers information for payment

86.23.3 Retrospective approval for an increase in premium of £223.45 for September 2023-April 2024, to Allied Westminster to cover the revaluation of The Pavilion for reinstatement purposes.

87.23 Health and Safety matters. After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Parish Council Health & Safety policy as amended by Clerk**

88.23 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**.

89.23 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr Evans roadside gutters and pavements in Plealey need clearing
Cllr Fletcher wished to thank resident Brian Simmonds for all of his help with the public toilets and the culvert clearing

90.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. **The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th October 2023 in the Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 6.30pm. Please note return to winter start time**

The meeting closed at 21.15pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: